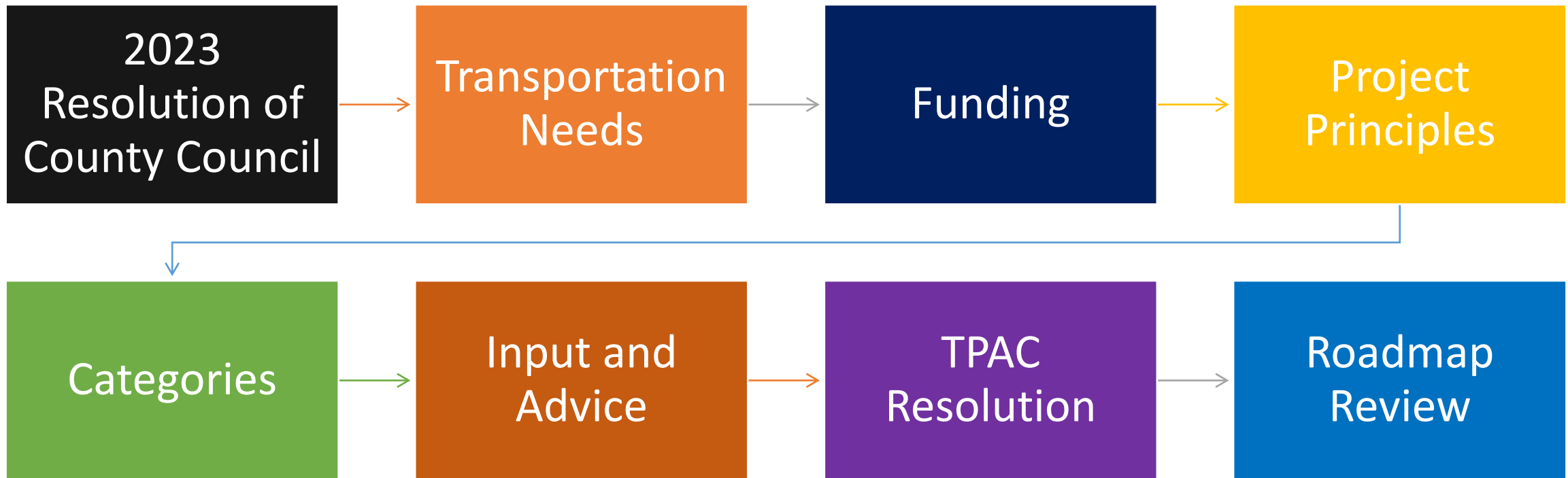


Richland County Transportation Improvement Work Session #1

March 12, 2024

Work Session #1



2023 Resolution of County Council



**Richland County
Regular Session**

AGENDA

October 3, 2023 - 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING COUNTY STAFF TO PREPARE FOR A TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX REFERENDUM EXPECTED TO BE HELD AT THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 37 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, the County Council desires for and directs county staff to undertake all necessary preparations, as required under the Act, and the general election law of the State of South Carolina (“State”), to hold the Referendum and directs that an *ad hoc* transportation committee of County Council (“Committee”) be formed to develop the proposed transportation-related projects to be funded with the Transportation Tax.

Transportation Needs



- Process Review

- ✓ RFP
- ✓ Community Meetings
- ✓ Engagement with Local Governments and COG
- ✓ Unfinished Projects
 - ✓ Funded
 - ✓ Unfunded

- Project List

- ✓ Summary of community feedback
- ✓ Review project highlights
- ✓ Additional work to be completed
- ✓ Time horizon

Transportation Needs



- Project Costs
 - ✓ Cost estimating
 - ✓ Accounting for inflation
- In excess of \$2 Billion
 - ✓ Only includes transportation projects
 - ✓ Does not account for COMET needs

Funding

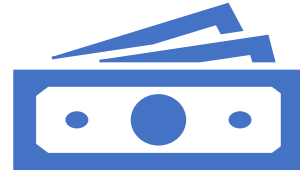
Traditional tools to fund Transportation Needs

- ❖ Pay as you go
- ❖ County Bonds
 - ✓ Insufficient capacity and will eliminate capacity for other capital needs of the County
- ❖ Grants
 - ✓ Will not be enough to serve as a primary source

Size of Transportation Needs Requires Additional Source

- ❖ Other counties are utilizing transportation pennies
- ❖ Consider continuing the transportation penny

How Much Is a Transportation Penny Worth?



15-year Transportation Penny

\$2.2 billion

Funding

How to Divide the Transportation Penny?



TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

CMRTA – COMET BUS SYSTEM

Project Principles

- County Council established guidelines for how and where the proceeds of the next transportation penny will be used to fund the County's transportation needs.

Project Principles

- **The principles would provide specific direction on key questions:**
 - How to prioritize projects remaining from the current penny project list?
 - How to divide the penny among project categories that will appear on the ballot?
 - What factors, i.e. needs of community, safety, access, etc. should be prioritized?
 - What portion of the penny, if any, should be reserved and set aside to address future projects of strategic or critical importance to the County?

Categories

Ballot questions for transportation pennies have taken many forms. Some list projects but others include larger categories. Some allocate dollar amounts to categories and others use percentages.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
PROJECTS**

**COUNTY ADVANCEMENT
PROJECTS**

**COMET ENHANCEMENT
PROJECTS**

RICHLAND COUNTY SPECIAL SALES AND USE TAX

QUESTION 1

I approve a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent to be imposed in Richland County. Collection of the sales and use tax will not begin until the current sales and use tax imposed in Richland County is terminated and will commence immediately following the termination of the current tax. The sales and use tax will be imposed for a period of [fifteen (15)] calendar years, to generate approximately \$[2,200,000,000] which is the estimated aggregate capital costs of the following projects:



Project (1) - Community Investment Projects: Projects benefiting the citizens and businesses in the County and are focused on improving the integrity, safety, reliability and sustainability of the transportation infrastructure in communities in order to enhance citizens' regular commutes to work, play and live. These projects encompass road improvement, resurfacing and paving, intersection improvements, pedestrian-friendly improvements, including sidewalks, and multimodal transportations infrastructure. Projects will also include transportation infrastructure to address emerging residential developments and population growth in the County.

[%] of the revenues generated by the sales and use tax shall be used to pay eligible costs of the Community Investment Projects.

Project (2) - County Advancement Projects: Projects addressing improvements along major roadways within the County and expansion of transportation infrastructure to achieve, support and sustain County economic growth in an equitable manner in accordance with the strategic goals of the County.

[%] of the revenues generated by the sales and use tax shall be used to pay eligible costs of the County Advancement Projects.

Project (3) - COMET Enhancement Projects: Supporting the operation of the mass transit services provided by the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority, including implementation of near, mid and long-term service improvements.


[%] of the revenues generated by the sales and use tax shall be used to pay eligible costs of the Comet Enhancement Projects.

YES _____
NO _____



Community Investment Projects

- These projects benefit citizens and businesses in the County and are focused on improving the integrity, safety, reliability and sustainability of the transportation infrastructure in communities in order to enhance citizens' regular commutes to work, play and live. These projects will mostly encompass road improvement, resurfacing and paving, intersection improvements, pedestrian-friendly improvements, including sidewalks, and multimodal transportations infrastructure. Additionally, the Community Investment projects will include transportation projects to address emerging home developments and population growth in the County.


- 
- These projects address improvements along major roadways within the County and expansion of transportation infrastructure to achieve, support and sustain County economic growth in an equitable manner in accordance with the strategic goals of the County.



County Advancement Projects



COMET Enhancement Projects

- 
- Funds generated by the penny and allocated to the CMRTA will assist in funding the continued operation of the COMET mass transit system.

The Task: Convert Needs to Projects, and Projects to Categories

Needs Inventory

1. Roadways
2. Intersections
3. Resurfacing
4. Sidewalks
5. Safety
6. Traffic alleviation
7. Future Growth

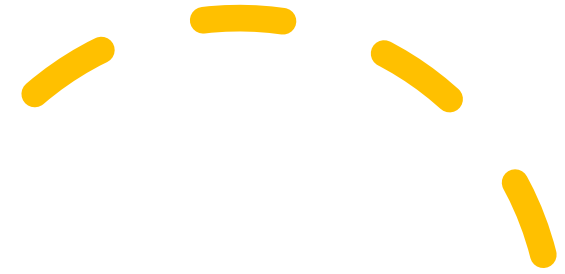
Needs inventory must be reduced to a list of Projects filtered in accordance with Principles

1. How will the proceeds be spent?
2. Where will the proceeds be spent?
3. What factors, i.e. community needs, safety, will be prioritized?
4. How much funds should be reserved for future projects?

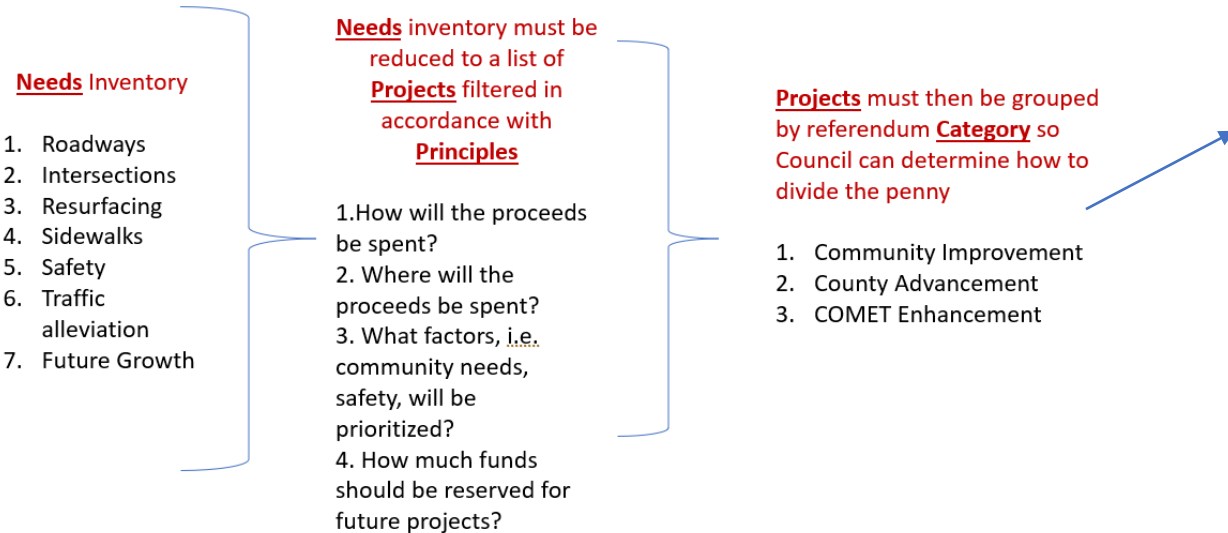
Projects must then be grouped by referendum Category so Council can determine how to divide the penny

1. Community Improvement
2. County Advancement
3. COMET Enhancement

Input and Advice



Needs to Projects to Categories



Transportation Advisory Committee (TPAC)

- Council to charge TPAC to provide advice on Projects and Principles
- Council to adopt Resolution March 19
- TPAC to report to Transportation Ad Hoc

Transportation Ad Hoc Committee (TAHC)

- TAHC to receive information from TPAC
- Finalize recommendation on Projects and Principles
- Finalize recommendation on referendum categories
- Finalize recommendation on how to divide the penny among referendum project categories

TPAC Resolution (March 19 Council Item)

SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
RICHLAND COUNTY)

A RESOLUTION

**EXPANDING THE FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PENNY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council as follows:

Section 1. The County hereby requests the TPAC to review and provide input on the Transportation Needs, the projects necessary to meet the Transportation Needs (“Projects”), the principles to be applied to determine and execute the Projects (“Principles”) and the categorization of the Projects for purposes of the referendum ballot for the Proposed Sales and Use Tax (“Ballot Categories”). The County shall provide to the TPAC the reports, assessments, documents and such other information relating to the Transportation Needs, Projects and Principles in order to enable its review and input.

Section 2. The County requests that the TPAC shall meet more frequently, as may be necessary, to fully review and provide input on the Transportation Needs, Projects and Principles as well as the percentage of the Proposed Sales and Use Tax to be assigned to each of the Ballot Categories. The County further requests that the TPAC shall conclude its work by June 17, 2024, and provide its report, in such form as TPAC may determine, to the Transportation Penny *AdHoc* Committee (“Committee”). The County further requests that the TPAC maintain communication with the Chairman of the Committee during its deliberations.

Section 3. The TPAC is hereby directed to solicit from the represented municipalities candidates to fill vacancies on the TPAC Board. If after solicitation, the municipality fails to appoint a qualify a candidate to represent the municipality on TPAC, the County shall be authorized to appoint a candidate to serve.

Section 4. This Resolution is effective after its approval by the County Council.

Roadmap Review



All specially called meetings are denoted with purple text.