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
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.
## Potential Funding Scenario for the Proposed 2018 Sales Tax Referendum

### City of North Charleston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 78 Improvements</td>
<td>$47,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Drive Realignment at Ashley Phosphate Road</td>
<td>$40,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$87,750,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Town of Mt. Pleasant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 17 to Wando Bridge widening</td>
<td>$129,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$129,300,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### City of Charleston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savannah Highway Capacity and Intersection Improvements</td>
<td>$48,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn McCombee Parkway Widening</td>
<td>$25,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Island Interchange and Pedestrian Improvements</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah Hwy/Ashley River Bridges/Construction Management Study</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$103,800,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regional Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 17 at Wando Road Intersection and Main Road Widening</td>
<td>$185,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapp Road Widening</td>
<td>$31,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport Area Improvements</td>
<td>$106,979,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-26 Rapid Transit</td>
<td>$256,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$629,679,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Reserves</td>
<td>$150,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service &amp; Program Administration</td>
<td>$75,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,100,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: costs adjusted for inflation*

*Debt service is the money needed to repay the loan necessary to fund the large transportation projects and mass transit.
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
Geographic Location by Address Provided

Location of Comments (1,656 Total)

- Johns Island: 36%
- Kiawah Island: 14%
- Seabrook Island: 8%
- West Ashley: 22%
- North Charleston: 2%
- Mt. Pleasant: 7%
- Not Provided: 3%
- Out of State: 1%
- James Island: 7%
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)

- No Objection: 60%
- Support: 38%
- Oppose: 2%

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)

- No Objection: 72%
- Support: 18%
- Oppose: 8%
- Inconclusive: 2%

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

Support

41 is 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 prefer three lanes instead, because a four lane would impact my property space.
Savannah Highway Capacity and Intersection Improvements

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)

No Objection 55%
Support 27%
Oppose 13%
Inconclusive 5%

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

James Island Intersection & Pedestrian Improvements
(Total Comments 116)

- Support 54%
- Oppose 5%
- Inconclusive 6%
- No Objection 35%

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

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

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

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.

No. Complete 526 instead!
Dorchester Road Widening, Michaux Parkway to County Line

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

Support
26%
Oppose
2%
Inconclusive
5%
No Objection
67%

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

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

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

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.
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.

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)

No Objection 78%
Support 10%
Oppose 7%
Inconclusive 5%

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)

- No Objection: 79%
- Support: 10%
- Oppose: 6%
- Inconclusive: 5%

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)

- No Objection: 76%
- Support: 12%
- Oppose: 7%
- Inconclusive: 5%

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.
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.”
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 John's 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) Widens Maybank Highway to four lanes from Main Road to the Gelegotis Bridge. 3) Widens Main Road from four lanes from Bees Ferry to Maybank Highway. We also consider a flyover at Main Road and 14 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) Widens Maybank Highway to four lanes from Main Road to the Gelegotis bridge. 3) Widens Main Road to four lanes from Bees Ferry to Maybank Highway. I also consider a flyover at Main Road and 14 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 asummey@charlestoncounty.org
  - State Representative - Peter M. McCoy, Jr. PeterMcCoy@schouse.gov

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