



2026 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum

Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program



Why Are We Here?

Charleston County voters have twice approved a half-penny Transportation Sales Tax (TST). These programs have supported approximately \$4.56 billion in transportation, transit, and greenspace investments throughout Charleston County.



Previous Transportation Sales Tax Accomplishments

Over the past 20 years, Transportation Sales Tax investments have supported projects throughout Charleston County.

- 895 miles of roadway improvements
- 69 intersections improved
- 49 miles of bike and pedestrian facilities
- 125+ transit vehicles purchased
- 146 shelters and benches installed
- 26,170 acres protected through the Greenbelt Program

The current 2004 half-penny Transportation Sales Tax is expected to expire in 2027. On November 3, 2026, Charleston County voters will be asked to consider a proposed extension of the existing Transportation Sales Tax Program.

The proposed program was developed through:

- Extensive public engagement
- Municipal coordination
- Technical evaluation
- Guiding principles

What We Heard

Countywide public engagement

To help identify transportation projects and priorities, Charleston County conducted a countywide public engagement effort that included:

- Nearly 80 public and stakeholder meetings
- Approximately 29,000 public comments
- More than 600 project requests
- Approximately \$68 billion in identified transportation needs



Guiding Principles

The six principles adopted by County Council.

- Finish What Was Promised**
Complete key projects carried forward from the existing Transportation Sales Tax program.
- Focus on Congestion Relief and Safety**
Invest fairly across the county to reduce congestion and improve roadway safety brought on by growth.
- Support Multimodal Mobility**
Enhance communities with sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit services that address identified needs and improve mobility.
- Use Greenbelt Investments to Manage Growth and Protect Quality of Life**
Protect natural areas through continued Greenbelt investments that help limit overdevelopment and support long-term quality of life.
- Build Resilient Infrastructure**
Integrate flood mitigation and resiliency measures into transportation projects to strengthen infrastructure.
- Ensure Transparency and Accountability**
Maintain strong oversight and clear communication to demonstrate progress and responsible stewardship of public funds.



How Projects Were Evaluated

Projects were evaluated using a 100-point scoring system.

Public & Municipal Support

(50 Points)

Projects received points based on ranking by municipalities and public input.

Congestion Relief

(30 Points)

Projects were evaluated using traffic flow data.

Safety

(20 Points)

Projects were evaluated using crash history including fatal and serious injury data.



Proposed Program Overview

The 2026 Transportation Sales Tax Program is estimated to generate approximately \$4.25 billion over 25 years.

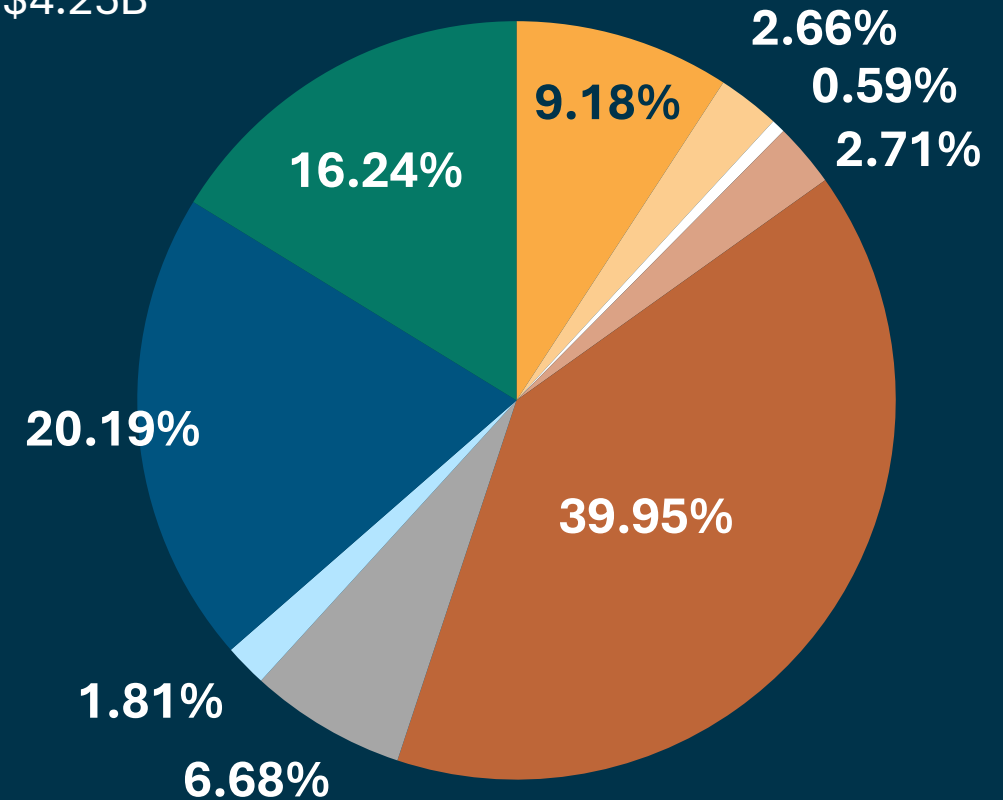
- Begins after the 2004 Transportation Sales Tax concludes
- Investments in infrastructure, public transit, and greenspace conservation

Proposed Funding Allocations

2026 TST Potential Investment Categories and Projects = \$4.25B

Draft as of July 21, 2026

- Pavement Management (\$390M)
Includes Seabrook Island Road Project
- 2nd TST Carryover Needs (\$113M)
- Signal Coordination (\$25M)
- Intersection Safety Program (\$115M)
- Featured Projects (\$1.6B)
- Debt Service (\$284.1M)
- Bike Ped Investments (\$77M)
- Public Transit (\$858M)
\$23M for implementation of Downtown Route Study
- Greenbelt Program (\$690M)
50% urban and 50% rural



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**Charleston County
Transportation**
Infrastructure | Greenspace | Transit



Bike & Pedestrian	
City of North Charleston	
Rivers Avenue LCRT Last Mile	\$20,000,000
City of Charleston	
City of Charleston SSA / Rethink Folly / Huger Street	\$22,000,000
Unincorporated	
Countywide Bike Pedestrian Plan	\$15,000,000
Town of Mount Pleasant	
Mount Pleasant Way	\$20,000,000
TOTAL	\$77,000,000

Intersection Allocation	
City of North Charleston	
Ashley Phosphate Road at Cross County Drive / Brandywine	\$3,500,000
City of Charleston	
Savannah Highway at Ashley Town Center Drive	\$11,500,000
Maybank at Riverland Drive	\$6,000,000
Unincorporated	
US 78 at Limehouse Lane	\$2,000,000
Main Road at Mary Ann Point Roundabout	\$5,000,000
SC-162 at Salters Hill Roundabout	\$3,000,000
SC-174 at SC-164 Roundabout	\$4,000,000
Steed Creek Road at Highway 17	\$3,000,000
Highway 45 at US 17 North	\$4,000,000
Town of Mount Pleasant	
Whipple Road at Mathis Ferry / Lucy Beckham High School	\$8,000,000
TOTAL	\$50,000,000

Featured Projects	
City of North Charleston	
Rivers Avenue Overpass @ Durant Avenue	\$175,900,000
Mall Drive (S-790) Improvements	\$100,000,000
Patriot Boulevard Widening	\$12,000,000
Stall Road Improvements (Midland Park, Ashley Phosphate)	\$15,000,000
Better North Bridge	\$45,000,000
Ladson Road at Palmetto Commerce Boulevard - WB dual lefts	\$8,000,000
Reynolds Avenue Improvements	\$10,000,000
LCRT Last Mile Connections	\$10,000,000
Noise Wall at Palmetto Commerce Interchange	\$17,000,000
City of Charleston	
Battery Extension - West / Calhoun Street - Medical District	\$225,000,000
Maybank Highway Southern Pitchfork & Roundabout	\$65,000,000
Glenn McConnell Parkway at Magwood Road	\$100,000,000
US 17 South Widening (Dobbin to Main Road)	\$225,000,000
Better North Bridge	\$45,000,000
Hagood Avenue Improvement Plan	\$25,000,000
Unincorporated	
US 17 South Widening (Main Road to SC-162)	\$220,000,000
Town of Mount Pleasant	
Johnnie Dodds at Houston Northcutt / Wingo Way 1A, 1B	\$230,000,000
Long Point Road Resiliency (Boone Hall Creek and 2 lane section) 2A and 2B	\$170,000,000
TOTAL	\$1,697,900,000

Infrastructure Investments

Featured Projects

Includes major roadway, corridor, bridge, and resiliency improvements identified through public input, municipal coordination, and technical evaluation.

Pavement Management

Provides funding for roadway resurfacing, rehabilitation, and resiliency projects intended to preserve and improve roadway conditions throughout Charleston County.

Signal Coordination

Provides funding for traffic signal timing, equipment upgrades, and corridor coordination improvements throughout Charleston County.

Intersection Safety Program

Provides funding for improvements at priority intersections, including operational, safety, and capacity enhancements identified through technical evaluation and public input.

Bike and Pedestrian Improvements

Includes providing funding for sidewalks, shared-use paths, bicycle facilities, and other multimodal transportation improvements that enhance connectivity throughout Charleston County.

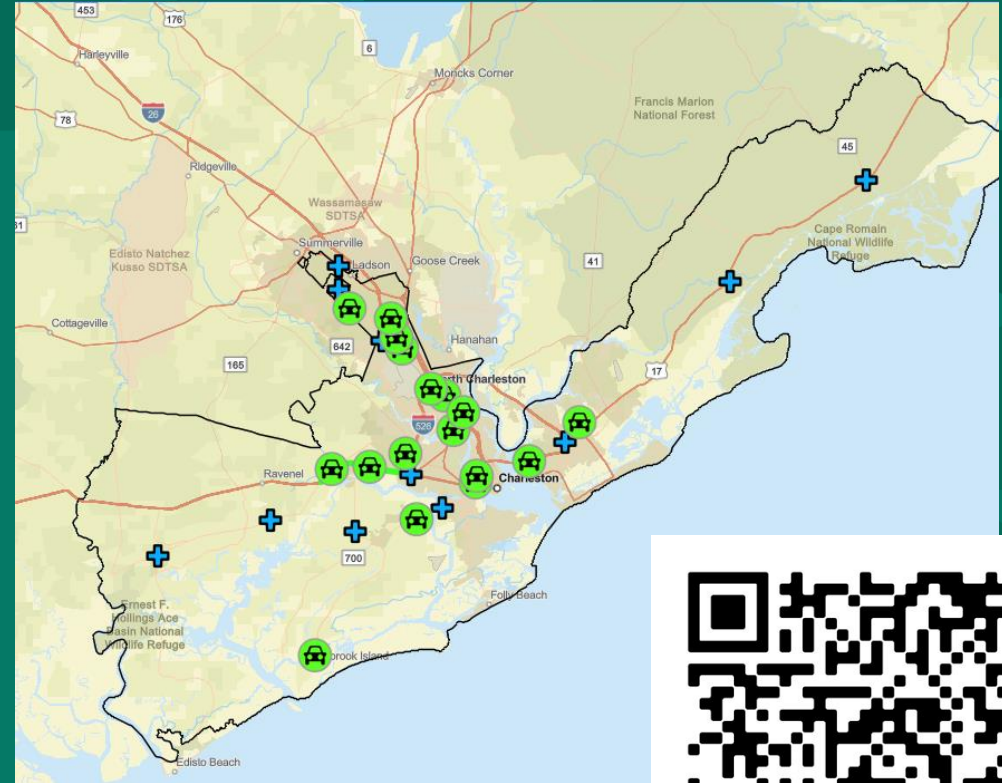
Previous TST Carryover Needs

This category provides funding to complete projects and to carry forward commitments from the existing TST program.



Featured Projects

The 2026 TST program includes \$2.7 billion in major transportation investments throughout Charleston County.



Project Delivery

Ramp Up Annual Allocation Programs on Day 1

Immediately begin work on signals, paving, rural road safety, resilience, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intersection improvements.

Accelerate Major Project Delivery

Begin preliminary engineering and design for the largest projects in Year 1, jump-starting work that traditionally wouldn't begin until later in the program.

Launch a Quick-Start Intersection Improvement Program

Complete improvements on key intersections across the County within the first 10 years by launching design work immediately.

Use Bonding to Move Projects Forward

Utilize, where appropriate, to accelerate planned projects.



Public Transit Investments

\$858 million for public transit investments.

Grow service by 17% over the next 10 years. This includes replacing and expanding the CARTA bus fleet.

Utilize \$50 million to make improvements on major transit corridors. This could include implementing transit signal priority, building new park & rides, expanding LCRT, and exploring ferry service.

Utilize \$20 million toward modernizing CARTA's maintenance facility.

Support Capital Projects through the historic ability to utilize the TST to secure additional federal funds.

Invest \$40 million in the bus stop amenity improvement program, including additional shelters, benches, bike racks, real-time signage, solar lighting, and trash receptacles.



Greenbelt Program

\$690 million for Greenbelt conservation.

Land conservation

Based on recent acquisition and easement costs, the funding could help protect approximately 40,000 to 47,000 additional acres across Charleston County.

Countywide impact

That level of conservation could represent up to approximately 8.5% of Charleston County's land area, excluding water and low marsh.

Leveraged investment

Greenbelt funding has historically helped attract matching investment from conservation partners and government entities.

Access to greenspace

Equitable access to public greenspace is a program cornerstone and could be expanded with additional funding.

Referendum Information

Ballot Questions



Visit chsvotes.gov to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, or find your polling location.

Key Dates

Voter Registration Deadlines

October 2, 5 p.m. | Deadline to register to vote in person for General Election

October 4, 11:59 p.m. | Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for General Election

October 5 | Deadline to register to vote by mail for General Election (must be postmarked by this date)

Early Voting Period

October 19 - October 31

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
(Monday – Saturday)

Election Day:

November 3, 2026

Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Stay Informed

- View proposed projects
- Explore interactive maps
- Review program documents
- Submit questions and comments



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