



PROPOSED 2024 TRANSPORTATION SALES & USE TAX REFERENDUM

BEAUFORT COUNTY PENNY

The goals of the proposed 2024 Sales and Use Tax Referendum (the penny tax) are to address Beaufort County infrastructure needs through the completion of critical transportation and mobility projects amidst historic growth in our region. According to the latest census data, South Carolina is the fastest-growing state in the nation, and Beaufort County is one of the fastest-growing counties within South Carolina. The referendum question, proposed to be placed on the ballot in November 2024, will ask voters to approve a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in Beaufort County beginning the following year (2025) and continuing for fifteen (15) years, or until \$1.625 billion in funds are raised, whichever occurs first.

COUNTY-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Completion of underfunded Transportation

Sales Tax 3 (2018) projects:

- US 278 Corridor Project (\$60M)
- Lady's Island Corridor Projects (\$40M)
- Sidewalks and multi-use pathways county-wide

Greenbelts (\$85M)

Mass Transit (\$100M)

The Triangle Project – SC 170, US 278, Argent Blvd (\$100M)

Ribaut Road Improvements (\$75M)

SC 46 Improvements (\$20M)

Safety Projects (\$250M)

Dirt Road Paving and Resurfacing (\$180M)

Pathway Projects (\$180M)

Municipal Projects:

- Hilton Head Island (\$60M)
- Bluffton (\$60M)
- North of the Broad -Port Royal, Beaufort, & Northern Beaufort County (\$60M)

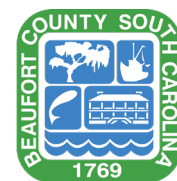
Resiliency/Emergency Evacuation Projects (\$90M)

Transportation Technology & Access Road Projects (\$90M)

Future Projects (\$175M)

Citizens Led Oversight Committee (CLOC)

If approved, a Citizens Led Oversight Committee would be established, similar to that in use at the Beaufort County School District. This would be a volunteer group who will oversee the referendum projects, schedules, and expenditures.



Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA

Will my taxes go up?

No. Current Sales Tax is 7%. The Green Space Sales tax penny will roll-off at the end of December 2024. If approved, the Transportation Sales Tax will replace the existing Green Space Sales Tax and sales tax will remain at 7%.

Is the 1% sales tax different from property taxes?

Yes. Property taxes are assessed based on the value of the property you own, while sales taxes are generated from the purchase of goods and certain services. The renewal of the 1% sales tax will allow non-property owners, as well as those traveling to the County who shop or make purchases, to help share the burden of transportation project costs.

What will I be taxed on?

Per state statute (4-37-30), sales tax is levied on most retail purchases. Exceptions to the tax are listed in state statute (12-36-2130) include, rent/mortgage, fuel, unprepared foods, medical prescriptions and supplies.

How were the projects chosen?

A 17-member Citizen's Sales Tax Advisory Committee (STAC 1.0) was first established in January 2022. The committee provided a recommendation to County Council in May of 2022 that included a list of projects throughout the County. Instead of moving a Transportation Sales Tax on the ballot in 2022, a Green Space Sales tax was voted on and approved. In July 2023, County Council re-established a citizens Sales Tax Advisory Committee (STAC 2.0) to develop an update list of projects for consideration. The STAC 2.0 used the STAC 1.0 recommendations as starting point. They reevaluated and adjusted the project list and presented an updated recommendation to Council in December 2023.

What about the status of the 2018 Sales Tax Projects are not complete?

In total there are 34 projects. 4 of the projects (2 pathways complete and 2 Lady Island projects) are completed, 2 are in construction, and 20 are in design.

Infrastructure projects take a long time to develop. Even the most straightforward projects (such as pathways) have the same steps of design, permitting through state and federal agencies, property acquisition and utility coordination. Beaufort County's collection time is much faster than the implementation time for most projects. The Boundary Street Improvement project was completed 13 years after the 2006 sales tax began and 7 years after the collection finished.

What is the status of the US 278 Corridor Project?

The US 278 Corridor Project is in the final stages of the Environmental Review process. As the environmental review process concludes, the project will move into final design, right-of-way acquisition, and utility coordination.

Visit www.beaufortcountypenny.com to review project summaries and track other referendum projects.

