

TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX PROPOSAL



County Council Meeting
July 15, 2024

- Lancaster County has roughly 1,400 miles of publicly maintained roadway (900 SCDOT miles, 500 county/other municipality miles)
- From 2018 through 2024, over 94 miles have been improved.
- Funding for these improvements are Capital Sales Project 2, Capital Project Sales Tax 2 Proviso, Lancaster County Transportation Committee (C-funds/gas tax), and a Road Fee (Preservation/Contractual projects).

- Current Funding estimates:
 - CPST 2 Proviso - \$9 M to be completed by 2025
 - CPST 3 Funding -- \$13.2 M
 - CTC - \$1,400,000 per year
 - Road Fee - \$800,000 per year (remaining fee total offsets Road Maintenance budget)
- Only option to address future road needs is a dedicated funding stream.

- Subject to successful referenda, a County can have the Capital Project Sales Tax pursuant to SC Code 4-10-300 and a Transportation Sales Tax pursuant to 4-37-10.
- Potentially, Lancaster Co could have 3 sales taxes. The SC Attorney General has provided an opinion that Lancaster Co can have the Local Option Sales Tax, the Capital Project Sales Tax and the Transportation Sales Tax subject to a successful referendum.
- Legislation provides up to 1% that can run concurrently with other sales tax.
- Can impose for no more than 25 years in the aggregate, or in smaller increments
- Sales tax ends when years or authorized revenue amount is reached, whichever is first.
- Revenue estimated at \$400+ million

Current 1% Capital Projects Sales Tax

- Average growth 9.2% (2010 – 2023)
- FY22 -- \$15,251,633
- FY23 -- \$16,384,986

15-year projection -- \$419,336,319 *(starting at \$15 million)*

- 9% growth – Year(s) 1 – 7
- 7% growth – Year(s) 8 – 15

- County Transportation Committee reviewed 132 individual roads and 50+ intersections, safety concepts, trails, sidewalks, signalization, and other transportation related items
- Met four times
 - January 24, 2024
 - February 21, 2024
 - March 14, 2024
 - March 28, 2024
- Recommend over 125 roads and transportation-related projects

Highway 521/Major Road Widenings (\$165 million)

- Highway 521 (Highway 75 to NC state line) – Contribution to widening/improving Hwy 521. \$60 million
- Harrisburg Road (NC state line to Calvin Hall Road) – 3 lane Harrisburg road, \$30 million
- Barberville Road (Highway 160 to NC state line) – 3 lane Barberville Road, \$30 million
- Henry Harris Road (Marvin Road to Highway 521) 3 lane Henry Harris Road, \$35 million.
- Riverside Road – Widening Riverside Road – Hwy. 9 Bypass to University Drive \$10 million.

Intersection Improvements (\$30 million)

- Shiloh Unity @ Unity Church
- US 601 @ 265 New Hope Road @ Solar Road
- Gillsbrook Road / Highway 9 – Extend turn lane
- Shiloh Unity @ 522
- Shelly Mullis Road / US 521 - Turn lane
- Henry Harris Road / Stacie Howie Road - Configuration/alignment
- Sun City @ Promenade
- SC 9 @ Potter Road
- Camp Creek Road / Rocky River Road
- Grace Avenue / Bethel Road- “yield at the church”
- Bethel Road & Bethel Boat Landing

Roundabouts (\$15 million)

- Henry Harris Road / Marvin Road
- Steel Hill Road / Van Wyck Road
- University Drive / Hubbard Drive
- Shiloh Unity Road @ 200
- Shiloh Unity Road @ Camp Creek Road

Lancaster County - Maintained Road Priorities (\$5 million)

- Vance Baker Road - \$1.5 million
- Calvin Hall Road (County portion) -- \$1.8 million
- Sandra Lane - \$1.2 million
- Reece Road / Lymon Reece Road --\$500,000

Resurfacing / Rehabilitation of County, SCDOT and Local Municipality Identified Roads (\$100 million)

- Lancaster County
- City of Lancaster
- Town of Kershaw
- Town of Van Wyck
- Town of Heath Springs
- SCDOT lower volume / rural intersections

SCDOT Secondary Road Resurfacing (\$25 million)

- Lynwood Drive
- W Shiloh Unity Road
- Doc Garris Road
- S Potter Road
- McCardell Street
- Heyward Hough Road
- Camp Creek Road
- Beacon Road
- Country Club Road
- Airport Road
- McIlwain Road

Economic Development (\$8 million)

- Business Parks -- road improvements
- Air Rail Park – road connectivity for lot 6.
- Land Acquisition for future collector roads

Greenways / Sidewalk Repairs / Sidewalk Additions (\$7 million)

- Indian Land Trail (Six-mile creek) – \$2.5 million
- Lindsay Pettus Greenway (expansion) – \$2.0 million
- Miscellaneous Sidewalks and greenways – \$2.5 million

Miscellaneous (\$30 million)

- Matching funds requirement
- Property Acquisition
- Project management/Administration
- Inflation -- contingency

Staff Recommendation:

CTC Recommendations -- \$305 million

Staff Total Additions -- \$95 million

Total CTC and Staff recommendation -- \$400 million

125+ projects

Projects	Total
Highway 521 /Major Widenings	\$165
Intersection Improvements	\$30
Roundabouts	\$15
County-maintained roads	\$5
Resurfacing – co, state, municipalities	\$100
SCDOT secondary rd resurfacing	\$25
Economic Development	\$8
Greenways and Sidewalks	\$7
Signalization and Mast Arm / utilities	\$15
Miscellaneous	\$30
TOTAL	\$400

- 4 counties have Transportation Sales Tax
 - Berkeley
 - Charleston
 - Dorchester
 - Richland
 - ** Horry discussing
- 2 Counties have three local sales taxes
 - Berkeley
 - Charleston
 - ** potentially Horry

2023 Sales Tax by County

Abbeville	7%	Chesterfield	8%	Hampton	7%	Newberry	7%
Aiken	8%	Clarendon	8%	Horry	8%	Oconee	6%
Allendale	8%	Colleton	8%	Horry-Myrtle Beach	9%	Orangeburg	7%
Anderson	7%	Darlington	8%	Jasper	8%	Pickens	7%
Bamberg	8%	Dillon	8%	Kershaw	8%	Richland	8%
Barnwell	8%	Dorchester	7%	Lancaster	8%	Saluda	8%
Beaufort	7%	Edgefield	8%	Laurens	8%	Spartanburg	7%
Berkeley	9%	Fairfield	7%	Lee	8%	Sumter	7%
Calhoun	8%	Florence	8%	Lexington	7%	Union	7%
Charleston	9%	Georgetown	6%	McCormick	8%	Williamsburg	8%
Cherokee	8%	Greenville	6%	Marion	8%	York	7%
Chester	8%	Greenwood	7%	Marlboro	8%		

County voters would have two questions on the general election ballot on November 5, 2024.

1. impose the sales tax
2. authorize the revenue from the sales tax to be used to support the issuance of general obligation debt to fund the transportation-related projects

QUESTION 1

I approve a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent to be imposed in Lancaster County for not more than fifteen (15) years, or until a total of \$405,000,000 in resulting revenue has been collected, whichever occurs first. The sales tax proceeds will be used to finance the costs of Highway 521 widening, highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenways, pedestrian and bike paths, sidewalk improvements and other transportation-related projects facilities, including but not limited to drainage facilities relating to the highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenways, pedestrian and bike paths, sidewalk improvements and other transportation-related projects.

YES _____

NO _____

QUESTION 2

I approve the issuance of not exceeding \$250,000,000 of general obligation bonds of Lancaster County, payable from the special sales and use tax described in Question 1 above, maturing over a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years, to fund at least \$60,000,000 for the widening of Highway 521 and to fund other projects described in Question 1 above.

YES _____

NO _____

- Definition of a general election -- holding an election in November 2025 is permissible, but County would have to pay the cost for the election as only limited municipal elections are planned for 2025
- Traffic and congestion continues to be a leading complaint, particularly along Highway 521
- North Carolina is looking to start widening Highway 521 to the state line in 2026
- Highway 521 will not become a state priority (or obtain federal funding) unless there is local funding identified
- Most roads are state roads and will remain on their funding availability and timelines to address
- Transportation projects take time to plan, design and address utilities or property acquisition, even before construction
- Keeping up with growth or getting ahead of growth
- Road costs are anticipated to continue escalating
- Lancaster Schools Bond Referendum

Timeline

August 1, 2024

Voter's Registration needs approved Ordinance

September – October 2024

Education Campaign

November 2024

General Election

Questions