

RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING 5/22/2014
6:00PM to 700PM EDT
Seale Underpass (Trestle) Public Hearing

Attendees:

Commissioners: Martin, Pugh, Corbett, Lee

Elected Officials / Department Heads: Sheriff Taylor, Engineer Larry Kite, Assistant Engineer Blakeney and LeAnn Horne, County Administrator

Five citizens were present for the public hearing. Blinda Copeland from Citizen of East Alabama.

Larry Kite, County Engineer, provided the purpose and overview for the public hearing on the Seale Underpass discussion. Mr. Kite informed the citizenry of the Federal Aid requirements issued by the State Department of Transportation. He also listed the current hazards of the Seale Underpass structure.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk stated: The County does not own the property. According to the ALDOT, the structure is required to be removed due their policy where it is an impediment. Any impediment on the right-of-way has to be removed that is owned privately. This easement is private property. That being the case, the County cannot do any work on private property including drainage and attach barriers. If it is not removed, the County will not be able to do any maintenance nor could anyone else except the owner. However due to the actions of the County, the County could become liable if there are injuries by failure to remove structure.

Mr. C. C. Lamb provided a historical ownership report from (1853 to-date) based on the information he had researched on the rail road line/property.

Mr. C.C. Lamb, Wanda and Doug Lamb discussed other concerns such as drainage issues and enforcing truck routes. They stated that trucks are currently using this road as a truck route.

Commissioners' Pugh and Lee stated that citizens can make application and place it on the Historical Register.

Mrs. Getskow requested that the Seale Overpass remain and not removed.

Commissioner Pugh asked to see a show of hands of leaving the trestle as is. Four (4) citizens responded in favor. No one responded to demolish of the five present.

Mr. Kite explained that by requesting a waiver it would delay the project and could jeopardize the funding for the road / paving project already approved by ALDOT.

Commissioner Corbett requested from the County Engineer to send a letter and request the State to: 1) move forward with paving Old Seale Hwy; 2) allow the structure to remain; and, 3) not to attach guardrails.

Meeting was adjourned.