

T-SPLOST FACT SHEET

- **What is a T-SPLOST?**

A Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a sales tax used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by county and municipal governments.

A Transportation SPLOST (T-SPLOST) is a sales tax where the capital outlays are intended for transportation purposes only (roads, streets, bridges).

- **When would the T-SPLOST vote take place?**

The Board of Commissioners will call for a T-SPLOST referendum on November 7, 2017. If approved by the voters, it is anticipated that T-SPLOST collections will begin on April 1, 2018 and terminate on March 31, 2023. T-SPLOST is limited to a five year period. At the end of five years, voters must approve an additional referendum for the tax to continue.

- **What is the current break down of sales tax collected in Colquitt County?**

Currently, the sales tax in Colquitt County is 7 percent. For example, if you went into a retail establishment here in the county and purchased an item, that business will collect a 7 percent sales tax on the cost of the item. Of that 7 percent sales tax, most of that tax (4 percent) leaves the county and goes to the State of Georgia. The remaining 3 percent are referred to as “local pennies” – meaning that the revenue from this 3 percent portion of the sales tax remains here in Colquitt County. This 3 percent is broken out into the following three ways: SPLOST (or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), LOST (or Local Option Sales Tax), and E-SPLOST (or Education-Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

SPLOST: Colquitt County / Municipalities / Economic Development Authority / Hospital Authority / Parks and Recreation Authority – 1%

LOST: Colquitt County Board of Education School Funding / Operations – 1%

E-SPLOST: Colquitt County Board of Education School Funding – 1%

Here in Colquitt County, the Board of Education receives all sales tax revenue generated from the LOST and the E-SPLOST. The County and the municipalities receive the sales tax revenue generated by the SPLOST. In simple terms, the county and the municipalities receive a combined 1

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percent of the total 7 percent sales tax, the Board of Education receives a combined 2 percent of the total 7 percent sales tax, and the state of Georgia receives the remaining 4 percent of the total 7 percent sales tax.

Note: Only Bulloch, Chattooga, Colquitt, Habersham, Houston, Mitchell, Rabun and Towns (8 out of 159) counties have a LOST tax designated for educational purposes. The distributions go directly to the Boards of Education in each county and are not subject to renegotiation.

- **Why is Colquitt County considering a T-SPLOST?**

The county aims to achieve two primary goals with T-SPLOST:

- 1) Resurface approximately 197 (19% of county road miles) miles of county roads from 2018 – 2024
- 2) Prevent the county millage rate from rising

Goal # 1: Resurfacing needs: Colquitt County has one of the largest road and transportation networks in the state of Georgia with over 1,020 miles. Our county is ranked 17th of 159 counties in road mile distance, which puts us in the top 11% of Georgia counties with the most road mileage. In addition to these roads, the county also maintains 660 miles of ditches on county dirt roads, 28 wooden bridges, 64 concrete bridges, 116 concrete culverts, and mows and sprays 3,700 acres of right-of-way two to three times per year.

Colquitt County currently has \$14.86 Million of unfunded resurfacing projects in the county through 2024. Many of these roads are in poor condition. In simple terms, the county's near term resurfacing requirements exceed the county's ability to pay for them with currently available funds. It is important to note that all of the projected funding in T-SPLOST is dedicated to road resurfacing projects only. There are no funds in T-SPLOST dedicated to the construction of new roads or paving any roads that are currently dirt. The county typically only paves dirt roads if it receives state funding to do so (Example: Jonah Tillman Road / Foxthick Road).

The county's approach to solving the current funding shortage for road and bridge improvements is to ask the voters of Colquitt County to consider a 1-cent tax for transportation-related purposes, or T-SPLOST. The county believes that T-SPLOST is an equitable consumption tax shared by those who make purchases in Colquitt County, to include numerous visitors or those who are traveling through Colquitt County on their way to another destination. It will provide a method of funding for transportation costs which will be contributed to by anyone who purchases goods within the county, not just property and land owners. If the voters do not approve T-SPLOST, the resurfacing needs for the

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county will still exist, although the options for funding these resurfacing needs will then be limited to funds derived primarily from property taxes.

Goal # 2: Keep the Millage Rate from Rising: Aside from the law enforcement budget, the county's Road & Bridge department is the largest budget item in the county budget. As Colquitt County grows, there will be additional demands and strain on our infrastructure. It is costly to maintain this infrastructure.

What separates T-SPLOST from the other local sales taxes (E-SPLOST and SPLOST) is that T-SPLOST dollars can be used to offset operational expenses. E-SPLOST and SPLOST pennies can only be spent on capital purchases; they cannot be used to offset operational costs.

As a result of this difference, the county plans to allocate \$1 Million of T-SPLOST sales tax dollars per year over the five year life of the T-SPLOST towards the operational cost of the county Road & Bridge department. As of today, the operational cost of the Road & Bridge department is funded primarily by property taxes. This will relieve the burden of the current allocation of funding from Colquitt County property owners and transfer a portion of it to sales tax collections from T-SPLOST. In essence, the burden of this \$1 Million in annual funding will transfer from a limited group of land and property owners within Colquitt County to a broader spectrum of sales tax payers who do not necessarily live in Colquitt County.

- **How much money will be raised by T-SPLOST and how is it to be distributed?**

It is projected that Colquitt County will generate approximately \$25.5 million throughout the five year life of the T-SPLOST. The allocations will be distributed according to census figures compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau in Colquitt County from the 2010 census.

County:	\$14,957,546	(62.4% of the population)
Moultrie:	\$7,399,033	(30.89% of the population)
Norman Park:	\$511,658	(2.13% of the population)
Doerun:	\$407,431	(1.7% of the population)
Berlin:	\$290,045	(1.21% of the population)
Funston:	\$236,352	(0.98% of the population)
Ellenton:	\$147,917	(0.61% of the population)
Airport Authority:	\$750,000	
Parks and Rec Authority:	\$550,000	
Hospital Authority:	\$250,000	

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The county, each city within the county and each of the Authorities, will determine a separate list of projects to be funded by the T-SPLOST. A list of proposed county projects can be viewed on the county website homepage.

- **The T-SPLOST Referendum in 2012 was for a Regional T-SPLOST. Is the T-SPLOST Referendum in 2017 different?**

Yes, the 2017 T-SPLOST Referendum will only include projects located within Colquitt County.

The T-SPLOST Referendum held five years ago on July 31, 2012 was regional. In other words, the taxes collected as a result of the regional T-SPLOST would have been spent on projects in counties and municipalities located throughout the entire Southwest Georgia District. They would not have been restricted to Colquitt County.

Note: During the referendum on the 2012 Regional T-SPLOST, a total of 5,747 Colquitt County voters participated. 2,806 voters (49%) voted “YES” to approve the referendum. 2,941 voters (51%) voted “NO” on the referendum. The 2012 Regional T-SPLOST referendum failed by 135 votes.

- **Will T-SPLOST impact property taxes?**

No. A T-SPLOST is a consumption tax, not a property tax. It is charged on goods purchased in Colquitt County, regardless of where the purchaser resides. As mentioned previously, one of the county’s two primary goals for the T-SPLOST is to maintain the current millage rate and prevent it from increasing.

The current millage rate for unincorporated Colquitt County is lower today than it was 10 years ago (14.045 in 2017 vs. 14.590 in 2007). The current millage rate for incorporated Colquitt County is lower today than it was 10 years ago (16.665 in 2017 vs. 16.830 in 2007). The current millage rate for the county Special Service District is lower today than it was 10 years ago (1.371 in 2017 vs. 3.100 in 2007). Assuming there were no changes in the assessed value, a landowner would be paying less taxes on a parcel of property today than they were 10 years ago.

From year to year, the Board of Assessors conducts property value appraisals throughout Colquitt County. Based on current property market indicators, there could be increases or decreases in the assessed value of private property. Landowners have the right to appeal higher (or lower) appraisal values placed upon their property through the Board of Equalization on an annual basis. Once the appraised value of a property

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is settled on, then a percentage of that value (in most cases, 40%) is multiplied by the millage rate for the area in which the property is located. This determines your annual property tax bill.

If the Board of Commissioners is able to keep the millage at a consistent rate over a long term basis, then the only variable becomes the appraised value of the landowner's property. As mentioned above, the property owner is afforded the opportunity on an annual basis to dispute higher or lower appraisal values placed on his or her property. This is of great benefit to the property owner if he or she can dispute the appraisal value of their property with the understanding that there will not be a fluctuating millage rate. It is the overall goal of the Colquitt County government to maintain a steady and consistent millage rate over a long term basis.

- **How will the T-SPLOST impact sales tax on new vehicle or automobile purchases?**

T-SPLOST will not have any impact on purchases of new vehicles or automobiles. The Georgia General Assembly adopted the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) in 2012 and it took effect on March 1, 2013. As a result of the new state law, purchasers of new vehicles now pay a one-time tax that is imposed on the fair market value of the vehicle at the time of sale. The rate of tax, currently at 7%, is set by the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue. The TAVT rate on new vehicles will be the same throughout the state of Georgia. In other words, if an individual purchases a new vehicle in Albany, Thomasville, or Valdosta, that individual will pay the same TAVT rate as they would if they purchased a vehicle in Moultrie, Macon, or Marietta. For more information on TAVT, please click [here](#).

- **Are there items that will be exempted from T-SPLOST?**

Yes, there are six items that are exempt from taxation on the law. (See O.C.G.A 48-8-269)

- (1) The sale or use of any type of fuel used for off-road heavy-duty equipment, off-road farm or agricultural equipment, or locomotives;
- (2) The sale or use of jet fuel to or by a qualifying airline at a qualifying airport;
- (3) The sale or use of fuel that is used for propulsion of motor vehicles on the public highways;
- (4) The sale or use of energy used in the manufacturing or processing of tangible goods primarily for resale;
- (5) The sale or use of motor fuel as defined under paragraph (9) of Code Section 48-9-2 for public mass transit; or
- (6) The purchase or lease of any motor vehicle pursuant to Code Section 48-5C-1.

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- Are other counties considering T-SPLOST?

Yes. There are currently 46 counties within the state of Georgia who currently have a T-SPLOST in place. All but one of these counties currently has an 8% sales tax rate (4% state / 4% local).

The 18 counties of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission directly to the east of Colquitt County will vote on a T-SPLOST on November 7, 2017. Counties in this region include Tift, Cook, Brooks and Lowndes. If voters approve the referendum, each of these counties will have an 8% sales tax rate (4% state / 4% local).



Details of T-SPLOST

- Five (5) year duration
- Can be spent on both capital and operations (different from SPLOST, which can only be spent on capital)
- Limited to transportation-related items only
- Will only be spent inside Colquitt County



Why T-SPLOST?

- Provides an additional revenue source outside of property tax
- Larger base of tax payers, not just Colquitt County property owners
- Mostly based on consumption: the more you buy, the more you pay
- Two Primary Objectives for the County:
 - 1) Resurface county roads
 - 2) Offset Transportation-related items funded by property taxes

The information contained in this Fact Sheet is published to inform county citizens about the proposed 2018 T-SPLOST and its impact on the county; it is not intended to state any opinion as to how voters should vote in the T-SPLOST referendum.

**Colquitt County, Georgia
Transportation SPLOST
2018 - 2023**

TYPE OF PROJECT	Dollars Allocated	%	County-Wide	Doerun	Berlin	Norman Park	Funston	Ellenton	Moultrie	Parks and Rec	Hospital	Airport
County Road and City Street Resurfacing & Improvements:	\$16,719,622	65.6%										
Drain Tile									\$150,000			
Street Striping					\$23,992				\$200,000			
Street resurfacing				\$389,431	\$93,341			\$147,917				
Curb and Gutter Installation							\$236,352					
Culvert / Bridge Repair & Replacement									\$3,112,033			
Installation of Roundabout / Traffic devices					\$23,992				\$2,050,000			
Curb and Pipe Installation plus additional repair									\$335,000			
Road Projects for the entirety of Colquitt County			\$9,957,564									
Transportation-related Operating Expenses:	\$5,000,000	19.6%										
Heavy Equipment Repairs / Right of Way Mowing and Spraying			\$3,536,586									
Purchase of Bridge Materials / Asphalt & Cold Mix / Pipe, Cement, Gravel			\$1,463,414									
Miscellaneous Transportation-related Improvements:	\$2,278,378	8.9%										
Bike Path at Peachtree Park				\$18,000								
Airport Runway Improvements									\$50,000			\$750,000
Hospital Parking Lot Resurfacing										\$550,000	\$250,000	
Root damage / Seal coating / Trail stabilization												
Replace or reset cross drains / Clear outfall & Right-of-Way ditches					\$23,992							
Contract work, equipment purchases and / or rental to complete projects					\$124,728							
Surface water drainage within city limits / Renovation of Utilities						\$511,658						
Purchase of Transportation-related Equipment:	\$1,277,000	5.0%										
Dozer									\$175,000			
Backhoe									\$100,000			
Arrowboard									\$6,000			
Motorgrader									\$155,000			
Street Sweeper									\$285,000			
Track excavator									\$230,000			
Wheeled excavator									\$270,000			
Mini Excavator w / trailer									\$56,000			
General Transportation-related Capital Purchases:	\$225,000	0.9%										
Dirt Storage Shelter									\$175,000			
School zone traffic control									\$50,000			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$25,500,000	100.0%	\$14,957,564	\$407,431	\$290,045	\$511,658	\$236,352	\$147,917	\$7,399,033	\$550,000	\$250,000	\$750,000

EXHIBIT A to T-SPLOST IGA
Transportation SPLOST (T-SPLOST) Allocation Schedule (2018 - 2023)

County / Municipality	Project Description	Projected	Pro Rata
Colquitt County			
	Improvements and Resurfacing:		
	Road Improvements and Resurfacing of Colquitt County Roads	9,957,564	
	Other Transportation Related Projects to Include:		
	Purchase of Bridge Materials	243,902	
	Purchase of Asphalt & Cold Mix	609,756	
	Purchase of Pipe / Cement / Gravel	609,756	
	Heavy Equipment Repairs	853,659	
	Right of Way Spraying	975,610	
	Right of Way Mowing	1,707,317	
		<u>5,000,000</u>	
	TOTAL COLQUITT COUNTY	\$ 14,957,564	58.66%
City of Moultrie			
	Improvements and Resurfacing:		
	Improvements to Streets, Streets Drainage, RR Crossings, Traffic Control & Streets Safety	6,380,033	
	Other Transportation Related Projects to Include:		
	Streets Maintenance Equipment & Storage	1,019,000	
	TOTAL CITY OF MOULTRIE	\$ 7,399,033	29.02%
City of Norman Park			
	Improvements for surface water drainage within city limits	-	
	Acquisition / Renovation / Improvements / Construction / Relocation of Utilities	-	
	TOTAL CITY OF NORMAN PARK	\$ 511,658	2.01%
City of Doerun			
	Road Improvements to Include:		
	N. Peachtree / From SR 133 to Union Drive	60,210	
	East Union Dr / From Peachtree to city limits	61,750	
	East Free Avenue / From Freeman to Jones	37,000	
	Pine Avenue / From Freeman to Pine Avenue	18,500	
	Pine Street / From College to Pine Avenue	16,625	
	North Freeman / From College to Pine Avenue	17,250	
	East Robinson / From N. Freeman to Eastside of N.Church	9,500	
	West Robinson / From North Green to North Ticknor	30,750	
	South Church / From West Bay to Culpepper	27,025	
	Bicycle path at Peachtree Street	18,000	
	Unallocated - Road Improvements to City Streets	110,821	
	TOTAL CITY OF DOERUN	\$ 407,431	1.60%
City of Funston			
	Road Improvements to Include:		
	Curb & Gutter Installation	236,352	
	TOTAL CITY OF FUNSTON	\$ 236,352	0.93%
City of Berlin			
	Road and Street Improvements to Include:		
	Ingram Street	22,898	
	Cranford Street	11,209	
	Tillman Street	22,419	
	MLK Drive	22,419	
	Intersections and Short Patches	14,395	
	Striping	23,992	
		<u>117,333</u>	
	Surface Water Draining to Include:		
	Replace or Reset Cross Drains		
	Pipe, cement, gravel, fill dirt		
	Clear outfall and ROW ditches		
		<u>23,992</u>	
	Other Transportation Related Projects to Include:		
	Traffic signs and other traffic control devices	23,992	
	Contractors, equipment purchase and / or rental to complete projects	124,727	
	TOTAL CITY OF BERLIN	\$ 290,045	1.14%
City of Ellenton			
	Road and Street Improvements to Include:		
	Central Avenue (East - far end)	27,434	
	Central Avenue (East - far west end)	32,350	
	White Hall Street South	10,974	
	Still Road	26,177	
	College Street	33,836	
	Miller Avenue	17,146	
	TOTAL CITY OF ELLENTON	\$ 147,917	0.58%
Hospital Authority	Parking Lot Improvements	250,000	
	TOTAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY	\$ 250,000	0.98%
Airport Authority	Runway Improvements	750,000	
	TOTAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY	\$ 750,000	2.94%
Recreation Authority			
	Bicycle Path Improvements to Include:		
	Crack and / or root damage repair		
	Seal coating and / or resurfacing		
	Trail stabilization and / or protection		
	TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY	\$ 550,000	2.16%
	TOTAL ALL COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS	\$ 25,500,000	100%