

-----PRESS RELEASE-----

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Regional Transportation Roundtable Confirms Executive Committee Members and Opens Call for Projects for TSPLOST II Referendum

The Southern Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable has elected five of its representatives to serve as Executive Committee members for the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax II (TSPLOST II). The Executive Committee is made up of eight representatives, five from the Regional Transportation Roundtable, two nonvoting members from the House of Representatives, and one nonvoting member from the Senate. The representatives that make up the Executive Committee are: Robert Griner, Berrien County; Bill Slaughter, Lowndes County; Buddy Duke, City of Adel; Lee Gowan, City of Folkston; K. Neal Bennett, Pierce County; Representative Penny Houston, District 170; Representative John Corbett, District 174; and Senator Blake Tillery, District 19. This committee will be responsible for reviewing transportation projects that are submitted from throughout the 18-county Southern Georgia Region. The Executive Committee will also choose from among these projects to create the draft transportation investment list of projects. The call for projects started May 9, 2023 and will close on June 30, 2023.

The TSPLOST or Transportation Investment Act (TIA) process is a mechanism for Georgia voters to enact a regional sales tax for transportation purposes. The law allows a region to implement up to one percent sales tax to fund transportation projects, such as pavement, road, bridge, safety, transit, bicycle and pedestrian.

The current TSPLOST revenue collection began in the Southern Georgia region in October 2018 after a majority of voters in the 18-county region passed the referendum to initiate the collection of a one-cent transportation sales tax. Thus far, the 2018 Southern Georgia TIA has collected \$287 million with \$215 million going towards approved projects and \$72 million going to local governments for use at their discretion per the investment criteria. The status of approved TSPLOST projects for the Southern Georgia Region can be viewed at <http://www.ga-tia.com/Project/List/soga>.

For more information about the Regional Transportation Roundtable and/or the Regional TSPLOST Process, please contact Amy Martin, Senior Transportation Planner, at (229) 333-5277 or information can be accessed at <http://www.ga-tia.com/Home/>.

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties (Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware) in the areas of: Area Agency on Aging, Community and Economic Development, Land Use and Transportation Planning, Geographic Information Systems, Information Technology, Workforce Development and Small Business Loans.

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