



## Transportation Roadmap FAQ

**Has Richland County Council decided to continue the Transportation Penny Tax?** During the November 2024 general election, voters in Richland County approved the continuation of the County's 1 percent sales and use tax, first imposed in 2012. Voters also approved the issuance of \$950 in general obligation bonds.

**What is the projected revenue from a new Penny?** The projected revenue from the new Penny collected over 25 years or until the maximum revenue is received, whichever comes first, is estimated at \$4.5 billion.

**Is the new Penny an additional tax on top of what is already being collected?** No. The new Penny is not an additional tax, rather an extension of the current Penny. Collection of funds will not begin until the current special sales and use tax is terminated in late 2026.

**How will the \$4.5 billion be allocated?** The funding generated will benefit community investment (48%), County advancement (30%), and COMET enhancement projects (22%). Additionally, \$20 million will be allocated to each Council district for advancement and/or investment projects.

**What was County Council's process for determining whether to place the 2024 referendum on the November ballot?** Richland County Council passed a third reading of the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on July 16, 2024.

Council passed a first reading of the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on April 9 and approved a second reading on May 14.

These actions by Council authorized a referendum that, if passed in November, would sanction a new 1 percent Transportation Penny Tax when maximum revenue is received under the current Penny tax.

**What is considered a community investment project?** A community investment project targets the integrity, safety, reliability and sustainability of transportation infrastructure in local communities that impact the day-to-day activities of residents and local businesses. These projects include viable and unfunded 2012 Penny projects as well as road improvements, widening, resurfacing, paving of dirt

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roads, intersection improvements, bikeways, greenbelts, greenways, sidewalks and other pedestrian-friendly enhancements.

**What is considered a County advancement project?** These projects target the expansion of transportation infrastructure to achieve, sustain and support economic growth on a county-wide basis. They include new construction, improvements and widening for major roadways, intersections and commuting corridors.

**Have future projects been determined?** Yes. Earlier in 2024, Richland County Council participated in three Transportation Work Sessions to help determine the list of future projects. The work sessions were held following the conclusion of a two-month long transportation needs assessment in February 2024. The full needs assessment list can be viewed [here](#).

**How was Richland County's Transportation Needs Assessment accomplished?** Stantec Consulting hosted meetings in January and February 2024 to hear from residents in each of the County's 11 districts. Additionally, Stantec received a list of projects as determined by the Central Midlands Council of Governments, local municipalities, and input received via email and social media to compile the report.

**How will the list of 2024 projects be prioritized?** 2024 projects will be fairly and accurately prioritized projects based on six project principles. Unfunded projects from 2012 will be completed first.

**What are the project principles?**

1. Additional funding sources (up to 10 points)
  - Matching state or federal funds
2. Overall impact and cost ratio (up to 20 points)
  - The number of County residents affected by the project
3. Safety (up to 25 points)
  - The impact a project would have on improving public safety
4. Improvement of overall condition (up to 10 points)
  - The effect a project would have on the improvement of blighted conditions
5. Economic development (up to 20 points)
  - The impact a project would have on economic development in the County
6. Public support (up to 15 points)
  - The input of the public and other stakeholders

**How can I find out more information about the Transportation Penny and 2024 referendum?**

Additional information can be found at [www.richlandpenny.com](http://www.richlandpenny.com).