

## Transportation Roadmap Q&A

*-Updated April 2024-*

**Has Richland County Council decided to continue the Transportation Penny Tax?** Richland County Council has not decided about a potential continuation of the Transportation Penny Tax. Council did pass a resolution on Oct. 3, 2023, authorizing County staff to prepare for a Transportation Sales Tax Referendum expected to be held during the 2024 general election.

**Where is County Council in the process?** County Council participated in a second [Transportation Work Session](#) on April 23, 2024. Council's first work session was held on March 12 to review the results of a Transportation Needs Assessment completed by Stantec Consulting. The first work session also included information related to recent Transportation Planning Meetings (TPMs) and next steps.

**What is a Transportation Needs Assessment?** An evaluation of various components of a transportation system including the system's existing condition, current use and projected future use.

**How was Richland County's Transportation Needs Assessment accomplished?** Stantec hosted TPMs in January and February 2024 to hear from residents in each of the County's 11 Council districts. Additionally, Stantec received a list of projects as determined by the Central Midlands Council of Governments, local municipalities, and input received via email and social media to compile the report.

**What are next steps?** County Council will continue to review transportation needs as identified during the TPMs. Immediate next steps also include:

- A second reading of the Penny Tax referendum at the May 14 Council meeting
- A third Transportation Work Session on June 25
- A public hearing on the Penny ordinance July 9

Additionally, TPAC and the County's Transportation Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet regularly throughout the process before Council makes a final decision about the Penny referendum. Find a schedule of upcoming meetings on the [Richland Penny website](#).

**When will Council determine whether a referendum will be placed on the 2024 ballot?** Council will decide prior to the Aug. 15 deadline to notify the Election Commission.

**Will residents have additional opportunities for input?** Council will hold a public hearing on the Penny referendum during its July 9 Council meeting prior to the third and final reading on July 16. Residents also are encouraged to share comments by emailing [transportationpenny@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:transportationpenny@richlandcountysc.gov).

**Does the County have a cost estimate for projects that might be included in the Transportation Penny referendum?** The recent Transportation Needs Assessment completed by Stantec provides a preliminary cost estimate of \$2.391 billion at current pricing.

**How is project cost determined in the Transportation Needs Assessment?** Cost is determined by various factors including but not limited to:

- Recent construction cost history - per foot of improvement, based on recent bids received by Richland County and the S.C. Department of Transportation
- Complexity - review of considerations such as drainage, utilities, railroads and bridges
- Associated costs – Professional fees, utility costs, land acquisition and construction services
- City of Columbia-provided cost estimates for its requested projects

**How can I find out more?** Additional information can be found on [Richland County's website](#) under Transportation Roadmap.