

CHARLESTON COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

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Transportation Advisory Board Reviews Results of Public Workshops ***Input to be incorporated in Charleston County Comprehensive Transportation Plan***

Charleston County's Transportation Advisory Board recently heard a summary of the public feedback received during recent workshops.

The series of workshops were held to solicit public input on the transportation portion of the Transportation ("Half-Cent") Sales Tax, and ultimately to develop Charleston County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The workshops were held in various locations between Sept. 27 and Oct. 13. In total, the open-house style meetings were attended by 488 citizens interested in how funds from the Transportation Sales Tax will be spent.

Citizens who came to the workshops had the opportunity to provide their input in various ways, including public comment forms, a large dry-erase board that recorded written comments into a computer file, taped oral comments, large scale regional maps, and Charleston County street maps.

The workshops were a success, with 587 comments received overall:

- 295 comment forms
- 285 comments written on the table maps, dry erase boards, and regional maps
- 7 taped oral comments

A summary of the public comments shows that the top three areas of interest are:

- Roadway paving and resurfacing
- Drainage repairs
- Pedestrian and bicycle access

Comments also included survey responses about the criteria for ranking transportation projects. Results from the survey, commissioned by the Transportation Advisory Board, indicate the public would like to see the following criteria used in ranking projects:

- Projects that address environmental impacts
- Projects that are multi modal (multipurpose)
- Projects that maintain and complete existing infrastructure.

"Public input is critical to provide first-hand insight on area transportation concerns," said Dan Moses, the Pre-Construction Manager with the Charleston County RoadWise office.

Pie charts and percentages of public comments by category are included in the Public Information Meeting Summary Report available at the following direct link on the Charleston County's Transportation Sales Tax Website:

<http://www.smallchangeforbigchange.org/workshops/TABCommentSummary.pdf>

The final version of Charleston County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan will incorporate input gathered from public meetings, interviews with area political leaders, and other studies previously developed for the region.

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan will include a forecast of Charleston County road projects over the next 25 years, a review of funding sources and leverage options, and a review of the area's mass transit systems plans.

A second round of public meetings across Charleston County will offer the opportunity for the public to review a draft of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and add their comments.

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be submitted to the Transportation Advisory Board for their review before the plan is submitted to the Charleston County Council for final approval.

Call Philip LaRoche (843) 958-4069 for more information about the Transportation Advisory Board or upcoming meetings. Visit the official Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Web site at www.smallchangeformbigchange.org for up-to-date news and information, meeting notices and public feedback summaries, and to view minutes from both the transportation and greenbelt advisory board meetings.