

Agenda Item 18 - CDO Myers and Link, Revised and submitted, 9:15 am, Tuesday, Oct 5

TSPLOST 2023 Program - Proposed Revenue and Designated Projects

a. Approve the revision in the Projected TSPLOST 2023 Revenue to \$144,500,000;

b. Provide the TSPLOST 2023 Advisory Committee the following statement and list of TSPLOST 2023 Projects that the M&C consider important:

The Mayor & Commission want the TSPLOST Advisory Committee to understand that their role as an advisory body is deeply valued. The Advisory Committee will have received presentations on all the 89 projects and so have a more in-depth knowledge of the details and breadth of the proposed projects. We trust that the advisory committee will evaluate the projects in terms of the Mayor and Commission's TSPLOST goals and selection criteria and deliver a proposed project list that best meets those goals and criteria, serves the whole community, and advances equity in historically underfunded areas of the community.

The following TSPLOST 2023 Projects are projects that the M&C consider to be important enough to share with the Advisory Committee in advance of the Committee's recommendations to M&C:

The M&C recognize that it is necessary to fund the following projects either partially or fully in order to maintain existing infrastructure upon which the upon which the entire community depends for adequate services and public safety:

05 Bridge Improvement Program

10 Pavement Maintenance Program

11 Culvert & Live Stream Pipe Replacement Program

In addition, other projects are important to consider because they will enable completion of prior and long-standing commitments to projects of clear benefit to the larger community:

33 West Broad and Hancock Roundabout

60 College Square Pedestrian Plaza

83 Firefly Trail Sub-Project #3 Completion of Paving

Finally, the following two projects are ones that help fulfill strong-held commitments among commissioners to providing equitable transportation options for the economic development of lower income and helping meet our 100% green energy commitment:

25 Electrify the Fleet

27 ACCGov Transit Operations

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: TSPLOST 2023 Program - Proposed Revenue and Designated Projects

DATE: ~~September 16, 2021~~ October 1, 2021

BUDGET INFORMATION: N/A

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: October 5, 2021

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a. Approve the revision in the Projected TSPLOST 2023 Revenue to \$144,500,000;
- b. ~~Approve~~ Provide the TSPLOST 2023 Advisory Committee with a listing of ~~Designated~~ TSPLOST 2023 Projects that the M&C consider important, as provided on **Attachment #1**.

HISTORY:

1. Since 1985, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) or the former Clarke County Government has considered eight SPLOST referenda, seven of which were approved, and two TSPLOST referenda, one of which was approved.
2. On July 31, 2012, a referendum was held for a regional TSPLOST in Northeast Georgia. While the referendum failed on a regional level, Athens-Clarke County voters favored the initiative by a margin of 51.72% Yes to 48.28% No.
3. On April 26, 2016 O.C.G.A 48-8-260 became effective, allowing single counties and the municipalities within them to hold a county-wide referendum to impose a special purpose local option sales tax for transportation purposes (TSPLOST).
4. On October 4, 2016, Mayor and Commission (M&C) approved the TSPLOST 2018 Program Goals, Project Selection Criteria and Implementation Schedule.
5. On November 1, 2016, the Mayor appointed two citizens from each of the 10 districts as suggested by Commissioners to the TSPLOST 2018 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).
6. On August 1, 2017, M&C approved the 2018 TSPLOST projects list; adopted a resolution calling for a referendum on November 7, 2017 for the imposition of TSPLOST 2018 to begin on April 1, 2018 and authorized the issuance of General Obligation Debt in conjunction with the 2018 TSPLOST program in a total not-to-exceed principal amount of \$95,000,000; and approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Winterville and the Town of Bogart.

7. On November 7, 2017, the TSPLOST 2018 Program was approved by Referendum by the voters of Athens-Clarke County.
8. On December 5, 2017, the M&C approved the budget ordinance establishing the list of projects within the Capital Budget and approved the TSPLOST 2018 Program Management Services Contract.
9. On December 12, 2017, the M&C were presented during the work session with revised Project Funding Schedules with options for advancing Program funds by bank loan or General Obligation Bonds.
10. On January 2, 2018, M&C approved the TSPLOST 2018 Funding Implementation Schedule authorizing an \$8 million loan to pre-fund Program projects.
11. On February 6, 2018, the Mayor and Commission (M&C) adopted the Live Stream Pipe Preplacement Program Priorities and approved 26 project concepts to move into preliminary design phase, supported by the Stormwater utility funds. The estimated cost of the Proposed 26 Concepts was approximately \$22 million. While not part of the official concept approval, there was some discussion that the future funding for these 26 projects should be split 50/50 between the Stormwater Enterprise funding and future SPLOST funding.
12. On April 1, 2018, TSPLOST 2018 collections began in Athens-Clarke County.
13. On September 1, 2020, M&C approved a Project Concept, for SPLOST 2011 Project #27 and SPLOST 2020 Project #35, Live Stream Pipe & Culvert Replacement. The approved Project Concept had 55 sections of Live Stream Pipe & Culvert that need replacing with a total cost of the work estimated at \$26.5 million. This approved Project Concept was a revision of the Project Concept from February 2018 (History #11).
14. On May 3, 2021, with the receipt of TSPLOST collections through March 2021, it was determined that current TSPLOST 2018 collections were approximately three months ahead of the original collection projections.
15. At the June 3, 2021 M&C Retreat and the June 8, 2021 M&C regularly scheduled work session, staff presented a plan for placing a proposed TSPLOST Referendum on the May 24, 2022 ballot. At the work session, staff also reviewed the proposed TSPLOST 2023 Program Goals, Project Selection Criteria, Implementation Schedule, and a "Charge" to the proposed TSPLOST Advisory Committee.
16. On September 14, 2021, at the M&C Work Session, staff shared the reasoning for adjusting the projected revenues and a listing of potential projects that M&C may want to consider as designated projects to aid the TSAC in their deliberations of the projects submitted.

17. On September 21, 2021, at the M&C Agenda Setting meeting the agenda for TSPLOST 2023 Designated Projects was discussed by M&C and it was suggested that the TSPLOST 2023 Advisory Committee (TSAC) be asked for a vote on whether or not they would like the M&C to designate projects before or after the TSAC had completed their work.
18. On September 22, 2021, at the next TSAC meeting, the TSAC approved the following motion, by a vote of 17 to 2, *“The TSPLOST 2023 Advisory Committee is willing to be informed of the Mayor & Commission’s project priorities for funding allocations; however, the Committee wishes to make a collective recommendation after hearing all presentations and evaluating them based on the criteria set forth in the project submission package.”*

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The Proposed TSPLOST 2023 is a fixed amount collections program similar to a fixed dollar SPLOST collections program. According to the O.C.G.A., the TSPLOST 2023 Collections are projected to begin on January 1, 2023. Initial Finance Department, revenue projections for the five-year program were at \$139.5 million but that was prior to the completion of the FY21 collections. With the FY21 collections complete, staff is projecting a total program revenue of \$141.5 million in collections with a 2% year over year growth rate or a \$144.5 million with a 2.5% year over year growth rate.
2. During the Work Session staff presented on September 14, 2021 (History #17) a short listing of projects that the M&C might want to consider as a starting point for discussions around designating projects for the TSAC.
3. Based on the feedback given at the work session staff has provided the below detailed information about the projects that were most consistently mentioned by M&C:
4. Pavement Maintenance Program has been funded through previous SPLOST and TSPLOST Programs at the following amounts:

Previous – Programs	Funding Amount
SPLOST 2005 (5-Year Program)	\$6.2 million
SPLOST 2011 (9-Year Program)	\$8.6 million
TSPLOST 2018 (5-Year Program)	\$24.7 million (balance \$7.2 million for CY 22 & part of CY23 paving)
SPLOST 2020 (12-Year Program)	\$0 million

Staff is requesting from the TSPLOST 2023 Program, that Pavement Maintenance be funded at approximately \$72 million to fully erase all of the pavement maintenance deficient. Alternatively, staff has requested TSPLOST 2023 Program that Pavement Maintenance be funded at approximately \$50 million to achieve a PCI rating of 70 for all roads or at approximately \$32 million to achieve a PCI rating of 67 for all roads.

5. Stormwater Systems Improvements has been funded through previous SPLOST and TSPLOST Programs at the following amounts:

Previous – Programs	Funding Amount
SPLOST 2005 (5-Year Program)	\$11.9 million
SPLOST 2011 (9-Year Program)	\$3.9 million
TSPLOST 2018 (5-Year Program)	\$0
SPLOST 2020 (12-Year Program)	\$0.5 million

Staff is requesting from the TSPLOST 2023 Program, that Culvert and Livestream Replacements be funded at approximately \$13 million. The requested Project #11 (<https://www.accgov.com/10116/Project-11-Culvert-Live-Stream-Pipe-Repl>) includes replacement of 34 out of 55 systems identified in the M&C approve Live Stream Pipe Replacement Program Project Concept (History #11 & 13).

6. Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacements has been funded through previous SPLOST and TSPLOST Programs at the following amounts:

Previous – Programs	Funding Amount
SPLOST 2005 (5-Year Program)	\$1.9 million (Bridge Rehabilitation)
SPLOST 2011 (9-Year Program)	\$1.0 million (Bridge Rehabilitation)
TSPLOST 2018 (5-Year Program)	\$6 million, specifically for the Tallassee Bridge Replacement. Majority of funding is still available but expected to be encumbered soon.
SPLOST 2020 (12-Year Program)	\$0

Staff is requesting from the TSPLOST 2023 Program, that Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacements be funded at approximately \$4.7 million. The requested Project #5 (<https://www.accgov.com/10196/Project-5-Bridge-Improvement-Program>) is for Bridge Rehabilitation work and for matching funds for future GDOT funded bridge replacements.

7. Firefly Trail has been funded through previous SPLOST and TSPLOST Programs at the following amounts:

Previous – Programs	Funding Amount
SPLOST 2005 (5-Year Program)	\$4 million (Trail & land acquisition)
SPLOST 2011 (9-Year Program)	\$7.5 million (Trail & 1 Bridge)
TSPLOST 2018 (5-Year Program)	\$16 million (Trail, 2 bridges, land acquisition) (\$25 million was requested to finish all of trail sections & bridges to Winterville)
SPLOST 2020 (12-Year Program)	\$0

The project submission, from Firefly Trail, Inc., (<https://www.accgov.com/10187/Project-83-Firefly-Trail-Sub---Project-3>) is requesting \$10.3 million from the TSPLOST 2023 Program for the Firefly Trail work to include Trail Completion, two Trail Heads, Parking, Restroom, Stormwater improvements, and Skateboard area. Staff estimates that approximately \$7 million is needed for just the portion to complete the paving of all trail sections to Winterville.

8. Transit Capital Improvements and Vehicle Replacements have been previously funded through previous SPLOST and TSPLOST Programs at the following amounts:

Previous – Programs	Funding Amount
SPLOST 2005 (5-Year Program)	\$1 million + grants
SPLOST 2011 (9-Year Program)	\$2 million + \$13 million in grants
TSPLOST 2018 (5-Year Program)	\$5.4 million + \$4.4 million in grants (remaining balance = \$3.4 million in all programs)
SPLOST 2020 (12-Year Program)	\$0

Previous program funding has been for Capital Improvement only and has not included any funding for operations. The grants referenced above are only the capital portions of grants received to which SPLOST and TSPLOST funding was used as matching funds.

Staff and the Public have submitted the following Transit Related Projects in TSPLOST 2023:

Project # and Name (submitting party)	Requested Funding Amount
#25 – Electrify the Fleet (Capital to purchase electric buses) (Staff) (https://www.accgov.com/10130/Project-25-Electrify-the-Fleet)	\$7.9 million
#26 – Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility (Staff) (to be posted soon https://www.accgov.com/10103/TSPLOST-2023-Projects)	\$42 million
#27 – Transit Operation for FY23-FY27 (Staff) (to be posted soon https://www.accgov.com/10103/TSPLOST-2023-Projects)	\$35.6 million
#28 – North Athens Corridor Project – Route Expansion and multi-use paths connectivity in North Athens (Staff) (to be posted soon https://www.accgov.com/10103/TSPLOST-2023-Projects)	\$15 million
#41 – East Athens Transit Shelters (Public) (https://www.accgov.com/10146/Project-41-East-Athens-Neighborhood-Tran)	\$0.4 million
#53 – Transit Service Expansion to the Pittard Road Area (Public) (to be posted soon https://www.accgov.com/10103/TSPLOST-2023-Projects)	\$2.1 million + increased operations
#63 – On-Demand Transit Services (Public) (https://www.accgov.com/10168/Project-63-Transit-Expansion-City-wide)	\$2.7 million + \$300K in operations

#64 – Transit Park & Ride Tallasse Road (Public) (https://www.accgov.com/10169/Project-64-Park-and-Ride---Tallasse-Roa)	\$1.2 million
#89 – SE Clarke Park Transit Access (Public) (to be posted soon https://www.accgov.com/10103/TSPLOST-2023-Projects)	\$7.5 million

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a. Approve the revision in the Projected TSPLOST 2023 Revenue to \$144,500,000;
 - b. ~~Approve~~ Provide the TSPLOST 2023 Advisory Committee with a listing of ~~Designated~~ TSPLOST 2023 Projects that the M&C consider important, as provided on **Attachment #1**.
2. Mayor and Commission do not approve the revised revenue projection and designated projects listing.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a, b, and c

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Manager – SPLOST Program Management

Prepared by:

Robert Cheshire, SPLOST
Capital Projects Director

October 1, 2021

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a, b, and c



Manager

October 1, 2021

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 - TSPLOST 2023 Projects that the M&C consider important

Attachment #1

The following TSPLOST 2023 Projects are Projects that M&C consider are important enough to share with the Advisory Committee in advance of the Committee's recommendations to M&C: (In order of the assigned project numbers. No priority order is assigned to the below list.)

Project Number & Name

- 05 Bridge Improvement Program
- 10 Pavement Maintenance Program
- 11 Culvert & Live Stream Pipe Replacement Program
- 25 Electrify the Fleet
- 27 ACCGov Transit Operations
- 60 College Square Pedestrian Plaza
- 83 Firefly Trail Sub-Project #3 Completion