

TSPLOST Projects Lists for NEGA Area Counties 3-2011

Oconee County TSPLOST List Approved at 3.29.11 BOC MEETING

... The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner John Daniell
Commissioner Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Unconstrained Transportation Projects for Consideration by the Regional Transportation Roundtable to be Included in the HB-277 Regional Transportation Tax Projects: Public Works Director Emil Beshara and Strategic and Long-Range Planning Director Wayne Provost presented the recommended TSPLOST Unconstrained Safety Improvements and Capital Project Lists for Oconee County for approval by the Board.

Ralph Johnson, Lee Becker and Bob Isaac requested the Daniells Bridge Road Extension (Flyover) be eliminated from the list. Flynn Warren expressed the Chamber of Commerce's support of the project lists.

Following discussion and amendment to the recommendation, Commissioner Horton made the motion to approve the TSPLOST Unconstrained Capital Project List to include **widening and construction of turn lanes on Mars Hill Road/Experiment Station Road, Phases I, II and III; construction of a grade separated interchange at the Oconee Connector/GA 316 intersection; widening of Jimmy Daniell Road; an entrance to Gainesville State College from the Hwy. 441 Bypass; and, the upgrade of the GA 316 interchanges at Jimmy Daniell Road and McNutt Creek Road.** Commissioner Hale seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

OCONEE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS PROPOSAL

<http://oconeecountyobservations.blogspot.com/2011/03/oconee-county-commissioners-say-no-to.html>

These are the projects that the county is hoping will be funded if voters in August of 2012 approve an additional 1 percent sales tax for transportation projects.

Provost said the county is proposing that the widening of **Mars Hill Road from SR 316 to Watkinsville be the top priority**, followed by a grade separated interchange for SR 316 and the Oconee Connector, a widening of Jimmy Daniel Road, a flyover of SR Loop 10 for Daniells Bridge Road, **and a widening of US 441 to four-lane through the county, including a bypass of Bishop.**

Oconee Commissioners Add and Subtract Projects from T-SPLOST List

<http://oconeecountyobservations.blogspot.com/2011/03/oconee-commissioners-add-and-subtract.html>

Oconee Observations – Lee Becker - 3.29.11

The Oconee County Board of Commissioners tonight made significant changes to the list of projects the county will send forward for potential inclusion in the 2012 Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum.

The Board **eliminated the Daniells Bridge Road Extension and flyover of SR Loop 10 entirely** after protest from citizens in the area, **scratched the widening of US 441 in the south of the county**, and added three new projects to the list of capital projects.

Added to the capital **project list were an entrance to Gainesville State College from the U.S. 441 Bypass** of Watkinsville on an extension of Bishop Farms Parkway, which now is the only access to the college.

Also added were the upgrade of two interchanges on SR 316, one at Jimmy Daniell Road and the other at McNutt Creek Road. The upgraded SR 316 interchanges would be grade separated, meaning they would include a bridge.

Already on the list was a grade separated upgrade of the SR 316 interchange at the Oconee Connector.

The top three projects on the list remain the three phases of the widening of Mars Hill Road from SR 316 to Watkinsville.

The Oconee Connector interchange is ranked fourth, followed by the widening of Jimmy Daniell Road, the entrance to Gainesville State College and the Jimmy Daniell and McNutt Creek Road interchanges.....

Athens-Clarke will list road projects –ABH -3.10.11

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/031011/new_797204213.shtml

Athens-Clarke officials will submit a wish list of more than \$ 120 million worth of transportation projects they want a proposed regional sales tax to pay for.

...We're just concerned right now with projects within the borders of Athens-Clarke County," Clark said.

.....The \$ 119 million list Clark recommended was drawn from existing transportation plans that have no source of funding. It includes:

- \$ 13.5 million to widen Olympic Drive, Indian Hills Drive and Winterville Road to four lanes.
- \$ 2.5 million to widen Mitchell Bridge Road to three lanes.
- \$ 8.5 million to widen Tallassee Road to four lanes and build a new bridge over a railroad.
- \$ 1.5 million to widen Fowler Drive to two standard lanes.
- \$ 4 million to widen Whitehall Road to two standard lanes.

-\$ 8 million to widen Macon Highway to three lanes and build a new bridge over the Middle Oconee River.

-\$ 2.5 million to widen New Jimmie Daniel Road to four lanes.

-\$ 10 million to extend Jennings Mill Parkway to Jennings Mill Road.

-\$ 18 million to build a new Athens Perimeter interchange between Oglethorpe Avenue and

Atlanta Highway.

- \$ 8 million for a new two-lane road connecting U.S. Highway 29 and Danielsville Road.

-\$ 1.8 million to build a road connecting Athens West Parkway and The Preserve Road.

-\$ 700,000 to add a turn lane for northbound drivers on Epps Bridge Parkway to turn west onto

Atlanta Highway.

- \$ 500,000 to realign the intersections of Tallassee and Lavender roads.

-\$ 2 million for turn lanes and a traffic light or roundabout at Whitehead and Tallassee roads.

-\$ 10 million for new, more advanced traffic signals to improve flow.

-\$ 13 million to add bicycle lanes to Prince Avenue, Milledge Avenue and Lexington Road.

-\$ 1.8 million to convert an abandoned rail line into a trail connecting the Multimodal

Transportation Center and Barnett Shoals Road.

-\$ 2 million to expand a planned park-and-ride lot at Oconee Street and the Athens Perimeter.

-\$ 5 million for service every half-hour on all Athens Transit routes, expanded night and Saturday service and service on Sundays.

-\$ 2.5 million for bus service to Winterville and Athena Industrial Park.

Most road-widening projects would include sidewalks and bike lanes.

Athens-Clarke commissioners said at a work session Tuesday that they also want to include widening Hawthorne Avenue to five lanes. Half of the road, one of the most congested in Athens, is four narrow lanes and the other half is three.

Local officials in the 12-county Northeast Georgia region, stretching from Elberton to Conyers, have until March 30 to submit their wish lists to the state Department of Transportation

State set to buy land to upgrade loop interchange – ABH – 3.25.11

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/032511/new_805035615.shtml

The state Department of Transportation is buying land this year to improve the Athens Perimeter interchange at Atlanta Highway.

Construction is not scheduled until 2018, but the DOT is going ahead and buying the right-of-way because savings on other projects meant it had extra money to spend.

"Everything is a little cheaper than we expected because of the economy," Athens-Clarke Transportation and Public Works Director David Clark said.

The federal government is paying for 80 percent of the \$ 13.3 million land purchase and the state is paying 20 percent.

[Group wants Brain Train kept in mind –ABH – 3.28.11](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/032811/new_806583172.shtml)

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/032811/new_806583172.shtml

Athens residents are pushing to use a proposed new sales tax to get a passenger train to Atlanta back on the rails.

Barrow County TSPLOST Project List –Barrow County News - 3.30.11

The list includes 13 projects totaling nearly \$ 104 million and was submitted to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, a group of 12 counties that are set to pool resources and introduce a new sales tax to tackle regional transportation issues.

The top project on Barrow County's list is funding for the West Winder Bypass, totaling \$ 87.2 million. The proposal foresees completion of the first two phases by 2019. The final phase would be finished between 2020 and 2025, according to the submission.

The list also includes reconnecting **Ed Hogan Road to Bankhead Highway by crossing the CSX railroad tracks that run along Atlanta Highway, at an estimated cost of about \$ 1.9 million.** Winder and county officials want to redirect heavy truck traffic heading to Interstate 81 along Ed Hogan Road to relieve congestion and road wear in downtown Winder.

Barrow County also has **about \$ 3.5 million in sales tax revenue collected since 2006 set aside specifically for the bypass.**

The list calls **for replacing the bridge that carries Patrick Mill Road over the Apalachee River at a cost of \$ 2.7 million.**

Additionally, it requests funding for projects to improve intersections at **Pearl Pentecost and Carl Cedar Hill roads (\$ 1.45 million), Route 211 and Cedar Creek Road (\$ 900,000), Old Hog Mountain Road at both Route 211 and Route 124 (\$ 1.6 million)** and a number of repaving and grading jobs.

If approved, 75 percent of the revenue from the tax will be set aside to fund regional projects.

The remainder will be divided between the counties, using a formula that takes into consideration both population and total road miles, to use on other transportation projects.

Greene County TSPLOST Project List –The HERALD JOURNAL - 3.31.11

If the regional transportation penny tax vote referendum passes in August 2012, Greene County's Board of Commissioners has done its part to make sure its regional projects are considered for funding, submitting its list of projects to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission just this week.

While all cities and counties in the **12-county transportation region will get a piece of the projected \$ 1,163,259,000 in projected revenues**, about 75 percent of the sales tax revenues will be spent on regional transportation projects decided on by an executive committee of the Northeast Georgia region.

Greene County stands to benefit even if none of its projects are picked, **because most of the revenue will be generated in larger counties like Oconee and Athens-Clarke.** In short, Greene County will likely get back more than it puts in.

Even still, **the county has submitted \$ 68.5 million in projects that** have a regional impact and could be selected for funding. The projects submitted include:

-**Widening 7.94 miles of Hwy 44 from Linger Longer Road to the future Greensboro Bypass entrance at a cost of \$ 39,251,748**

-**Improve the Hwy 44 Carey Station Road intersection at a cost of \$ 448,000**

-**Widening one mile of Hwy 44 from the Oconee River bridge (Putnam County) to Linger Longer Road at a cost of \$ 4,380,750**

-**Construction of a bypass east of Greensboro at a cost of the East West Connector from Walker Church Road to Veazey Road at a cost of \$ 3,700,400**

-**Replacement and elevating of the Old Eatonton Road railroad bridge and relocation of Hwy 44 intersection with Old Eatonton Road at a cost of \$ 1,045,000**

-**Raise the bridge deck of the Cold Springs Road bridge at a cost of \$ 435,000**

Morgan County T-SPLOST Projects **Lake Oconee News -3.25.11**

....A total of 25 percent of the sales tax levy proceeds will be set aside to enable county and municipal governments to maintain and improve local roadways and transportation systems.

County and municipal governments in the region have a deadline of March 30 for submitting transportation funding requests to the NEGRC.

Morgan's wish list doesn't yet include input from the cities of Madison or Bostwick, but does incorporate several projects that previously have received little publicity, including southeast and southwest East/West Connectors linking U.S. 278 to Georgia Highway 83 in two separate locations.

The southeast **East/West Connector would link U.S. 278 to GA 83 via Buckhead Road to Seven Islands Road to Little River Road, covering 19 miles with 11.8 miles of road widening, at an estimated cost of roughly \$ 1.8 million**, Lamar said.

The southwest **East/West Connector would link U.S. 278 to Ga. 83 via Broughton Road to Clack and Weaver Jones roads to Reese, Dickson and Centennial roads, totaling 8.9 miles of road widening and 2.6 miles of new pavement. The estimated cost is \$ 4.7 million**, Lamar said.

The county is also requesting regional help for rights-of-way acquisition and related work on a stalled stretch of U.S. 441 widening through Morgan from the Putnam to Oconee county lines. Although plans are to widen the federal highway to four lanes with a divided median throughout its path across Georgia and other states, the project has stalled in Morgan, BOC chairman Mack Bohlen said. "I think that any money we could earmark to this very important effort would help get it back in play," he said.

The county is also requesting assistance to extend the roadway at the four-county industrial site (Stanton Springs) another 6,000 feet at a cost of roughly \$ 4.6 million.

Morgan has suggested transit regionalization - promoting connectivity in the rural transit programs operated by Morgan and several other counties in the NEGRC region.

[Gwinnett seeks \\$ 3.6B in road funds –TSPLOST – Gwinnett Daily Post -3.31.11](http://www.gwinnettdaily.com/home/headlines/Gwinnett_seeks_36B_in_road_funds_118961984.html)
http://www.gwinnettdaily.com/home/headlines/Gwinnett_seeks_36B_in_road_funds_118961984.html

LAWRENCEVILLE — Gwinnett officials' biggest ideas for transportation culminated in a \$ 3.6 billion wish list sent to state officials Wednesday for consideration of funding from a proposed 10-year transportation sales tax.

Among the 74 projects are **\$ 138.4 million to replace the Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road bridges over Interstate 85**, \$ 19 million to build a continuous flow intersection where U.S. Highway 78 and Ga. Highway 124 meet in Snellville and **\$ 463 million for an extension of Sugarloaf Parkway from Ga. Highway 316 to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.**

A little more than \$ 1 billion encompasses projects to extend a light rail passenger line from the Doraville MARTA station to the Arena at Gwinnett Center, and another \$ 140 million would build a heavy rail extension from the Doraville station to Oakcliff in DeKalb County.

"Our list is unconstrained," Transportation Director Brian Allen said. "Obviously there are going to be a lot more projects listed than can be funded."

The transportation tax, which will be on ballots in November 2012, is **expected to bring in between \$ 6 and \$ 8 billion for the metro Atlanta region.** As part of a process to build a project list, project possibilities were due from all metro counties and agencies Wednesday. Members of a transportation roundtable will cull the list this summer.

"We'd love to get that much," Allen said of the county's \$ 3.4 billion list, "But chances are we aren't going to get half the region's money. ... Obviously we think there are a lot of very good projects on here that we would support funding."

..... Also on the list is **\$ 40 million for construction of the long-awaited widening of Ga. Highway 20** in Sugar Hill and a **\$ 257.5 million extension to Ronald Reagan Parkway**, which officials have studied for toll funding.

While **money has already been earmarked for improvements on Ga. 316 at Collins Hill Road and Ga. 20, the aspirations list includes \$ 121 million in projects to improve other intersections at Cedars Road, U.S. Highway 29 and Harbins Road.**

The proposed Brain Train — a commuter rail line along Ga. 316 from Atlanta to Athens — is not a part of Gwinnett's list, although counties in the Athens region are seeking funding.....

Walton County's TSPLOST Project List 3.27.11- Walton Tribune

http://waltontribune.com/news/article_5ac05ce2-5708-11e0-9cd5-001cc4c03286.html

The following is the preliminary list of projects Walton County is submitting for consideration for regional Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funding. These proposals will be considered along with those of the other 11 counties in the region and approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

-begins at Highway **83 and ends at Highway 11.** Total length of •Monroe Bypass – road improvement is 4.7 miles. Cost: \$ 18,123,802

-begins at Miller Bottom •Highway **138 widening/intersection improvements – Road and goes ends at Highway 78.** Total length of road improvement is 9.7 miles. Cost: \$ 74,055,000

-**Highway 20 widening/intersection improvements** – begins at North Sharon Church Road and ends at Highway 81 and includes one-way road pairings in downtown Loganville. Total length of road improvement is .08 miles. Cost: \$ 24,470,402

-replaces the bridge which goes •Highway 11 bridge at Walton/Barrow border – over the Apa lachee River. Total length of road improvement is 1,200 feet. Cost: \$ 2,101,000

-Intersection of 138 and 10 – **adds additional left turn lane from Highway 10/Spring Street onto Highway 138** heading toward Rockdale County and makes Highway 138 two lanes through intersection heading toward Rockdale. Total length of road improvement is 1.2 miles. Cost: \$ 2,512,283

-widens the highway from the Barrow County line to the Newton •**Highway 81 – County line.** Total length of road improvement is 20.8 miles. Cost: \$ 5,148,634

Jackson County TSPLOST Discussion 3.29.11

Commerce News - March 23, 2011 Mark Beardsley

<http://www.commercenewstoday.com/archives/4671-State-to-punish-areas-that-dont-pass-sales-tax.html>

[State to punish areas that don't pass sales tax](#)

.....voters in Jackson and 11 other counties will go to the polls the summer of 2012 to consider the T-SPLOST (transportation special purpose local option sales tax).

Unlike SPLOST and E-LOST, which have been around for years, T-SPLOST would be a new tax — pushing the local sales tax rate to eight percent.

The optional tax marks a change in how Georgia envisions funding roads and other transportation related projects.

“You’re going to hear more and more about that,” advised Shane Short, president of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce, speaking last Friday morning to his board of directors. “That is how the state of Georgia has chosen to address its transportation funding needs in the future. If it fails, they say there is no Plan B.”

Legislation approved by the 2009 General Assembly created 12 regional “roundtables” through which transportation projects would be selected and in which separate referenda would be held. Hunter Bicknell, chairman of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, chairs the Northeast Georgia Transportation Roundtable. Other counties include Barrow, Madison, Athens-Clarke, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Jasper, Newton, Walton, Greene, Elbert and Morgan — the roundtables are aligned with the state’s 12 regional commissions.

That group is charged with developing a list of projects to be funded by the tax — which would last 10 years before coming up for another vote.

Bicknell notes that the state has backed local governments into a funding corner.

“This is the way that transportation is going to be funded,” he said. “This is Plan A. There is no Plan B.”

Currently, said Bicknell, 32 percent of the Department of Transportation’s revenue — derived mostly from a motor fuels tax that has not been raised in decades — goes to pay debt.

“That doesn’t leave a whole lot of money for new projects,” he added.

And areas that fail to go along with the new plan will pay a price for it