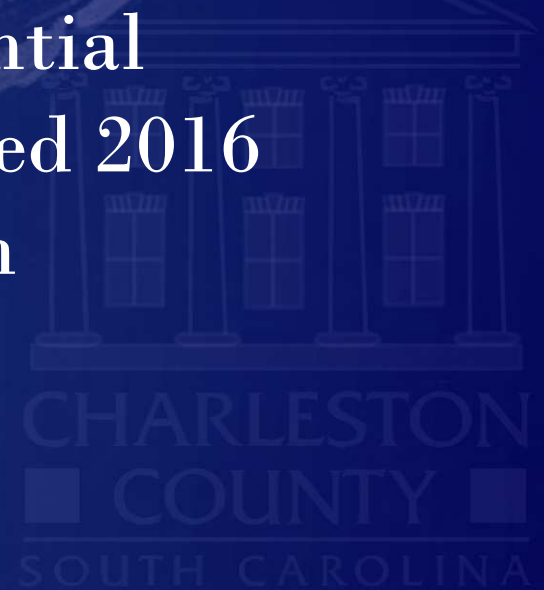




Overview

Public Comment on Potential
Funding Scenario for Proposed 2016
Sales Tax Referendum

July 19, 2016





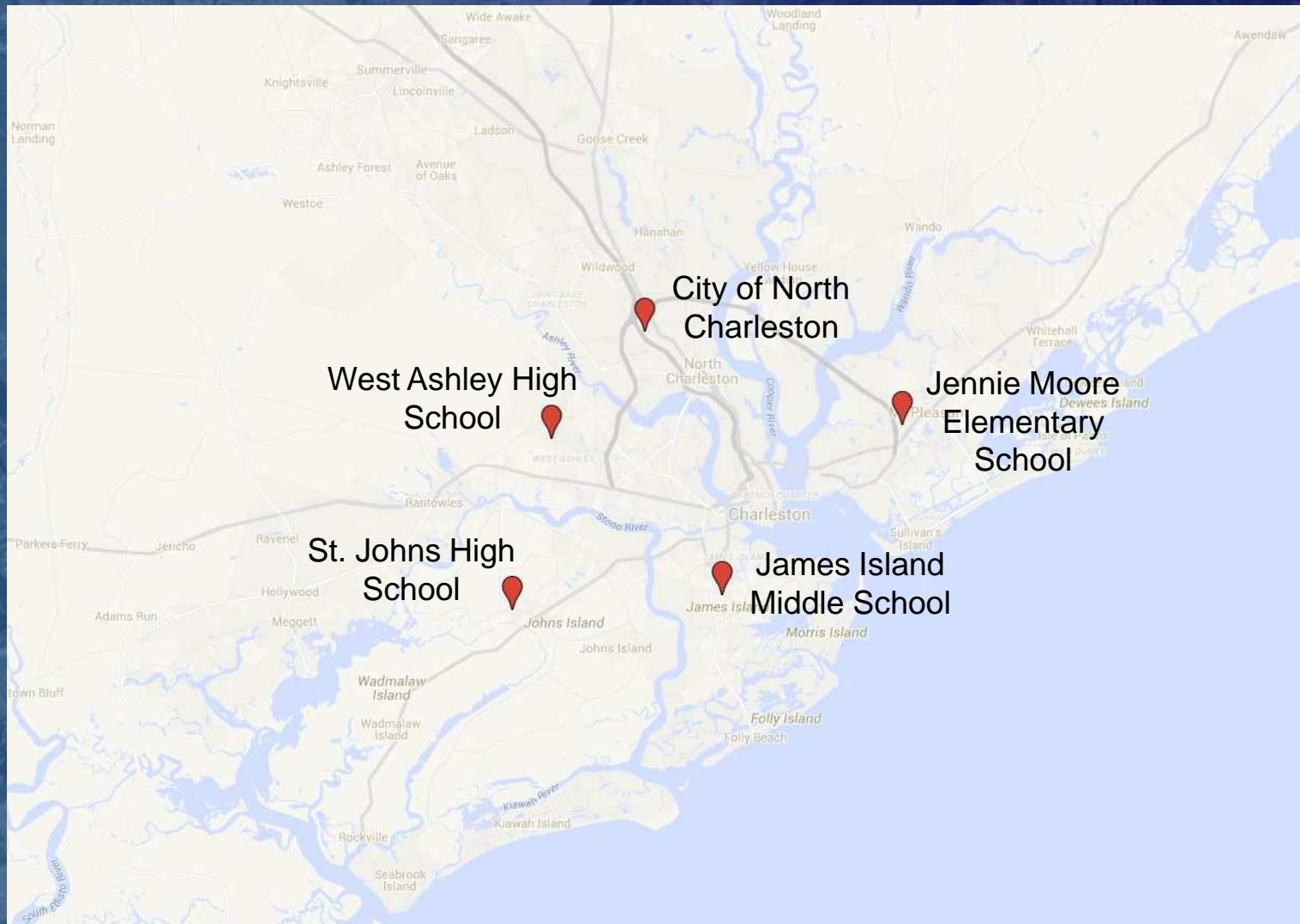
Public Meetings

As requested by Council, Transportation Development held 5 public meetings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the following locations:

- City of North Charleston – City Council Chambers on June 13, 2016
- City of Charleston / West Ashley – West Ashley High School on June 15, 2016
- Johns Island – St. Johns High School on June 20, 2016
- James Island – James Island Middle School on June 22, 2016
- Town of Mount Pleasant – Jennie Moore Elementary School on June 23, 2016



Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program





Attendance

- City of North Charleston – 25
- West Ashley – 36
- Johns Island – 241
- James Island – 41
- Town of Mount Pleasant – 33





Public Comment

- As requested by Council, staff asked for public comment on the projects listed in the Potential Funding Scenario presented on May 24, 2016.





Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program

Potential Funding Scenario for the Proposed 2016 Sales Tax Referendum

City of North Charleston

Estimate

US 78 Improvements	US 78 from US 52 to I-26 including the intersection with Ladson Road	\$ 47,250,000
Northside Drive Re-alignment at Ashley Phosphate	Relocate Northside Drive to intersect with Ashley Phosphate Road across from Spa Road	\$ 40,500,000

Sub-Total \$ 87,750,000

Town of Mt Pleasant

SC 41 Improvements, US 17 to Wando Bridge	Widening Highway 41 from US 17 to Wando Bridge including intersection improvements at US 17	\$ 129,300,000
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Sub-Total \$ 129,300,000

City of Charleston

Savannah Highway Capacity and Intersection Improvements	Intersection Improvements along Savannah Highway at Wappoo Road, Magnolia Road, Orleans Road, Dupont Road, Savage Road, Playground Road, Markfield Road, Ashley Town Center Drive, Sam Rittenberg, Skylark, and White Oak Drive.	\$ 48,800,000
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Glenn McConnell Parkway Widening	Widening of Glenn McConnell Parkway from four-to-six lanes between Bees Ferry Road and Magwood Drive	\$ 25,000,000
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James Island Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements	Camp Road Corridor, Fort Johnson at Camp Road, Fort Johnson at Secessionville Road, Folly Road Sidewalk Infill and Connection of Bike Lane	\$ 15,000,000
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Savannah Highway / Ashley River Bridges / Crosstowne Congestion Management Study	Congestion Management Study of West Ashley Connection to the Downtown Peninsula	\$ 2,000,000
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Sub-Total \$ 90,800,000

Regional Improvements

US 17 at Main Road Intersection and Main Road Widening, Bees Ferry to Betsy Kerrison	Intersection improvements at US 17 / Main Road and improvements to Main Road from Bees Ferry Road to Betsy Kerrison Parkway	\$ 195,000,000
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Dorchester Road Widening, Midchaux Parkway to the County Line	Widening of Dorchester Road from four-to-six lanes between Midchaux Parkway and the County Line	\$ 71,000,000
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Airport Area Improvements	Extend Palmetto Commerce Parkway from Ashley Phosphate to provide a connection with South Aviation Avenue.	\$ 106,367,000
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Bus Rapid Transit	Local Matching Funds to Supplement Federal Funding to implement and Operate a Bus Rapid Transit program	\$ 256,400,000
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Sub-Total \$ 628,767,000

Annual Allocation Continuation	\$5 mil Resurfacing / Pavement Management, \$2 mil Bike Ped, \$1 mil Local Paving, \$1 mil Intersection Improvements (beginning in year 2031)	\$ 150,000,000
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Rural Road Improvement Program	\$2 mil Annually for Unincorporated and Municipal Rural Roads	\$ 73,000,000
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Debt Service* and Program Administration		\$ 562,383,000
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CARTA	Operations	\$ 280,000,000
CARTA	Capital Replacements	\$ 73,000,000

Greenbelt Program Continuation	Beginning in year 2031	\$ 25,000,000
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Note: Costs Adjusted for Inflation

Grand Total \$ 2,100,000,000

*Debt service is the money needed to repay the loan necessary to expedite large transportation projects and mass transit.



Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program

Tax Referendum

Charleston County Council is considering placing a sales and use tax referendum question on the November 8, 2016, ballot to finance the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, mass transit systems, greenbelts, and other transportation-related projects within Charleston County. County staff has worked with the City of Charleston, Town of Mount Pleasant, City of North Charleston, and the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments to discuss with a method of financing and potential projects within the various jurisdictions. County Council directed staff to organize and hold five public meetings to provide citizens the opportunity to comment on the projects identified by the various jurisdictions and potentially financed by a proposed sales and use tax referendum. Your comments are important to Charleston County. Please take a moment to complete this form. The information below details the projects identified under consideration and approximate cost of each.

Your comments will be accepted through June 27, 2016.

[Click here to see a list of projects submitted to date](#)

Location Info

* Name:
* E-mail:
* Address:
* City:
* State:
* Zip:

Airport Area Improvements-\$106,367,000

Extend Palmetto Commerce Parkway from Ashley Phosphate Road to Connect with South Aviation Avenue

Annual Allocation Continuation- \$150,000,000

\$5 million Resurfacing / Pavement Management; \$2 million Bike Pedestrian; \$1 million Local Paving; and \$1 million Intersection Improvements (Beginning in Year 2031)

Bus Rapid Transit-\$256,400,000

Provide Local Matching Funds to supplement Federal Funds to Implement and Operate a Bus Rapid Transit Program

Dorchester Road Widening- \$71,000,000

Widening of Dorchester Road from four-to-six lanes between Michaux Parkway and the Dorchester County Line

Glenn McConnell Parkway Widening-\$ 25,000,000

Widening of Glenn McConnell Parkway to six lanes between Bees Ferry Road and Maywood Drive

Greenbelt Program Continuation-\$ 25,000,000

Continuation of the Greenbelt Program Beginning in year 2031

James Island Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements-\$15,000,000

Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements of Camp Road, Fort Johnson at Camp Road, Fort Johnson at Secessionville Road, Folly Road Sidewalk and Connection of Bicycle Lane

Mass Transit-\$ 73,000,000

Capital Replacements:

Mass Transit-\$280,000,000

Operations

Northside Drive Re-alignment at Ashley Phosphate-\$ 40,500,000

Relocate Northside Drive to intersect with Ashley Phosphate Road across from Spa Road

Rural Road Improvement Program- \$73,000,000

\$2 million annually for Unincorporated and Municipal Rural Roads

Savannah Highway / Ashley River Bridges / Crosstown Congestion Management Study-\$ 2,000,000

Congestion Management Study of West Ashley Connection to the Downtown City of Charleston Peninsula

Savannah Highway Capacity and Intersection Improvements-\$48,800,000

Intersection Improvements of Savannah Highway and Wappoo Road, Magnolia Road, Orleans Road, Dupont Road, Savage Road, Playground Road, Marfield Road, Ashley Town Center Drive, Sum Rittenberg, Skyline, and White Oak Drive.

S.C. 41 Improvements-\$ 129,300,000

Widening Highway S.C. 41 from U.S. 17 to Wando Bridge including intersection improvements at U.S. 17 @ S.C.41

U.S. 17 at Main Road Intersection and Main Road Widening, Bees Ferry to Betsy Kerrison-\$195,000,000

Intersection Improvements of U.S. 17 / Main Road and improvements to Main Road from Bees Ferry Road to Betsy Kerrison Parkway

U.S. 78 Improvements-\$ 47,250,000

U.S. 78 from U.S. 52 to I-26 including the intersection with Ladson Road

Additional Comments

If you have any additional comments or would like to suggest any transportation-related projects or improvements, please provide that information below. If you need additional space, please attach an additional comment sheet or paper.



Verification Code:

[Submit](#) [Reset](#)



Public Comment (cont.)

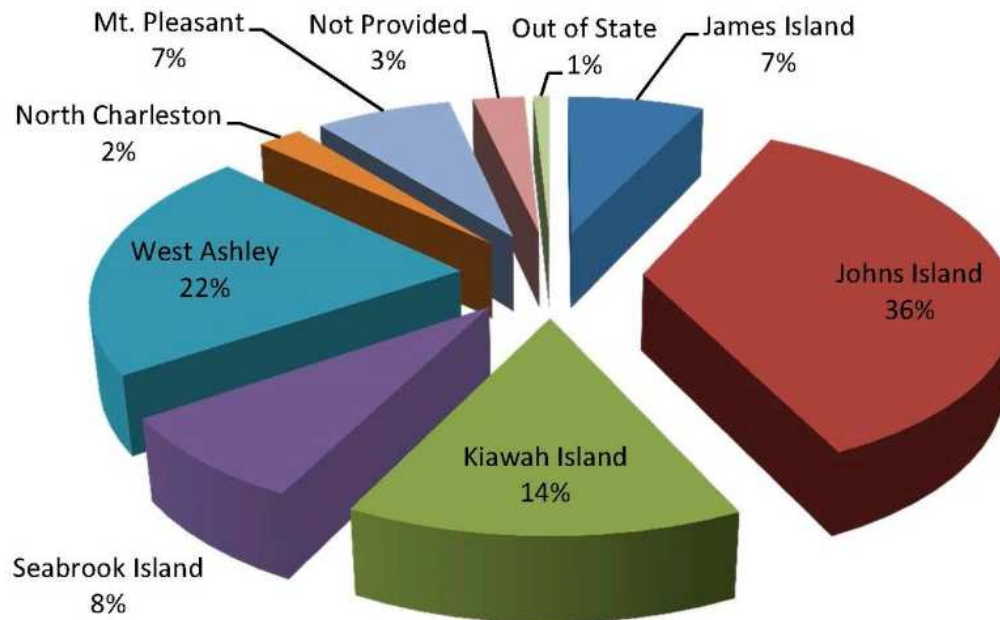
- The last question on the form gave citizens an opportunity to provide any additional comments or to suggest any transportation-related projects or improvements.
- We received a total of 1,656 comments
 - 62 hard copies submitted at meetings or mailed
 - 1,594 submitted online



Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program

Geographic Location by Address Provided

Location of Comments (1,656 Total)





Summary of Responses

- Within each project area, all projects had a combination of support and no objection exceeding 75%
- 17 at Main / Widening of Main Road generated the most comments
- SC 41, James Island Intersection / Pedestrian Improvements and 17 at Main received the highest percentage of support



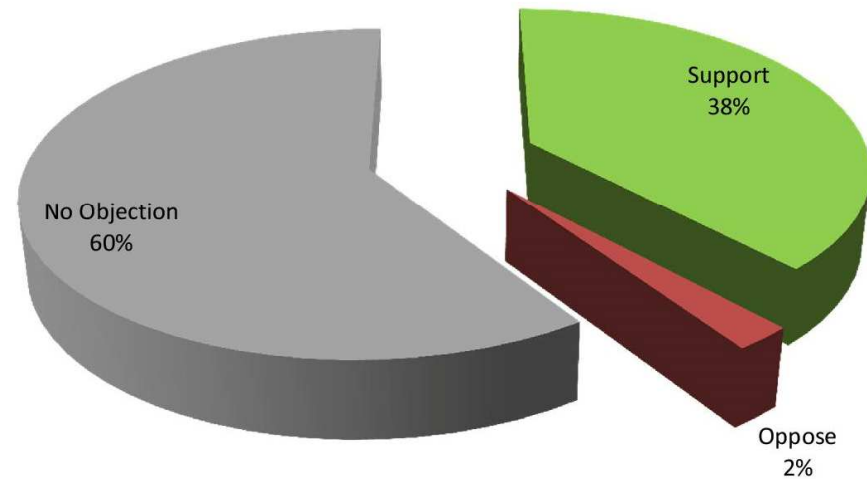
Summary of Responses (cont.)

- Within the general comment section, staff received a significant response about three other projects
 - I-526 Extension / Johns Island Connector (427 Comments)
 - Widening of Maybank Hwy from Paul Gelegotis Bridge to Main Road (514 Comments)
 - Johns Island Cross Island Expressway (end of Betsy Kerrison to Maybank Corridor)(384 Comments)



US 78 Improvements

**US 78 Improvements
(41 Total Comments from Area)**



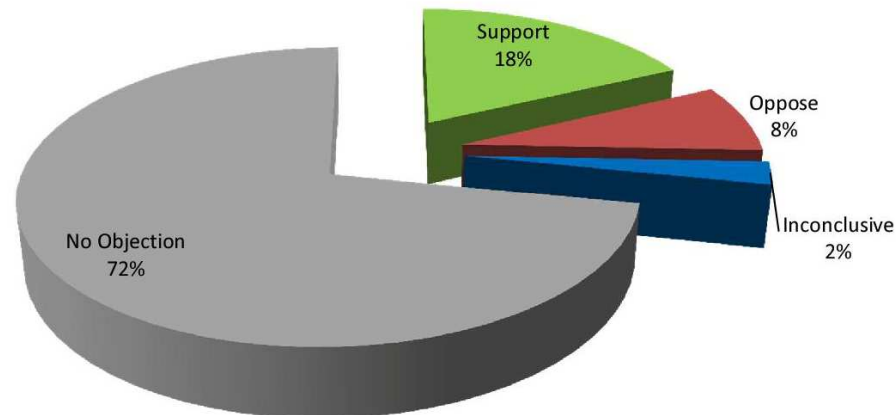
Support

Agree with funding, this is a heavy traffic area that needs relief



Northside Drive Re-alignment at Ashley Phosphate

**Northside Dr Re-alignment at Ashley Phosphate
(41 Total Comments from Area)**



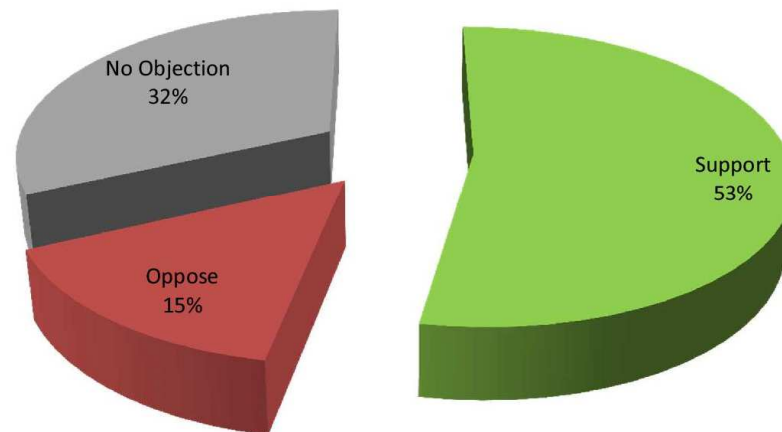
Support

I'm having a hard time visualizing how this will look, but sounds like a good idea to move it away from the congested I-26 intersection.



SC 41 Improvements, US 17 to Wando Bridge

**SC 41 Improvements, US 17 to Wando Bridge
(119 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

41 is a an emergency hurricane evacuation designated Road and needs to be upgraded to facilitate a mass evacuation should the need arise!

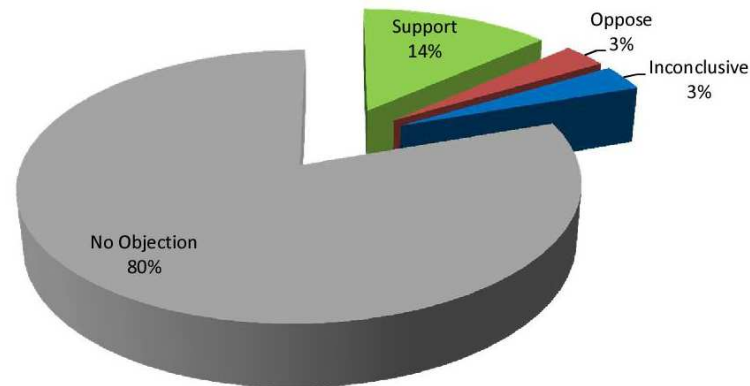
Oppose

No we do not want Hwy 41 to be a four lane, would perfer three lanes instead, because a four lane would impact my property space.



Savannah Highway Capacity and Intersection Improvements

**Savannah Highway Capacity Improvements
(1347 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

Absolutely necessary. This project should be given a top priority as traffic volume on Savannah Highway has gotten to the point where there is almost continual congestion at least six days a week during the daylight hours.

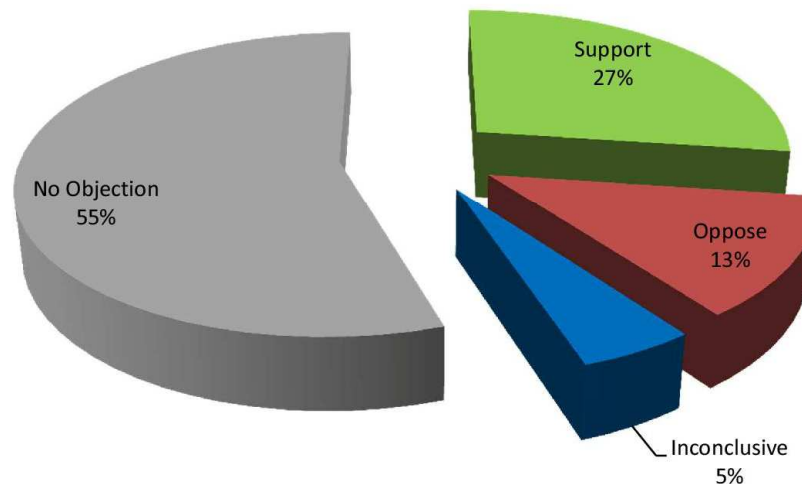
Oppose

Why? The first step, as mentioned previously, should be to time the lights along Savannah Hwy.



Glenn McConnell Parkway Widening

**Glenn McConnell Parkway Widening
(361 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

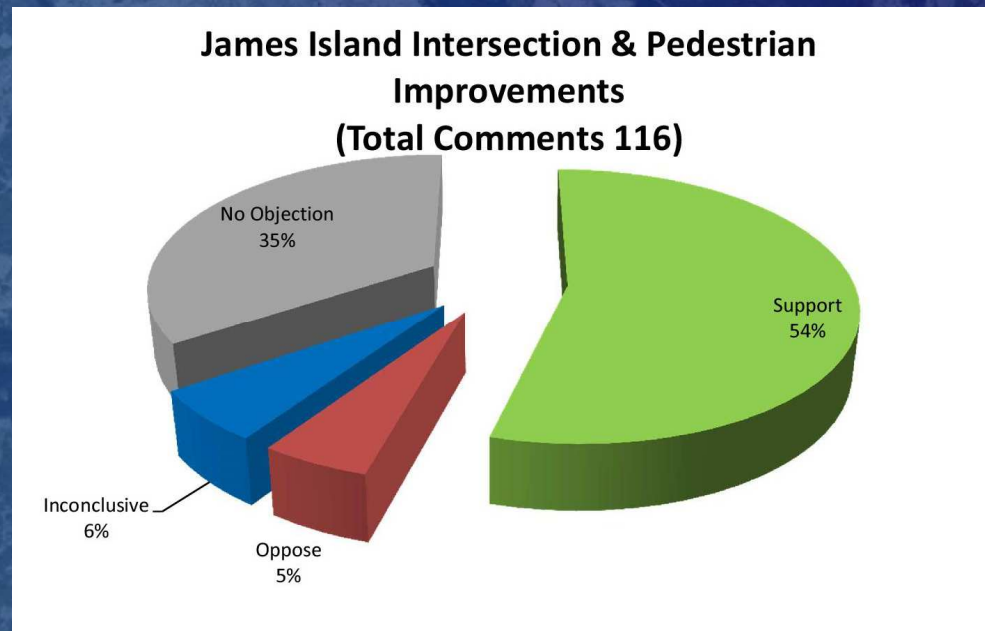
This is desperately needed due to the number of new households in the area and the consequential gridlock there.

Oppose

This is totally unnecessary. Glenn McConnell is wide enough to handle the traffic in this area. Time the lights along this roadway.



James Island Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements



Support

Anything to relieve the traffic congestion and safety of bike riders and pedestrians will be welcome.

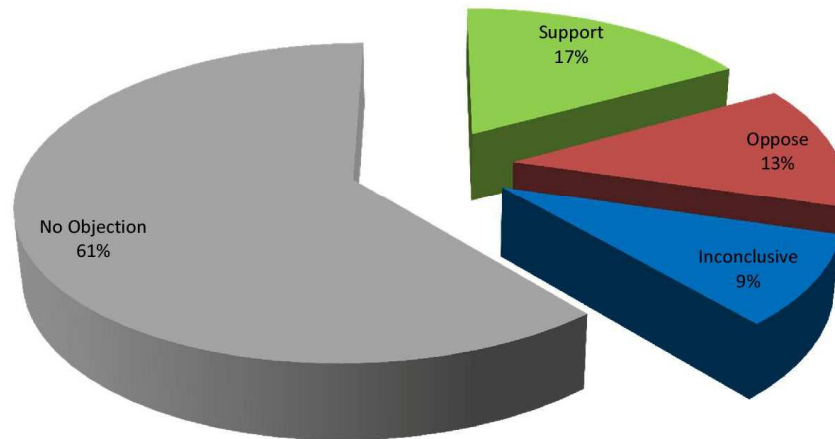
Oppose

I was under the impression the intersection improvements to Camp and Folly were to be covered by the last half-cent sales tax. I would rather see the \$15,000,000 spent on a 3-way stop sign or simple stoplight at Central Park and Riverland and lighting and sidewalks on Secessionville Road between Camp and Fort Johnson Roads.



Savannah Highway/Ashley River Bridge/ Crosstown Congestion Management Study

Savannah Highway/ Ashley River Bridges/
Crosstown Congestion Management Study
(361) Total Comments from Area)



Support

I'm happy to see Savannah Highway listed. Improvement has not kept up with growth. Another area of our commute where we see heavy traffic and almost daily car collisions because of it. This project is necessary

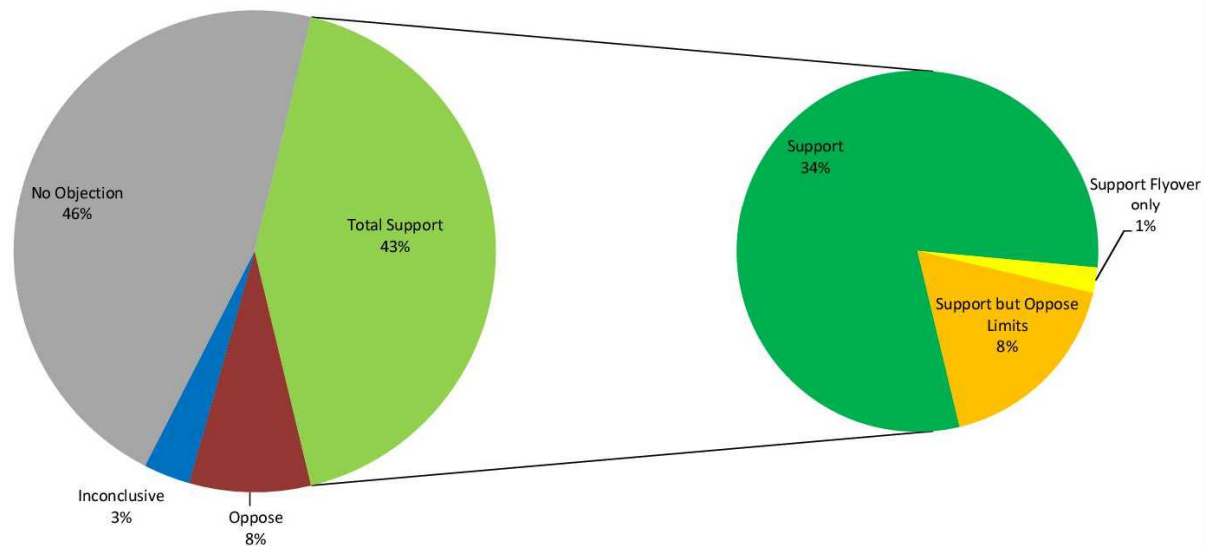
Oppose

I think studies are short sighted and a waste of money when we already know improvements are needed



US 17 at Main Road Widening, Bees Ferry to Betsy Kerrison

US 17 at Main
(1347 Total Comments from Area)



Support

A flyover at Main Road and US17 is crucial to getting on and off of the sea islands, both for hurricane evacuation and daily functionality.

Oppose

No. Complete 526 instead!

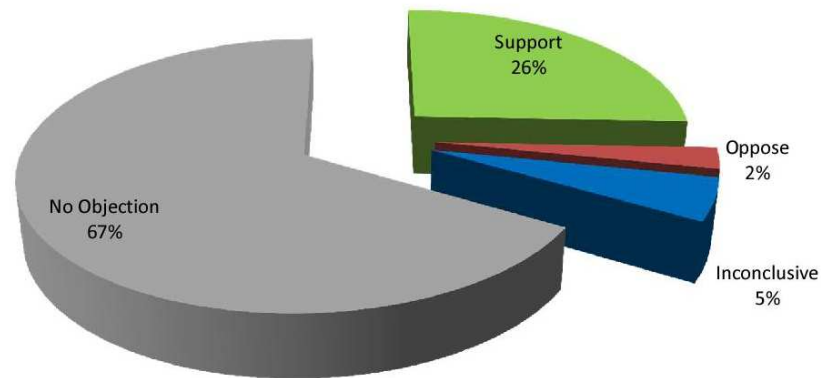
Support but Oppose Limits

Main Road and US 17 needs an overpass. Also, main road needs to be made wider from Bees Ferry to Maybank only. There is no need to go any further than Maybank



Dorchester Road Widening, Michaux Parkway to County Line

**Dorchester Road Widening, Michaux Parkway to County Line
(41 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

This needs to be done.

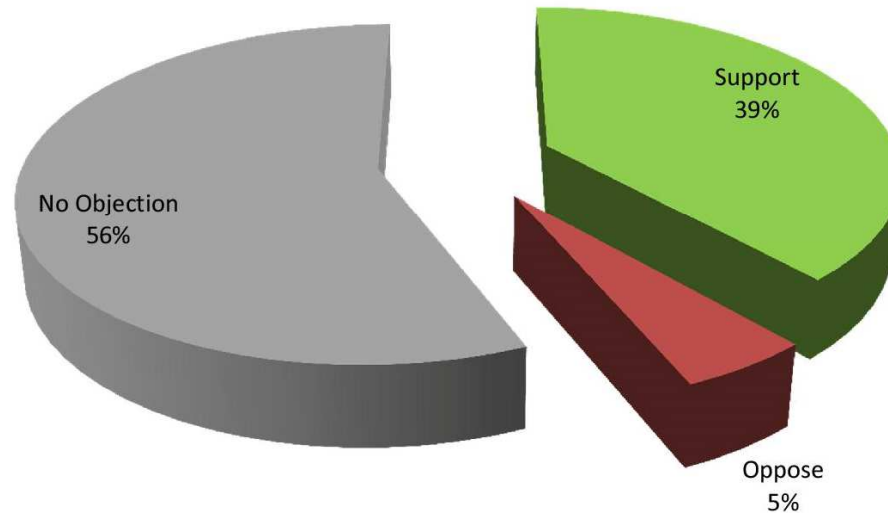
Oppose

Turning this into a larger freeway will only increase traffic and lower the quality of living for local residents



Airport Area Improvements

**Airport Area
(41 Total Comments from Area)**



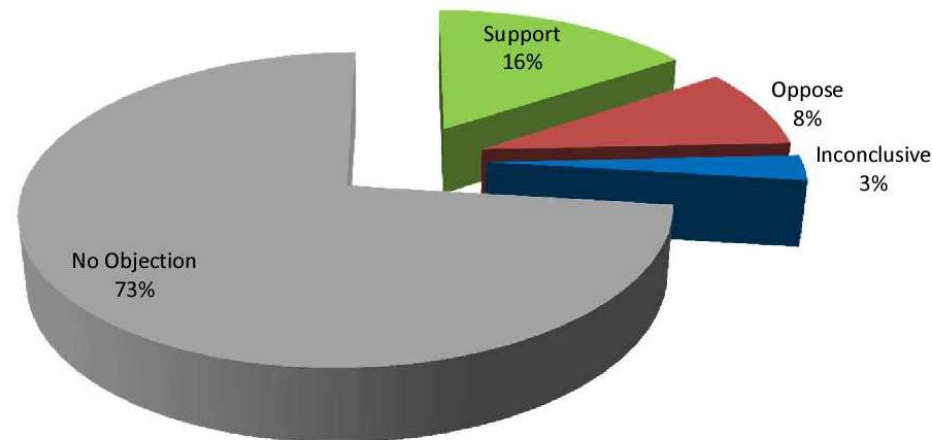
Support

The airport is a vital network for the tri-county area and any improvement is needed as we continue to see the airport grow as well as Boeing.



Bus Rapid Transit

**Bus Rapid Transit
(1656 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

If we had a better public transportation system with more stops and more hours, more Charlestonians would be using the system thus providing some relief to the every increasing traffic issues.

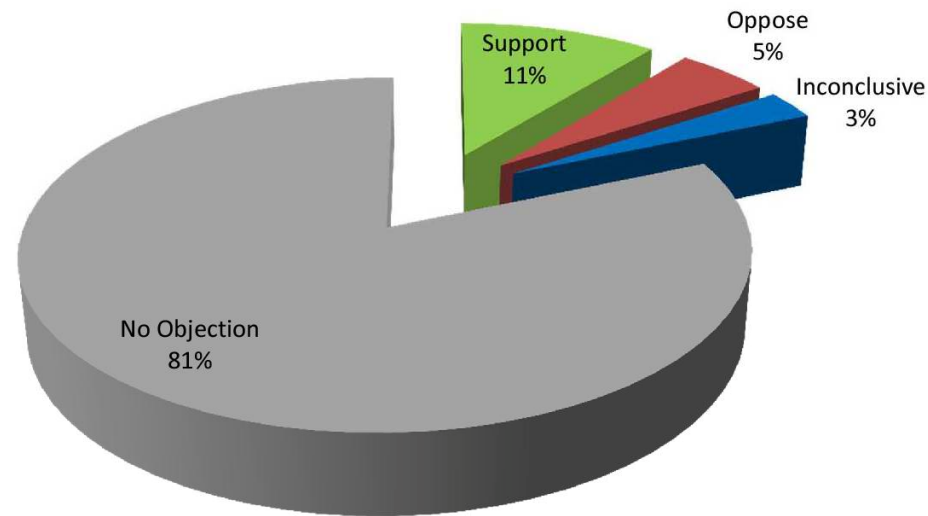
Oppose

Cost vs ridership is outrageous. Use the money to improve roads.



Annual Allocations Continuation

**Annual Allocations Continuation
(1656 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

Agree with resurfacing, many of the roads need this badly. Bike and pedestrian is also very important as Charleston would be a great area to continue to improve the walkability as well as the bike-ability.

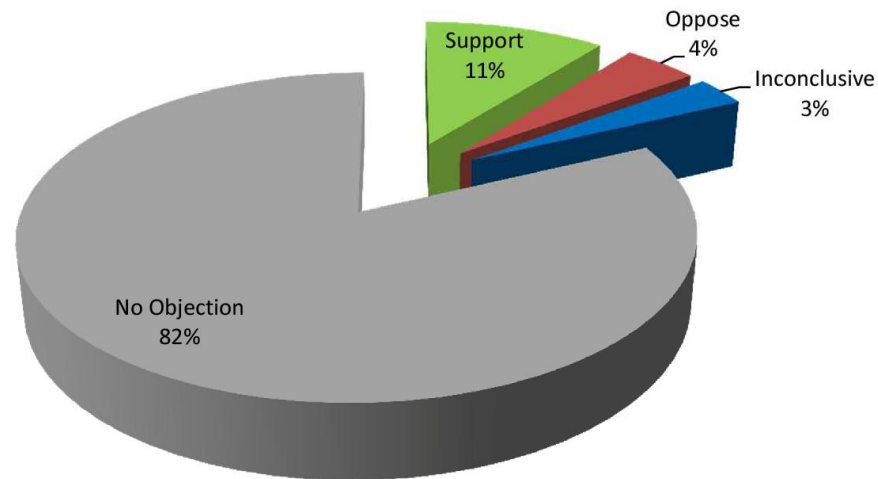
Oppose

According to information provided, this is scheduled to take effect in 2031. What guarantees are in place that the allocated funds will be available in 2031, and we won't be faced with another referendum for a tax increase to fund what we may have already approved and the funds may have been spent elsewhere.



Rural Road Improvement Program

**Rural Road Improvement Program
(1656 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

This is critical - particularly on the islands where poorly maintained roads could pose a significant problem in the event of a hurricane evacuation or emergency.

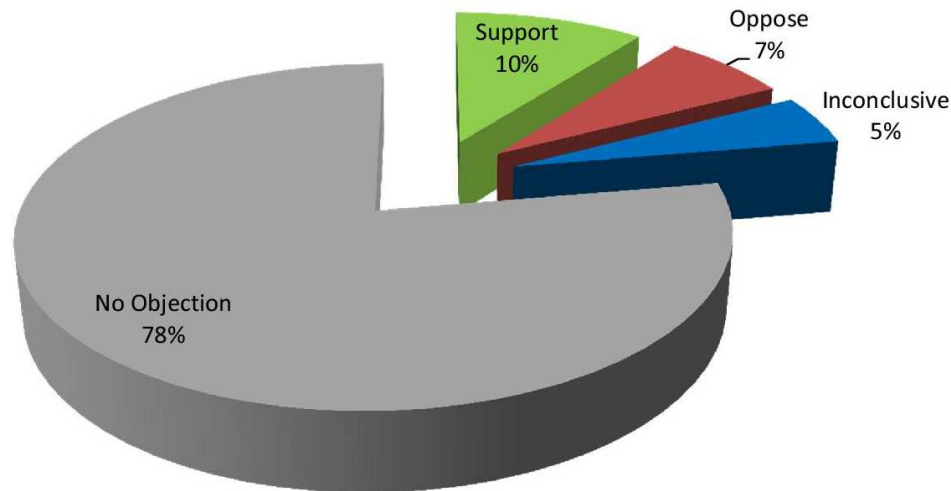
Oppose

What does this mean exactly? This is very vague. I would like to see much of this funding shifted to the Greenbelt Program.



CARTA – Operations

CARTA- Operations
(1656 Total Comments from Area)



Support

Funding for CARTA operations will improve and enhance the availability and efficiency of public transportation throughout Charleston County.

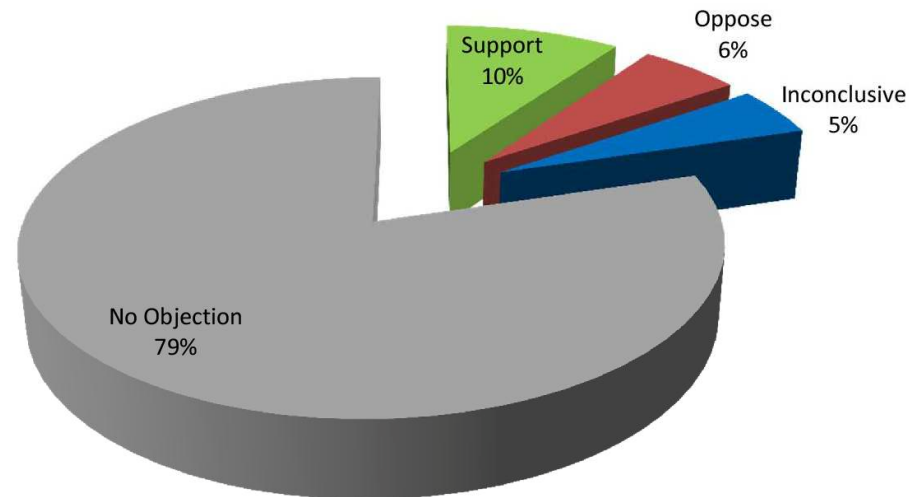
Oppose

CARTA should be self supportive. If it can't operate without taxpayer money it should not be continued



CARTA – Capitol Replacements

**CARTA- Capital Replacement
(1656 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

This is necessary to maintain current transit system, but more focus must be done on rapid rail transit.

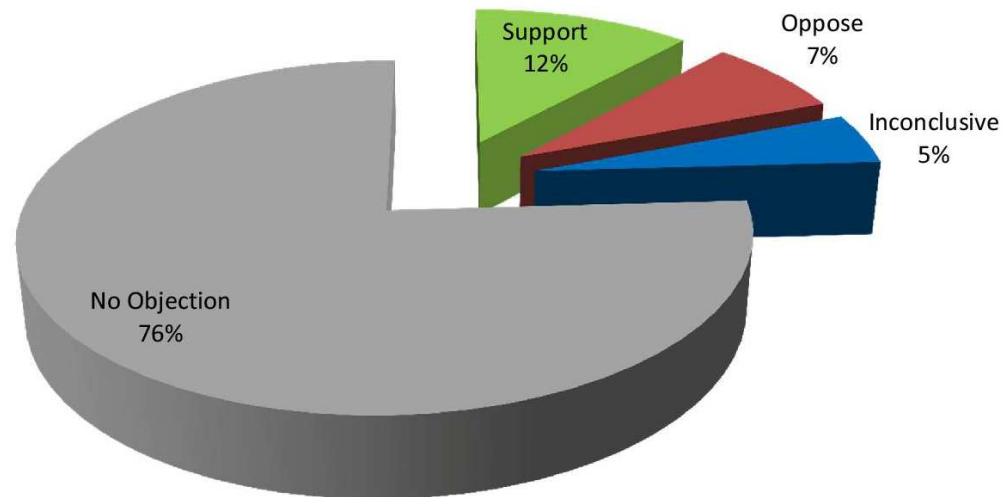
Oppose

If ridership is so low that it can't even pay for capital replacements, that is a problem. I am opposed to this.



Greenbelt Program Continuation

**Greenbelts
(1656 Total Comments from Area)**



Support

Agree. Quality of life and connecting residents to the outdoors is vital to Charleston's appeal and lifestyle.

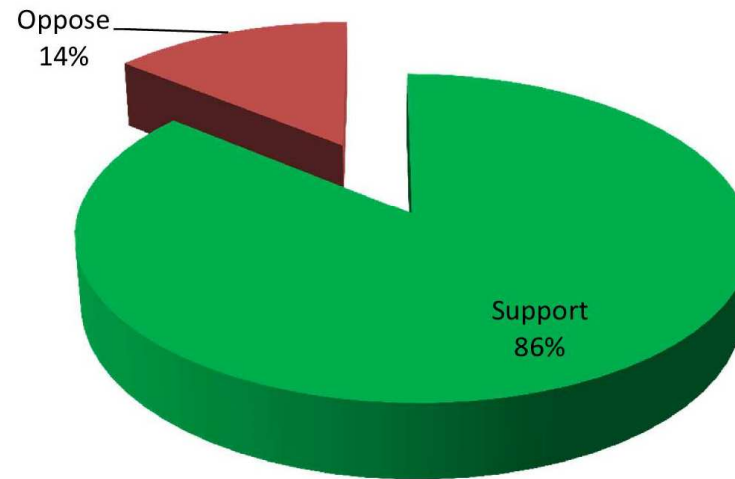
Oppose

More funds need to be implemented into the Greenbelt Program. This simply will not cut it and these sacred places are what makes Charleston such a beautiful place to live and visit.



I-526/Mark Clark Extension

**I-526 Extension
(Total Comments 427)**



Support: "Build I-526. Its the best transportation improvement that could be completed in the entire region."

Oppose: "No I-526 competition! If you widen Main Rd from Hwy 17 to Bohicket Rd, and widen Maybank Hwy from Stono Bridge to Bohicket you don't need I-526 completed."



Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program

Johns Island Roads Call to Action

TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND



Johns Island Roads Call to Action

Charleston County Council is considering placing a sales and use tax referendum question on the November 8, 2016 ballot to finance the costs of transportation-related projects within Charleston County. County Council is providing citizens the opportunity to comment through June 27th.

The Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook Island are asking residents to voice their support of the John's Island roads improvement projects that will alleviate traffic and make traveling Johns Island safer. Resident comments are needed to show County Council the amount of community support to have John's Island road improvements added to the list of projects funded by the additional proposed sales tax.

The following projects are critical and should be on the must-do list of the proposed half cent sales tax. **1) Build a new limited access four lane road from the end of Betsy Kerrison to the Maybank Corridor. This is the key solution for mitigating traffic congestion for all Sea Island residents. 2) Widen Maybank Highway to four lanes from Main Road to the Gelegotis Bridge. 3) Widen Main Road to four lanes from Bees Ferry to Maybank Highway.** We also consider a flyover at Main Road and 17 to be a critically needed improvement. However, this should already be a high priority project funded independently of the revenue raised by the proposed sales tax increase.

Three ways to voice your support by June 27th:

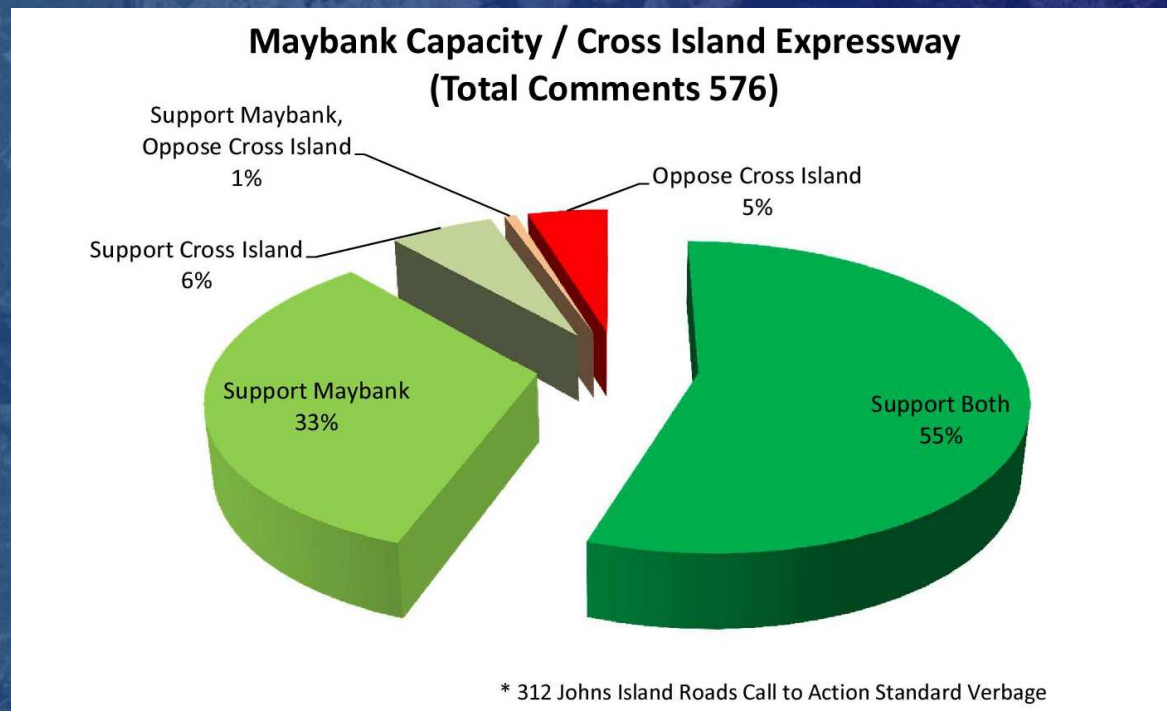
- Email County Council using publiccomment@charlestoncounty.org. You must provide your name, address, email address and statement on road needs. Most importantly will be specific mention of a new John's Island roadway from Betsy Kerrison to the Maybank corridor. Residents can send the drafted statement below or their own.
 - *I support projects that will alleviate traffic and make travelling the roads of Johns Island far safer. Specifically, I believe the following projects are critical and should be on the must-do list that is offered in support of the proposed half cent sales tax. 1) Build a new limited access four lane road from the end of Betsy Kerrison to the Maybank Corridor. This is the key solution for mitigating traffic congestion for all Sea Island residents. 2) Widen Maybank Highway to four lanes from Main Road to the Gelegotis Bridge. 3) Widen Main Road to four lanes from Bees Ferry to Maybank Highway. I also consider a flyover at Main Road and 17 to be a critically needed improvement. However, this should already be a high priority project funded independently of the revenue raised by the proposed sales tax increase.*
- Provide feedback on the Tax Referendum website <http://roads.charlestoncounty.org/tax-ref.php>
- Email the following representatives:
 - County Council Member- Anna Johnson ajohnson@charlestoncounty.org
 - County Council Chair - J. Elliott Summey esummey@charlestoncounty.org
 - State Representative - Peter M. McCoy, Jr. PeterMcCoy@schouse.gov

Please voice your support to County Council on these projects outlined above.

CHARLESTON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA



Maybank Capacity / Cross Island Expressway



Support: "Maybank Highway on Johns Island needs attention sooner rather than later, especially in the section from the Gelegotis Bridge from James Island all the way to Main Road."

Oppose: "I hear people mentioning a Johns Island Connector and that would be very wasteful spending and it would take up most of the money. Don't do it."