

SAY YES! TO THE PENNY



On November 6, 2018 Beaufort County residents will be asked to vote on **Local Question 1:**

“I approve a special transportation sales and use tax in the amount of one percent to be imposed in Beaufort County for no more than 4 years, or until a total of \$120 million dollars in resulting revenue has been collected, whichever comes first.”

These improvements will make Beaufort County a safer place to live and work. This is a critical vote. We must address the traffic congestion and safety issues surrounding our roads and bridges. It becomes more important with each passing day.

The stakes are high. Please vote “Yes to the Penny” on November 6th. This affects our economic stability and growth. It’s about safe roads, bridges, and pathways for generations to come.

IF PASSED THE FUNDS RAISED WILL BE USED FOR MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS:

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND

SIDEWALK & PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ON LADY’S ISLAND

\$80 million dollars will be spent on Hilton Head Island to make traffic improvements to the U.S. 278 corridor. Those improvements include:

- Repairing and/or replacing existing spans of the bridges to Hilton Head Island
- Improvements between Moss Creek Drive and Squire Pope Road

\$10 million dollars will be spent on the installation and repair of sidewalks and multi-use pathways in Beaufort County. Those improvements include:

- 24 locations within Beaufort County that will help to provide safe walking routes to schools and improved access to residential communities

\$30 million dollars will be spent on Lady’s Island to make corridor traffic improvements. Those improvements include:

- Roadway traffic improvements between the Woods Memorial Bridge and the Chowan Creek Bridge



\$80 million Traffic improvements on Hilton Head Island

\$10 million Sidewalk & pathway improvements, county-wide

\$30 million Traffic improvements on Lady’s Island

WHO PAYS FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

Because this is a SALES TAX, tourists and commuters from outside Beaufort County will be subject to the 1% increase whenever a taxable purchase is made in Beaufort County. It is estimated that as much as 50% or more of the overall \$120 million revenue will be made from these purchases.

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SAY YES! TO THE PENNY

PLEASE VOTE **YES** FOR THIS IMPORTANT BEAUFORT COUNTY REFERENDUM - LOCAL QUESTION 1

This is a critical vote. First, these improvements will make Beaufort County a safer place to live and work. The SC Department of Transportation has identified the Hilton Head bridges and the Lady's Island corridor as two of the most critical road projects in the state. Addressing the traffic congestion on these roads has become imperative. The Hilton Head bridge corridor consists of four spans and adjacent roadway connections. One span of the bridge has been deemed "structurally deficient" and has a useful life of only another 5-6 years. The state has set aside \$40 million to replace this span. If the referendum passes, the \$40 million will be added to the bridge project. If the referendum does not pass, the state will replace only this span, not addressing any safety issues, congestion problems, the other spans or the limited capacity of the current bridge.

The economic stakes of passing the referendum are also extremely high for all residents of Beaufort County. Hilton Head Island is recognized as the major economic engine for county revenues. Declines in tourism or property values on Hilton Head Island would mean that the resulting loss of revenue for Beaufort County would need to be made up by a reduction of public services or an increase in taxes for all county residents.

The sales tax is a limited and equitable way to raise this money for three reasons. First, the revenue can only be spent on the projects listed in the referendum. Second, the additional sales tax is strictly limited to \$120 million or 4 years, whichever comes first. Third, at least 50% of the burden of the tax will fall on tourists and commuters, assuring that Beaufort County residents will share this tax with others who also depend on our roads, bridges and sidewalks.

Beaufort County has a diversity of residents and distinct towns tied together by a common economy and love for the natural beauty of where we live. In the past, all have shared the economic burdens of helping each other build towards future needs. Most recently, proceeds from a sales tax initiative that lasted from 2006 to 2012 funded a number of projects throughout Beaufort County. Hopefully this same attitude of "we're all in this together" will prevail when it comes time to vote in November.

**JOIN US, AND HELP US SPREAD THE WORD.
THE ROAD TO BETTER ROADS AND BRIDGES NEEDS YOU!
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EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP #SAYYESTOTHEPENNY**

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