



# Infrastructure Investment & the Road Ahead

Over the past 20 years, Charleston County voters have twice approved a half-penny sales tax, leading to **billions of dollars for community infrastructure** investments that are vital to Charleston County. However, with the current half-cent expiring in 2027, we now stand at a crossroads.

"We are asking for your help in shaping the future of local transportation. On September 25, our newly formed Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Special Committee voted to begin a transparent, public listening and input process to guide a possible extension of the TST."

**Charleston County Council**

# The Half-Penny At Work

The current TST program has supported major road, transit, and greenspace projects. As the region grows, County Council is seeking input on future priorities.

To begin, Council requested a study of the existing TST, which found \$4.56 billion in infrastructure improvements.

## Projects the half-penny has helped fund:

► **895 miles of resurfacing, rural roads, and local paving**

**73%** better pavement conditions than the state

► **49 miles of bike and pedestrian paths**

► **69 intersections improved**

## 2004 & 2016 Allocations



### Greenbelt Program

2016 (10%): 210 Million  
2004 (17%): 221 Million



### Infrastructure

2016 (61%): 1.281 Billion  
2004 (65%): 845 Million



### Public Transit

2016 (29%): 609 Million  
2004 (18%): 234 Million

## \$1.2 Billion In Matching Funds



### HEADS UP HALF-PENNY FACT

Nearly fifty cents of every TST dollar comes from visitors and other sources outside of Charleston County.

Overall, the TST will deliver the expected \$3.4 billion for infrastructure investments, plus an additional \$1.2 billion, totaling \$4.56 billion since 2004. This includes:

► **\$386  
MILLION**

ROAD PROJECT  
MATCHING FUNDS

► **\$232  
MILLION**

GREENBELT  
MATCHING FUNDS

► **\$554.5  
MILLION**

PUBLIC TRANSIT  
MATCHING FUNDS

# Greenbelt Program

Charleston County Transportation also invests heavily in greenspace, preserving landscapes, natural resources and key corridors that protect our region's environment and quality of life.

Today, **49%** of Charleston County's total acreage – **more than 284,000 acres** – is protected greenspace.



## HEADS UP HALF-PENNY FACT

Charleston's amount of protected greenspace ranks 2nd in the state.

## Public Transit

CARTA has made many improvements and advancements.

### Bus Fleet Upgrades

CARTA has purchased 125+ vehicles for fixed-route and paratransit services, with seven more vehicles on the way

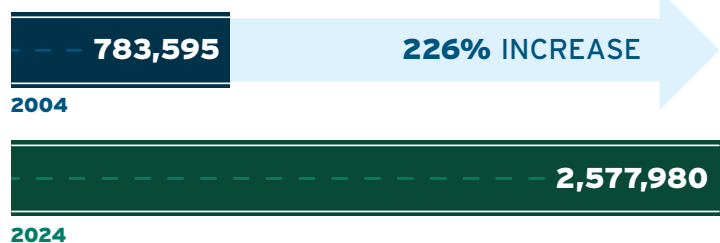
### Bus Stop Improvements

- ▶ **146 shelters/benches** have been installed since 2005
- ▶ Other improvements include lighting, digital signage, and bike racks

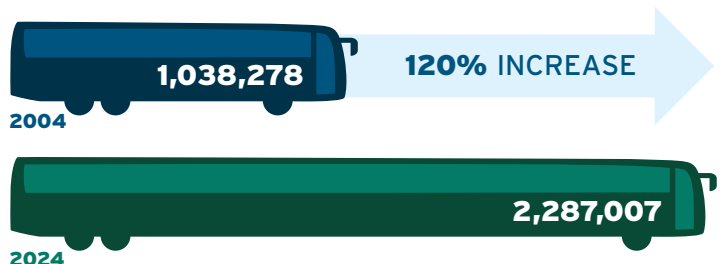
### Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LCRT)

LCRT is a modern bus rapid transit system that will connect communities, key destinations, and job centers.

**Service Miles** (20 Year Total | 53,751,886)



**Passenger Trips** (20 Year Total | 66,720,831)



## HEADS UP HALF-PENNY FACT

Since 2005, CARTA has made 66 million passenger trips, traveling nearly 319 million passenger miles.

# The Surging Charleston County Population

Regardless of whether a renewed half penny is implemented, Charleston County faces a population surge. In fact, the population is projected to increase by more than 42,000 in the next decade.

**And, more people means more vehicles. The county's population surge of 33.1% since 2004 reflects the increased demands on infrastructure.**

2004

333,122 RESIDENTS

2025

443,357 RESIDENTS



HEADS UP  
HALF-PENNY FACT

**Vehicle registrations in Charleston County increased 41.45% since 2008.**

## Get Involved

The future is in all our hands.

Over the coming months, Charleston County Council will reach out to engage you, the community, with a commitment to openness and transparency knowing that the decisions we make together today will impact us now, and for generations to come. County Council encourages everyone to stay involved, informed and participate in this vital collaboration.

How to participate:

- 1 Fill out our online questionnaire**  
Share your ideas and rank priorities.
- 2 Attend community meetings & workshops**  
Join in-person sessions across the county.
- 3 Submit comments and questions anytime**  
Email your feedback and comments to [TST@PublicInput.com](mailto:TST@PublicInput.com).
- 4 Stay informed**  
Sign up for updates and follow the process from start to finish at [CharlestonTransportation.com](http://CharlestonTransportation.com).



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Questionnaire

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Infrastructure | Greenspace | Transit

