



Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS APPROVE 2017 SPLOST PROJECTS

(Lawrenceville, Ga., July 27, 2017) – The Board of Commissioners on July 25 approved multiple roads, parks and other projects totaling \$673.4 million in anticipated 2017 SPLOST revenue through 2023.

The list of projects, compiled by various citizen groups and staff, covers improvements to transportation, recreation, the civic center, public safety, libraries and senior service facilities.

Projects include a police precinct/E911 center at Bay Creek Park; new, upgraded libraries in Snellville and Lawrenceville that will replace existing branches; additional greenways; new firefighting apparatus; expansion of the conference center at Infinite Energy Center; a satellite senior center in Dacula; and a host of transportation improvement initiatives.

“This is a well-thought-out list of projects that addresses some of our more pressing needs in a way that is fair to everyone in the County,” said Gwinnett County Chairman Charlotte Nash. “I commend the members of the selection committees and their dedication toward making Gwinnett County a great place to live and do business. These projects improve everyone’s quality of life, and without the SPLOST, they would be difficult to impossible to accomplish without borrowing money.”

SPLOST pays for a significant portion of Gwinnett County’s capital projects not funded by revenues generated from charges for services, which allows the County to keep up with infrastructure demands on a pay-as-you-go basis, and is considered by rating agencies when awarding the County’s rare Triple-AAA bond rating, Nash said.

Gwinnett County voters in November 2016 approved the latest one-percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax through March 31, 2023. Nash expressed her gratitude, saying, “I am thankful to all of the voters who, recognizing SPLOST’s positive impact on our community, supported the referendum to fund much-needed projects.”

The tax is expected to generate \$950 million overall. Of that, the County portion is 78.8 percent, or about \$748.2 million. For budgeting purposes, the County allocates the estimated collection at 90 percent of the total, or about \$673.4 million.

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Transportation projects were divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists. Tier 1 project list assumes the County's portion will be \$673.4 million over six years. Tier 2 projects are secondary projects that would be funded if the County collects more than expected.

About 65 percent, or \$437.7 million, of the County's share is dedicated to transportation. The transportation project list includes joint county/city projects, pedestrian safety, major roads, intersections, road safety and alignments, bridges and culverts, school safety, rehabilitation and resurfacing, unpaved roads, residential speed control, and transportation planning.

The list of projects was based largely on input from citizens. The transportation list was developed by an 11-member Citizens Project Selection Committee over 10 meetings. The Recreation Authority helped prioritize parks projects through updates of the parks and recreation capital improvement plan.

A citizens oversight committee will monitor the 2017 SPLOST program progress, and the SPLOST program will be audited annually.

Commissioners also approved during the same meeting about \$25.8 million for 2014 SPLOST projects above the 90 percent originally budgeted. The additional funds will be spent on transportation projects on Tier 2 projects from 2014.

For more information about projects in your area, visit www.gwinnettSPLOST.com.

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