

**Anderson County Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission Meeting
June 30, 2025 (5:30 pm – 6:30 pm)
Anderson County
1428 Pearman Dairy Rd
Anderson, SC 29625**

ATTENDEES

Commission Members in Attendance – Richard Dorn, Michael Mance, Joey Black, Trey Thomas, and Jamie Cantrell

Commission Members not in Attendance: Matt Reeves

Staff Members in Attendance –Jonathan Fox, Gaye Sprague, Drew Cole, Bee Baker, Matt Hogan, Brittany McAbee, Leon Harmon, and Rita Davis

Other Attendees: Gary T. Pope, Jr (Pope Flynn Group)

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order – Richard Dorn (Chair)

Meeting was called to order by Richard Dorn at 5:36 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jamie Cantrell made the motion to approve the agenda of the meeting. Joey Black seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Joey Black made the motion for approval of the minutes from last meeting. It was seconded by Trey Thomas and unanimously approved.

Review of Status

Matt Hogan reported that the Commissioners received an updated project list Friday as well as the updated ballot question. At this meeting, the Commission would finalize the resolution first, and then it would be adopted as finalized. The Commission’s comments from the last meeting were incorporated. If there were any further changes, they would be made at this meeting.

Commissioner Black reported that there were changes to be made.

Mr. Hogan explained that the final resolution and ballot question would be sent to County Council after this meeting.

Receipt of Information, Discussion, and Desired Action with Regard to Finalizing the Resolution, Ballot Question, and Project List

Commissioner Black reported that the Clemson Blvd sidewalk project for \$5 million was still on the list. He said last time they were told it was cut back to \$2 million.

Gaye Sprague clarified that another project was cut to \$2 million but the sidewalk project was still there for \$5 million.

Commissioner Black said that Clemson Blvd is SCDOT and a major highway. He said he asked if we were collaborating with DOT and was told no. He said to strike the project if DOT was not going to be working with the County.

Mr. Fox clarified that the County did not propose any state roads but the municipalities did. The project is in the City of Anderson, but the project can be struck.

Commissioner Black said that much money for sidewalks is confusing.

Mr. Fox said a previous presentation had information regarding the project.

Mrs. Sprague introduced Mike Gay with ACATS and the City of Anderson. She clarified that the number of miles being NA was because the project fills in gaps.

Commissioner Black said the project list needed x amount of miles or x amount of feet and that \$5 million was a lot of money for sidewalks.

Michael Gay reported the project was roughly from Forest Hill Dr to EW Parkway and is to infill both sides of the road with sidewalks that are not there. He reported pedestrians have been traveling there and have created goat paths. He reported that there are many encroachments onto the road and many opportunities for conflicts and accidents with pedestrians. He said the project was a pedestrian safety project on their biggest corridor.

Chairman Dorn asked about the number of accidents.

Mr. Gay reported that he didn't have exact numbers, but the EW Parkway is one of the intersections with the most accidents on the corridor. He said SCDOT has identified it as a safety project and the sidewalks were recommended. The City wanted it because they didn't know where the funding would come from otherwise.

Commissioner Black said he was told no new infrastructure would be constructed and it was in the minutes. He said the tax is for maintenance. He said he agreed with safety but there is a need for clarity to taxpayers because there is flip-flopping occurring.

Mrs. Sprague clarified that she was the one who told him that, but there is no new capacity infrastructure. The tax would not widen a road from two lanes to four lanes for example.

Commissioner Mance said to lower the priority of the sidewalks to Phase 4.

Chairman Dorn said he wanted the projected funded down the list as much as possible.

Mr. Fox said it would move to Phase 4.

Chairman Dorn said to remove mention of Easley for Mt Airy example because the City of Easley is not in Anderson County.

Mr. Fox clarified a portion of Easley is in Anderson County.

Chairman Dorn said no one will know Easley is in Anderson County.

Gary Pope said he would track all these changes and then finalize at the end.

Chairman Dorn said Central is mentioned for a bridge because Central is not in Anderson County even if it is a Central address.

Commissioner Mance said the same of Piedmont and to strike Piedmont.

Chairman Dorn asked if Piedmont was in Anderson County.

Mr. Fox said yes.

Chairman Dorn said to just put Anderson County.

Commissioner Black said a lot of roads just say Anderson County.

Chairman Dorn said he didn't see any of those names on the project list.

Mr. Fox said it was the municipalities listed on the project list.

Chairman Dorn said he didn't see any Easley or Central.

Mrs. Sprague asked if it would be acceptable to call the Central area the Pendleton area.

Chairman Dorn said either Pendleton or Anderson County.

Commissioner Black said Mulliken was Pendleton.

Chairman Dorn said to refer to Mt Airy as the Powdersville area.

Mr. Fox asked about leaving Homeland Park.

Chairman Dorn said everyone knows Homeland Park is in Anderson. He wanted to put Anderson County for Shiloh Church Rd.

Mr. Fox asked about Durham Rd Bridge Project as Piedmont.

Chairman Dorn said to list it as Anderson County too.

Mrs. Sprague asked about the Centerville community or Anderson County.

Chairman Dorn said to leave the Centerville community.

Mrs. Sprague asked if they would like to list Plantation Rd as a neighborhood.

Mr. Fox clarified it's Nevitt Forest.

Chairman Dorn said Nevitt Forest is fine.

Mrs. Sprague asked of any communities for Monitor Dr, Dobbins Bridge Rd, Lewis, Oak Hill, Hariett Cir, Vandiver and if the areas represented well. She said the county and municipalities have worked hard to get the worst served first and represent all areas of the County

Commissioner Mance asked about Broadway Lake Rd and a way to add their area to the question.

Mr. Fox said that Broadway Lake Rd is from 178 to 413 and is in Phase 2.

Chairman Dorn said to add Broadway Lake Rd as an example.

Mr. Fox said the section from the bridge to 413 is County and the bridge to 178 is State.

Mrs. Sprague said to use the wording from the bridge to 413 to stay consistent.

Chairman Dorn said to take out State portion.

Mr. Fox clarified that the Broadway Lake Rd bridge is a unique situation being a spillway. He says people have concerns of its being a one lane bridge but will take specific design to fix.

Commissioner Cantrell clarified that they wanted people to feel included.

Mr. Fox said that Honea Path, Starr, West Pelzer, and Pelzer were not named in the question. Only one road was requested in Starr. Projects were looked at to represent those areas as examples on the ballot, but no projects were the best examples of what the tax was for.

Commissioner Mance asked if any were close to the threshold or could one mile be paved in those areas.

Mr. Fox clarified that roads are in the project list but not in the ballot examples.

Mrs. Sprague said a whole list of roads for Honea Path were included on the bottom of B5.

Mr. Fox said that they were short and in communities but were not good examples for the ballot.

Commissioner Mance said to keep Homeland Park because the people will be concerned if they are not included.

Commissioner Thomas asked about Honea Path.

Chairman Dorn pointed to the map and asked about the road below Greenville and whether it was Cherokee Rd.

Mr. Fox answered that it was Griffin Farm Rd he was pointing to.

Commissioner Thomas said it was in Phase 2 and 2.6 miles long.

Mrs. Sprague asked how the Commission would identify the area.

Chairman Dorn said to include it and call it Craytonville-Honea Path area. Commissioners Thomas and Cantrell agreed.

Mr. Pope formulated the question to reflect the input.

Mr. Fox told the Commission that Starr had only requested one section of Stones Throw Ave which is State and they had asked for signal timing for others. Their request was passed to the SCDOT.

Mrs. Sprague reported that West Pelzer and Pelzer projects were small. One was a small bridge that was not a major thoroughfare.

Mr. Fox also stated that Broadway Lake Rd turned into a State road at Parnell Rd and the question would need to be changed again to reflect that discovery.

Mrs. Sprague asked the Commission how they felt about the question having good examples after the whole question was displayed to the Commission. She said that the ballot was not required to have examples.

The Commission agreed that examples were needed.

Mr. Fox said that the ballot should be one page for the best formatting for the ballot.

Mr. Pope said they would work with the required formatting to make sure it is intelligible.

Chairman Dorn said he was looking for quality over length.

An unidentified citizen asked could the commissioners speak up and that they could not hear them half the time.

Mrs. Sprague explained what the Commission was asking. Commissioner Black explained they were discussing on the ballot formatting when it is submitted rather than having two rows of information.

Commissioner Mance also told the citizen that they were discussing examples on the ballot to ensure no one feels left out. He said sometimes people think that only one area is being paved.

Mrs. Sprague explained why the Commission was meeting in the format they were. She explained that a roundtable drafting session where they could see the question formulated live was recommended by attorney Pope.

Elizabeth Fant (citizen) said that the air-conditioning needed to be turned off because she could not hear.

The unidentified citizen said it was a bad format.

Mr. Fox invited the public to sit at the table to hear if needed.

Elizabeth Fant said she could not hear at the courthouse and she couldn't hear in the current room. She exclaimed that the folks have to do better.

Mr. Pope did a final review of the ballot and resolution before moving onto adoption. He identified various changes, the projections, the length of the tax, the project list as exhibit B, conditions and restrictions of the sales tax. He explained the process for changes due to unforeseen circumstances, such as permitting issues, and how it would require an ordinance and public hearing process. County Council can only add a bond question to the ballot. He explained the benefit to the bond question.

Commissioner Black asked about the terms of the bond and how it is paid off.

Mr. Pope said the bond is issued for a certain term but the bond needs a little time to pay off as money rolls in but not so much as to hamstring the County with finances.

The Commission reviewed the question one last time.

Chairman Dorn asked about Section f. He said if all the projects are completed, County Council can spend on what they choose and he wanted to limit them to transportation only.

Mr. Pope said it had to be a transportation project per the statute, and Section f was added to address that concern.

Chairman Dorn expressed he wanted County Council limited and to add language consistent for transportation only.

Commissioner Black pointed out that Section f already had a sentence limiting it to transportation only.

Mr. Pope explained that in the event the tax is approved and another one in the future proposed, the next one would supersede the previous one.

Chairman Dorn asked if the Commission was ready to approve the changes.

Mrs. Sprague clarified that the motion is to finalize the resolution.

Chairman Dorn said its to finalize it with the changes as it is now.

Commissioner Black made the motion to finalize which was seconded by Commissioner Mance. The Commission unanimously approved.

Consider for Adoption "A RESOLUTION OF THE ANDERSON COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX COMMISSION REGARDING THE FORM OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 3 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO."

Mr. Pope asked if they wanted to adopt the resolution as finalized.

Commissioner Cantrell made the motion to adopt as finalized. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hogan thanked the commissioners for serving on the Commission. He stated County Council will have first reading on July 15th as the next step.

Commissioner Black asked to address the public. He thanked them for attending and representing their communities. He stated the Commission worked hard to ensure that this goes to transportation. He said the tax is not on food or medication and can only be used strictly for what it says in these words. He stated they made sure everyone is represented.

Commissioner Mance stated he was three and a half minutes late due to a flat tire. He joked that the public could guess why he had a flat tire.

Commissioner Black made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mance seconded. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 pm