

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.

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.