



Infrastructure Investment & The Road Ahead

The future is in all our hands.



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

**\$4.56 billion
committed to
infrastructure
improvements.**



2004 & 2016 Allocations

Greenbelt Program

2016 (10%): \$210,000,000
2004 (17%): \$221,000,000



Infrastructure

2016 (61%): \$1,281,000,000
2004 (65%): \$845,000,000



Public Transit

2016 (29%): \$609,000,000
2004 (18%): \$234,000,000



\$1.2 Billion In Matching Funds

Previously approved half-cent TSTs will deliver \$3.4 billion for infrastructure, and combined with an additional \$1.2 billion in matching funds, will total \$4.56 billion.

 **\$386 M**
ROAD PROJECT
MATCHING FUNDS

 **\$232 M**
GREENBELT
MATCHING FUNDS

 **\$554.5 M**
PUBLIC TRANSIT
MATCHING FUNDS





HEADS UP
HALF-PENNY FACT

**Nearly 50¢ of every TST
dollar comes from visitors
and other sources outside
of Charleston County.**

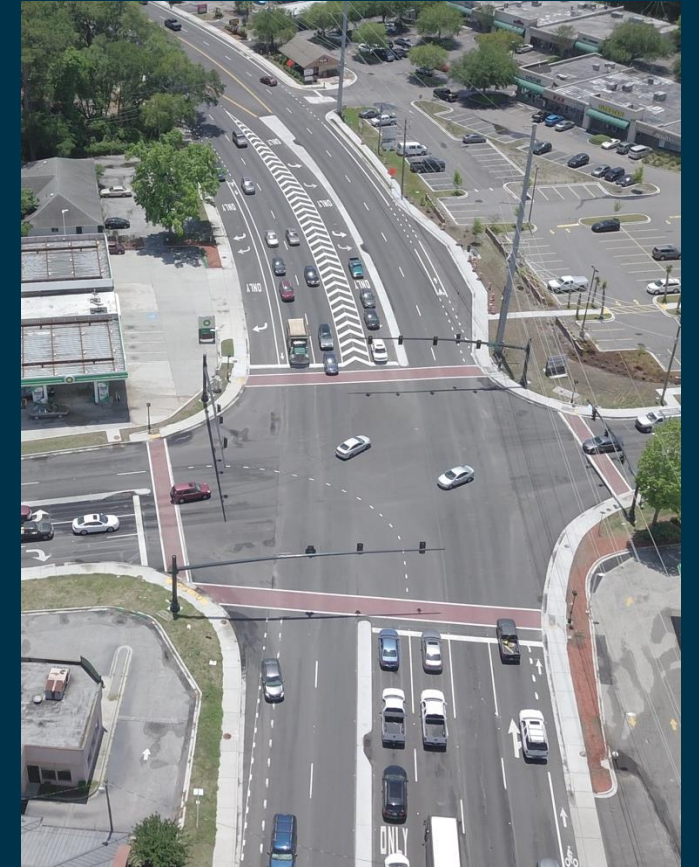
Projects The Half-Penny Has Helped Fund

- 895 miles of resurfacing, rural roads, and local paving

73% better pavement conditions than the state

- 49 miles of bike, pedestrian, and multi-use paths

- 69 intersections improved



Folly & Camp Road Intersection



Greenbelt Program



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

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

Bus Stop Improvements

146 shelters/benches added and improvements to lighting, digital signage, and bike racks.

Lowcountry Rapid Transit

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



20 Years of Data

53,751,886
Service Miles

2004

783,595

226% INCREASE

2024

2,577,980

66,720,831
Passenger Trips

2004

1,038,278

120% INCREASE

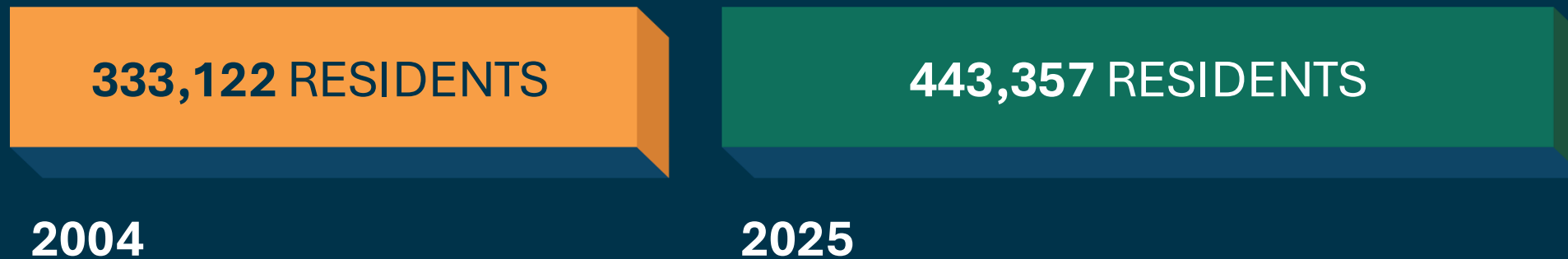
2024

2,287,007



The Surging Population

The County's population surge of 33.1% since 2004 demands investments in infrastructure.





HEADS UP
HALF-PENNY FACT

**Vehicle registrations
in Charleston County
have increased 41.5%
since 2008.**



The Surging Population

The Charleston County population is projected to increase by more than 42,000 in the next decade.

And, more people means more vehicles.

Referendum Roadmap

Sept 2025

- County Council establishes a Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Special Committee.

Oct 2025

- Listening sessions, stakeholder meetings, and municipal briefings are being held across the County to gather public input on priorities for a potential future TST.

Spring 2026

- County Council's TST Special Committee receives a briefing and begins developing the draft framework for a potential future TST.
- After gathering additional public input on the draft proposal, County Council will determine whether to proceed with pursuing a future TST.

Continuous Public and Stakeholder Education and Engagement. Increased Transparency and Accountability of the TST Program.



Potential Investment Categories

Concept of a Future \$4.25B TST Program (Authorized by Council Sept. 25, 2025)

Greenbelt Program

- Protective purchases of land
- Creation of public parks, waterway access, greenways, and greenspaces

Bike & Pedestrian

- Continue to close gaps and expand the sidewalk and bicycle network
- Address known safety concerns

Public Transit

- Continue and expand service
- Lowcountry Rapid Transit

Roadways

- Improve pavements
- Rural safety
- Intersection safety
- Bottlenecks such as signal coordination, widenings, intersections, and operational changes



Get Involved

In the coming months, Council will engage the community with openness and transparency **to shape decisions for today and the future.**

1

**Fill out our online
questionnaire**

3

Submit comments & questions

Email us anytime at TST@PublicInput.com

2

**Attend meetings
& workshops**

4

Stay informed

Sign up for updates on CharlestonTransportation.com



1 What have been the successes and challenges with the existing Transportation Sales Tax program?

2 Which of the key investment categories are most important to you and your community?

3 Are there any others that should be added?



Scan here for
Questionnaire