



AGENDA ITEM: 10.6

AGENDA DATE: June 27, 2025

TO: Chairman and Members of the Board
THRU: Michael A Kaigler, County Manager
FROM: Linda Cramer, Assistant County Manager

Michael A. Kaigler
L. Cramer

ISSUE:

To request Board approval of Chatham County's Project List for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum to be held on November 4, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1985 Chatham County and its municipalities have been authorized by referendum to collect a one-percent special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) to fund large capital projects. This allows the County to leverage taxes collected from non-residents to pay for needed facilities and infrastructure. The County has also been able to avoid incurring debt for the construction of the projects in each referendum.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The County and its municipalities are currently receiving SPLOST funds under a voter-approved referendum that will expire on September 30, 2026.
2. In order to extend SPLOST collections, the County intends to hold a referendum on November 4, 2025. If the referendum is approved, the new SPLOST (SPLOST 8) revenue collection period would begin on October 1, 2026.
3. The County has developed a structure for an intergovernmental agreement with each municipality which will allow for a six year collection period and include both project summaries and revenue allocation percentages. Each municipality is responsible for developing their project list under State law. Revenue allocation percentages and project summaries will be included in the IGAs.
4. The following timeline is recommended in order to meet required statutory requirements:
 - a. A SPLOST workshop to discuss the County's project list with the Board was held on June 18, 2025.
 - b. Municipal final project lists and IGAs will be forwarded to the County by July 16, 2025. Revenue allocation percentages have already been provided to each municipality.
 - c. The Board will be asked to approve IGAs and the call for election on July 18, 2025 for transmittal to the Board of Elections.
 - d. Public notice of the election call is required by July 25, 2025. Weekly legal publication of the election will begin on October 4, 2025.
 - e. The referendum will be held on November 4, 2025.
5. Each commissioner held community meeting(s) to discuss projects of interest to their constituents. A county-wide virtual meeting was held on June 3, 2025. Public input from

the meetings and the on-line survey has been incorporated into the recommended project list.

6. The Commissioners held a SPLOST workshop on June 18, 2025 and the project list has been revised to include stated projects.
7. If total SPLOST collections exceed \$700,000,000 in the six year period, each governing authority will continue to receive distributions based upon the Level II percentages shown.
8. The County’s proposed project list is also attached and is summarized as follows:

Proposed Chatham County Projects	Amount
Juvenile Court Facility	\$ 40,000,000
Railroad Crossing Elimination Projects	\$ 25,000,000
Airways Ave/I-95 Interchange	\$ 6,000,000
Other Roads, Streets, Sidewalk & Trails	\$ 92,000,000
Drainage Improvements	\$ 18,000,000
Public Safety Facilities, Vehicles & Equipment	\$ 25,000,000
Public Safety Communications/Radio System	\$ 11,000,000
Indoor Recreation Facilities	\$ 25,000,000
Multi-sport Athletic Fields	\$ 9,000,000
Greenspace and Outdoor Recreation	\$ 4,000,000
Other Parks, Recreation & Cultural Facilities	\$ 4,000,000
Early Childhood Learning Facilities	\$ 9,000,000
Housing Investments	\$ 9,000,000
Environmental & Sustainable Improvements	\$ 5,000,000
Total	\$ 282,000,000

9. The proposed revenue allocation percentages are attached.
10. The County’s SPLOST ballot will also include authorization to issue up to \$50 million in SPLOST bonds to pre-fund projects on the County’s SPLOST list.

BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:

The Chatham Community Blueprint was referenced throughout the development of the County’s SPLOST list. Projects fall under the Quality of Life, Education and Economy Vision areas.

FUNDING:

Funding for SPLOST 8 projects will be approved by referendum on November 4, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Chatham County project list for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum to be held November 4, 2025 (SPLOST 8 - October 2026-September 2032).
2. Provide other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Utilization of SPLOST for financing capital projects provides local governments with an effective tool to reduce debt burden while improving facilities throughout the community. All citizens benefit from the constructed projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1 is recommended for approval.

- #F: Revised Calendar ST8
- #G: SPLOST 8 FINAL June 19 2025
- #H: SPLOST 8 Project descriptions 2

Linda Cramer	Completed	06/05/2025 11:03 AM
Linda Cramer	Completed	06/05/2025 4:51 PM
Danielle Hillery	Completed	06/09/2025 2:41 PM
Michael A. Kaigler	Completed	06/17/2025 12:38 PM
Board of Commissioners	Pending	06/27/2025 9:30 AM

REVISED SPLOST 8 CALENDAR

SPLOST 7 ends on September 30, 2026. Here is a proposed timeline for SPLOST 8 – October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2032:

2025

May 2

Chairman convenes municipalities to discuss SPLOST extension for October 2026 to September 2032 (SPLOST 8);

May 23 – June 12

Municipalities provide approved, prioritized project list to County;

June 13

County Manager transmits Proposed SPLOST 8 Project list for county, Level 1 projects, and recommended revenue allocations to the County Commission;

June 18

County Commissioners hold workshop on SPLOST 8 Project list;

June 27

County Commissioners vote to approve County's project list and approve SPLOST IGAs with municipalities;

July 16

Municipalities final deadline for approval and transmittal of SPLOST IGAs to County:

July 18th

County Commission votes to call the SPLOST election and notifies the Board of Elections;

July 25th

Public Notice of the election call

October 4

Required advertisements are published in the newspaper weekly in advance of the election;

November 4

Election

2026

October 1 Collection Period starts for SPLOST 8

**Chatham County
SPLOST 8 Project List
6/27/2025**

	<u>Total \$</u>
Level 1 - County Projects	
Juvenile Court Expansion	40,000,000
President RR Crossing	25,000,000
Public Safety Communications	11,000,000
Airport - Airways Ave/I-95	6,000,000
TOTAL LEVEL 1	<u><u>82,000,000</u></u>
Level 2 - County Projects	
<u>Roads, Streets, Sidewalks & Trails</u>	
Quacco Rd Improvements	15,000,000
Little Neck Rd Improvements	15,000,000
Bush Road	8,000,000
John Carter Road Improvements	5,000,000
Old River Road Improvements	5,000,000
SR 25/Ogeechee Road	5,000,000
Sidewalks/Trails	15,000,000
SS4 All	5,000,000
Resurfacing	10,000,000
Noisewall - Traffic Management	1,000,000
SR 204 & Pine Grove	3,000,000
Burnside Causeway	1,000,000
Other Roads & Bridges	4,000,000
Subtotal, Roads, Streets, Sidewalks & Trails	<u>92,000,000</u>
<u>Drainage Improvements</u>	
East Chatham Drainage	5,000,000
West Chatham Drainage	5,000,000
Watershed Master Plan	5,000,000
Other drainage	3,000,000
Subtotal, Drainage Improvements	<u>18,000,000</u>
<u>Public Safety</u>	
Facilities, Vehicles and Equipment	25,000,000
<u>Parks, Recreation & Culture</u>	
Indoor Recreation Facilities	25,000,000
Multi-sport Athletic Fields	9,000,000
Park Improvements	1,000,000
Greenspace & outdoor recreation	4,000,000
Community centers	2,000,000
Libraries	1,000,000
Subtotal, Parks, Recreation & Culture	<u>42,000,000</u>
<u>Environmental/Sustainability</u>	
Septic Elimination/Waste Management	5,000,000
<u>Affordable Housing</u>	
Investments in Affordable Housing	9,000,000
<u>Education</u>	
Early Childhood Learning Investments	9,000,000
TOTAL LEVEL 2	<u><u>200,000,000</u></u>
 Total ST 8 Proposed County Projects	 <u><u>282,000,000</u></u>

#G: SPLOST 8 FINAL June 19 2025 (7574 : County's proposed project list for SPLOST 8 (2026-2032))

Project descriptions:

Level 1 Projects:

Juvenile Court Expansion – Expansion of Juvenile Court facility

President Street Railroad Crossing – To construct short term operational improvements and design long term improvements to eliminate the railroad crossing on President Street at its intersection with Truman Parkway.

Public Safety Communications – Upgrades to the emergency radio system

Airways Ave at I-95 Interchange – Assist with Federal match for interchange improvements/upgrades

Transportation Projects:

Quacco Road Improvements – Design widened bridge at I-95 and improvements from bridge to Canal Bank Road

Little Neck Road Improvements – Design widened bridge at I-95 and scoping/design for improvements to Little Neck between I-95 and I-16.

Bush Road Improvements – Improvements and upgrades to Bush Road pavement. Half the costs will be shared with City of Savannah

John Carter Road Improvements – Widen roadway to four (4) lanes and provide operational upgrades per the Regional Freight Transportation Plan

Old River Road Improvements – Improvements to widen roadway and add safety upgrades per the Regional Freight Transportation Plan

SR25/Ogeechee Road Improvements – Make short term improvements and upgrades as identified in the SR25/Ogeechee Road Corridor Study

Sidewalks/Trails – Design and construct various sidewalk and trail projects.

Projects could include:

- Isle of Hope
- Ferguson
- Diamond Causeway
- Derrick Inn Road
- Cottonvale Road
- Wilmington Island Road (JMB to May Howard)
- Chevis Road (Wild Heron to Burroughs park)
- Quarterman Drive
- Norwood Ave
- Teakwood Drive
- Burton Road
- Larbre Road
- Grovepoint (KGB to Wild Heron)
- Johnny Mercer Blvd (Penn Waller to Wilmington Village)
- Whitmarsh Island Road crossing
- Hendry
- Whitefield Ave (near Hendry)
- Walthour
- St. Ives Drive
- Lions Gate
- Red Fox Drive
- Kim Street
- Islands Exp.
- Waite Drive

#H: SPLOST 8 Project descriptions 2 (7574 : County's proposed project list for SPLOST 8 (2026-2032))

Safe Streets for All Improvements – Implement projects identified in the Safe Streets for All study. Projects could include safety improvements to the Gateway Blvd/SR204 intersection, ACL Blvd at Westlake Blvd, and/or to Montgomery Cross Road.

Resurfacing – Match for Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds

Noisewall – Construct a noise barrier along Truman Parkway. Cost to be shared with City of Savannah

SR204 at Pine Grove – Design and local match for short-term improvements as identified in the SR204 corridor study

Burnside Causeway – Design and permitting of stabilization and elevation of causeway.

Other Roads – Reserves for transportation projects

Drainage Projects:

East Chatham Drainage – Drainage improvement projects located east of White Bluff Rd/Bull Street. Projects to be identified in Watershed Master Plan.

West Chatham Drainage - Drainage improvement projects located west of White Bluff Rd/Bull Street. Projects to be identified in Watershed Master Plan

Watershed Master Plan – County-wide drainage studies to identify drainage improvement projects

Other Drainage – Reserves for drainage projects to be determined.

Public Safety Projects:

Public Safety Facilities, Vehicles, and Equipment (Fire)– Construct fire stations and purchase fire vehicles/equipment

Parks and Recreation Projects:

Indoor Recreation Facilities – Design and construction of gymnasiums. To include multiple sites, e.g. Islands, Southside, and West Savannah.

Multi-sport Athletic Fields – Athletic fields to accommodate multiple sports, e.g. soccer, football, lacrosse

Park Improvements – Design and construction of upgrades and improvements to existing parks; e.g. Tom Triplett amphitheater, Canebrake area Park, and Nottingham area

Greenspace and Outdoor Recreation - Purchase greenspace and enhance existing greenspace to facilitate outdoor recreation

Community Center – Design and construction of a community center facility. Facilities to be located in various districts, e.g. Salt Creek and District 3

Libraries – to assist with design and construction of Library facilities, e.g. Pooler Library.

Environmental/Sustainability Projects:

Septic Elimination/Wastewater – Planning, design and/or construction of sanitary sewer/wastewater infrastructure to facilitate septic elimination; Potential grant match

Housing:

Housing facilities and investments – Investments to support income-based housing initiatives; Potential grant match

Education:

Early Childhood Learning Investments– Design and construction of facilities to support early childhood learning/affordable childcare; Potential grant match