

RICHLAND COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
**2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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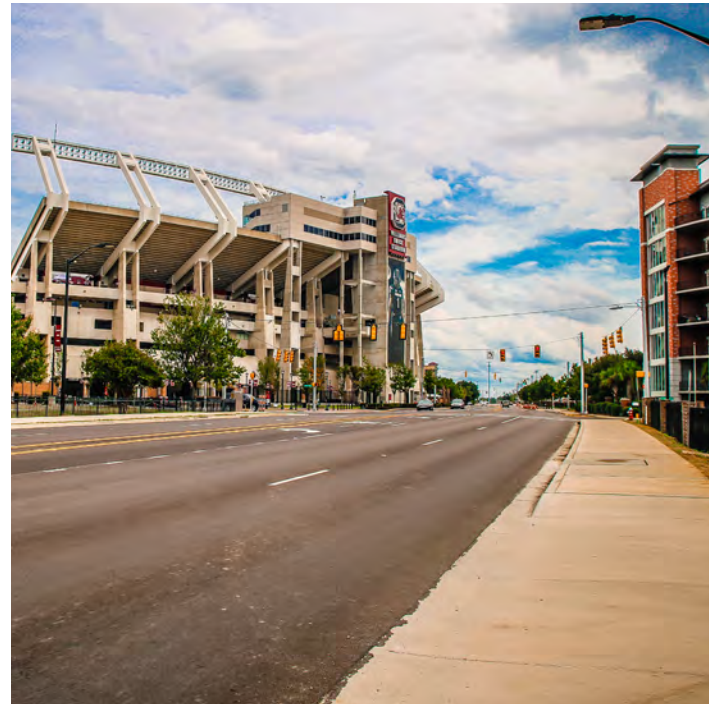


TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

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TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM





## A Message from the Chair

In 2012, voters entrusted Richland County with the exciting and challenging task of making the public transit system better and improving the County's roads and other transportation-related public areas.

Much progress has been made. The Penny Program has brought dramatic transit improvements to The COMET, made dangerous intersections safer, paved dozens of dirt roads to make them easier to travel and widened various roads to accommodate and improve traffic flow. In addition, the program includes major projects, such as the Shop Road

Extension, that will significantly impact economic development in the County.

In 2017, the Penny Program completed 146 projects. A total of \$94.4 million was spent in support of The COMET, paving and upgrading roads and so much more. The Penny Program is responsible for completing a total of 269 projects since it went into effect approximately four years ago.

I'm pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report, which details the amount of money spent and collected through the Penny Program and provides updates

on the many projects completed and in progress. The report also highlights key projects and provides an overview of work planned in 2018.

Richland County is well on its way to providing citizens the modern transportation network they so richly deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Joyce Dickerson, District 2

# Richland County Transportation Program 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



TRANSPORTATION  
PROGRAM



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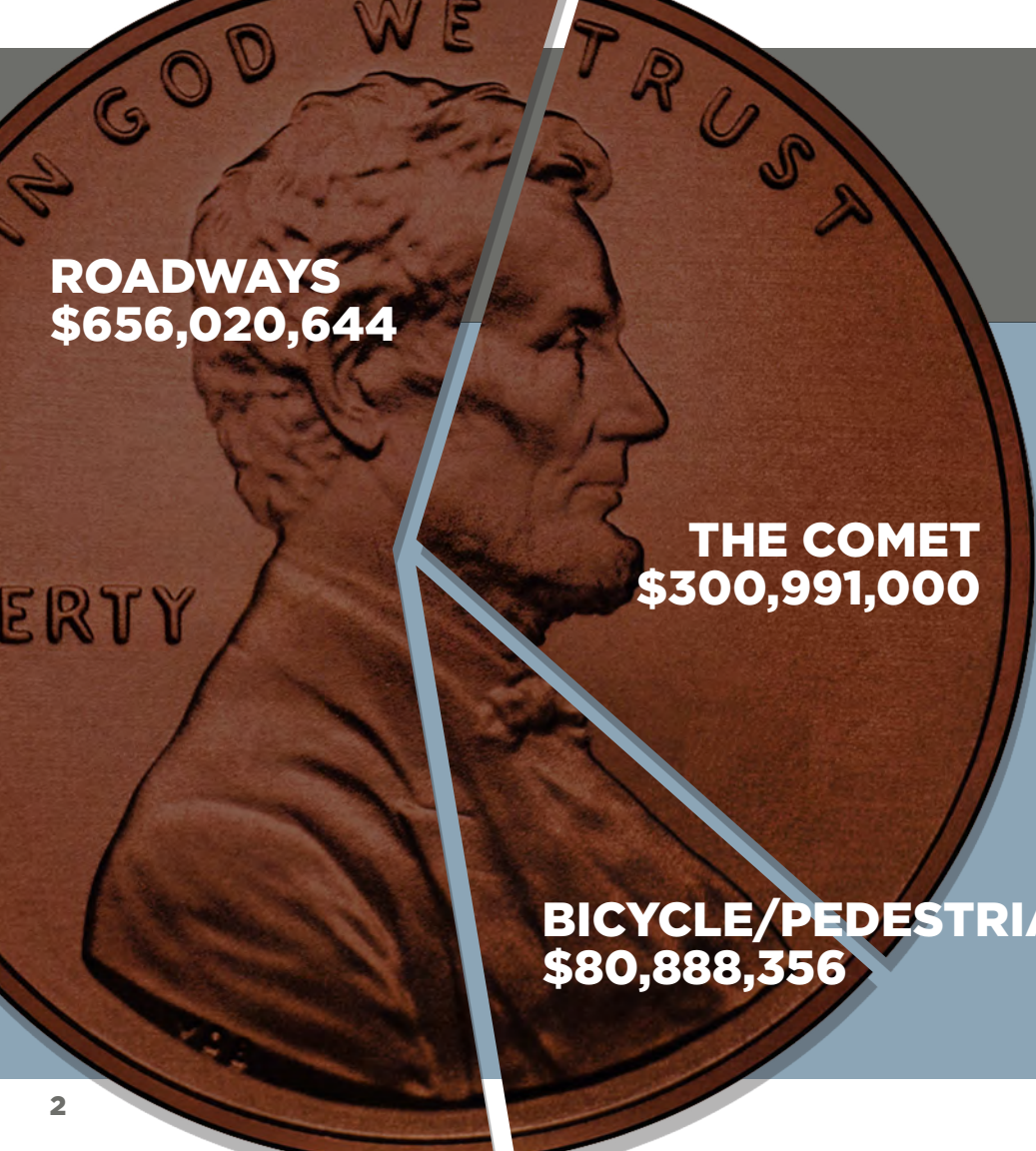
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**ROADWAYS**  
**\$656,020,644**

**THE COMET**  
**\$300,991,000**

**BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN/GREENWAYS**  
**\$80,888,356**

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In November 2012, Richland County voters approved the Transportation Penny Program. This program is divided into three major categories and is funded by a special sales and use tax for not more than 22 years or until a total of \$1.07 billion in sales tax revenue is collected, whichever occurs first.

## SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The purpose of the Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) Program is to provide a race- and gender-neutral procurement tool for the County to use in its efforts to ensure that all segments of its local business community have a reasonable and significant opportunity to participate in County contracts for construction, architectural and engineering services, professional services, non-professional services and commodities.



**37 SLBE**  
FIRMS ARE PARTICIPATING  
IN RICHLAND PENNY  
PROGRAM CONTRACTS

**87 SLBE**  
FIRMS HAVE BEEN  
CERTIFIED TO DATE

**\$31,310,925**  
HAS BEEN AWARDED  
TO SLBE FIRMS TO DATE

**\$31,090,131**  
HAS BEEN PAID TO  
SLBE FIRMS TO DATE

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Program Development Team (PDT) coordinated 50 key public meetings and events for projects approved by Richland County voters.

These open forums help residents make sense of the many moving parts involved in the project development process and give people an opportunity to raise questions and share concerns. Public participation is critical to the success of the Penny Program. The PDT ensures maximum participation by communicating in a variety of ways, including traditional media, social media, mailings and a website.



# \$254M

## SALES TAX COLLECTION TO DATE



North Main Street Widening



Three Rivers Greenway

# \$234M

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE



North Springs/Clemson Road Intersection

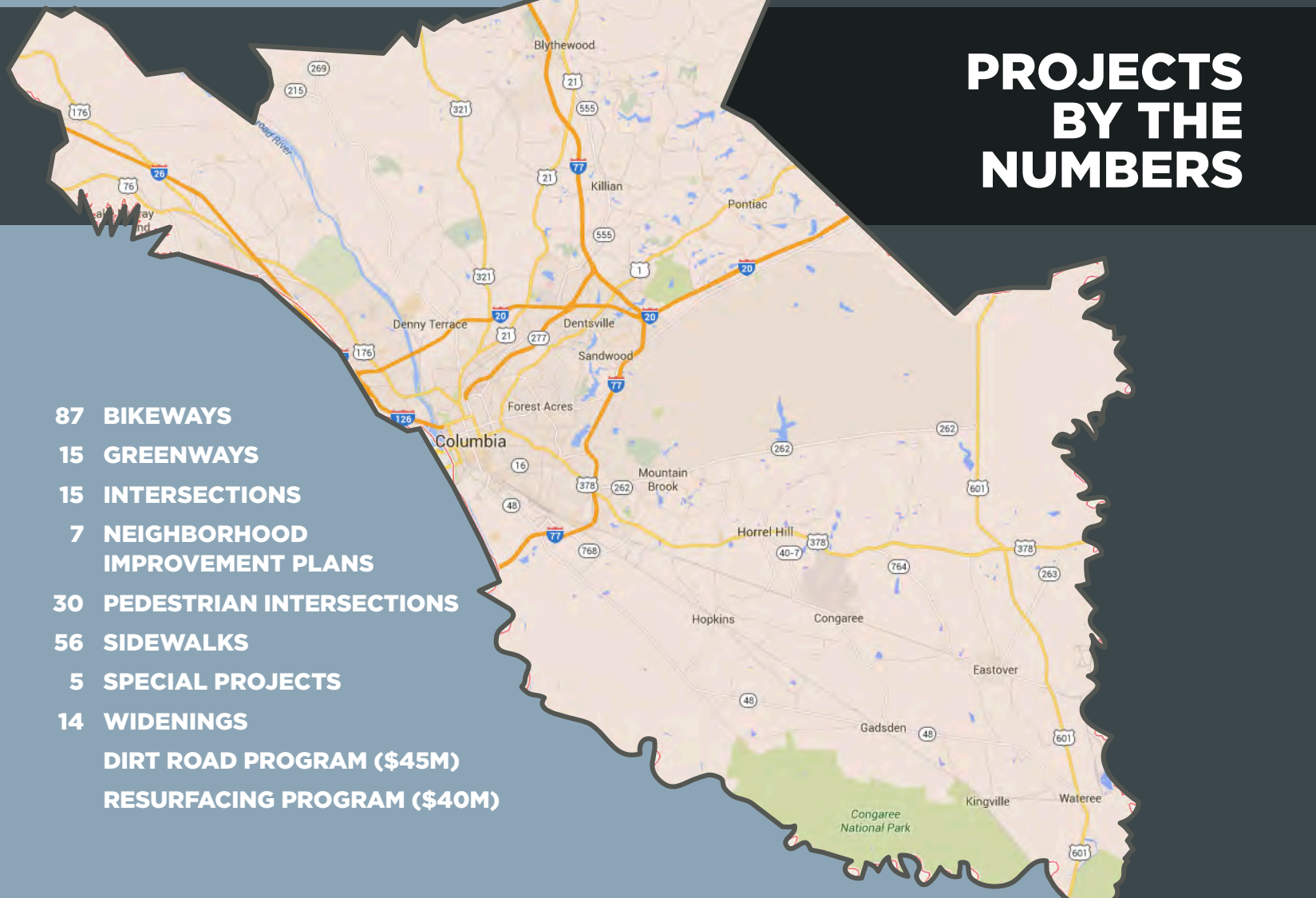
# FINANCE 2017

\$66.2M	SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
\$7.2M	OUTSIDE FUNDING
\$16.8M	DISBURSED TO COMET
\$3.7M	PROGRAM EXPENDITURES
\$73.9M	PROJECT EXPENDITURES
\$4.2M	PLANNING & DELIVERY
\$4.0M	DESIGN
\$5.7M	RIGHT-OF-WAY
\$60.0M	CONSTRUCTION
\$94.4M	TOTAL EXPENDITURES

# PROGRAM TO DATE

\$254.2M	SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
\$7.5M	OUTSIDE FUNDING*
\$66.3M	DISBURSED TO COMET
\$9.5M	MITIGATION BANK
\$16.3M	PROGRAM EXPENDITURES
\$141.8M	PROJECT EXPENDITURES
\$13.4M	PLANNING & DELIVERY
\$16.9M	DESIGN
\$7.7M	RIGHT-OF-WAY
\$103.8M	CONSTRUCTION
\$234M	TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\*Outside funding may be received after work is completed and does not necessarily reflect total commitment to-date.



# PROJECTS BY THE NUMBERS

- 87 BIKEWAYS
- 15 GREENWAYS
- 15 INTERSECTIONS
- 7 NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PLANS
- 30 PEDESTRIAN INTERSECTIONS
- 56 SIDEWALKS
- 5 SPECIAL PROJECTS
- 14 WIDENINGS
- DIRT ROAD PROGRAM (\$45M)
- RESURFACING PROGRAM (\$40M)

# 2017 COMPLETED PROJECTS

PROJECT	COST
Clemson/Rhame/N Springs Intersection	\$3.2M
Bluff Road Widening Phase 1	\$9.1M
Sidewalk Package S3	\$307K
Sidewalk Package S5	\$125K
Resurfacing Package H	\$5.3M
Resurfacing Package I	\$897K
Resurfacing Package J	\$482K
Resurfacing Package K	\$503K

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	2017	TO DATE
Projects Completed	146	269
Outside Funding Committed	\$4.1M	\$35.4M
Design Contracts	\$4.4M	\$21M
Construction Contracts	\$16.5M	\$152.7M
Project Public Meetings	6	28
Speakers Bureau's Presentations	33	88
Internship Positions	20	49

# ACTIVE PROJECTS

- PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN CONSTRUCTION
- Three Rivers Greenway Extension Phase 1
- Hard Scrabble Road Widening
- North Main Street Widening
- Shop Road Extension Phase 1
- Resurfacing Package M
- Bikeways
- Sidewalks
- Transportation Improvement Contract 1

# PROCUREMENT

- Sidewalk Package S6
- Sidewalk Package S7
- Broad River Neighborhood Pedestrian Improvements
- Candlewood Neighborhood Improvement Project Phase 1
- County Dirt Roads
- County Resurfacing Roads

# PROJECTS IN DESIGN

Project	% Complete
Gills Creek Greenway	30%
Alpine Road Sidewalk	65%
Percival Road Sidewalk	70%
Sunset Drive Sidewalk	65%
Harrison Road Sidewalk	95%
Polo Road Sidewalk	95%
Bluff Road Widening Phase 2	70%
Blythewood Road Widening	65%
Pineview Road Widening	70%
Broad River Road Widening	30%
Atlas Road Widening	95%
Clemson Road Widening	100%
Bull Street and Elmwood Avenue Intersection	30%
North Springs Road/Harrington Road Intersection	70%
Clemson Road and Sparkleberry Lane Intersection	65%
Garners Ferry Road and Harmon Road Intersection	70%
Screaming Eagle Road and Percival Road Intersection	70%
Farrow Road/Pisgah Church Intersection	95%
Greene Street Phase 2	95%
Decker Boulevard/Woodfield Park Neighborhood Improvements	30%
Candlewood Neighborhood Improvements	95%
Southeast Richland Neighborhood Improvements	95%
Dirt Road Paving Program	10%

# DIRT ROADS

The Dirt Roads Program was established under the transportation sales tax program to commit \$45 million to paving dirt roads. So far, the program has paved 38 dirt roads.



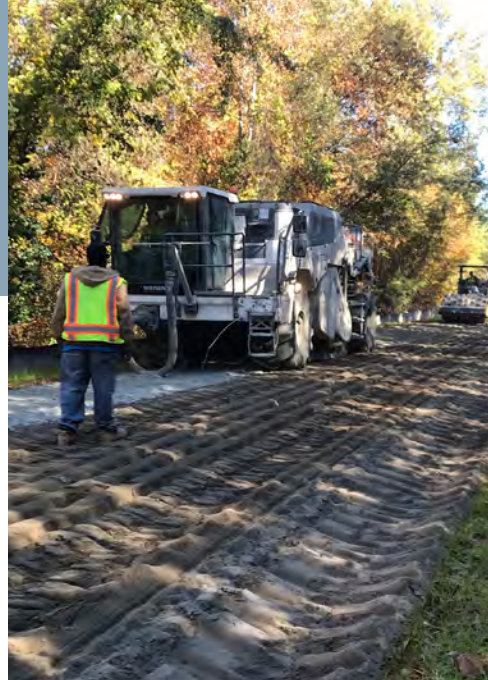
Jouster Street



Jouster Street



Normandy Road



Deloach Drive



Tucker Town Court

# RESURFACING ROADS

Richland County is comprised of approximately 555 paved road miles. Under the resurfacing program, a total of \$40 million will be spent to resurface and maintain County roads. The County has resurfaced more than 200 roads as part of the Transportation Penny Program.



Resurfacing Cove View Drive



Cove View Drive Resurfacing Project



Resurfacing Chanwood Drive



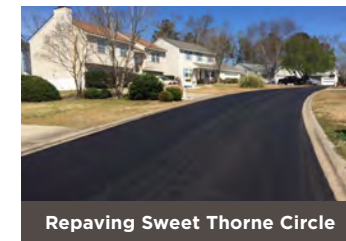
Richland County Road Resurfacing Program



Resurfacing Finley Road



Resurfacing Finley Road



Resurfacing Sweet Thorne Circle

## ON THE WEB



GET ALL THE INFORMATION YOU'LL EVER NEED AT [RICHLANDPENNY.COM](http://RICHLANDPENNY.COM)



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## The SC Gamecock Express

Gamecock fans can take The COMET's Gamecock Express at the university lots at Lincoln and Blossom streets. Not only does The COMET drop them off right at the S. C. State Fairgrounds, but it picks them up after the game, too. The \$3.00 All-day passes are available at the Gamecock Express dedicated stops or at any of The COMET's pass outlets. All of The COMET's regular fares are honored on the Gamecock Express. Service begins three hours before Kick-off and stops two hours following the end of the game.

## The Soda Cap Connector

The Soda Cap will get you to Five Points, the Vista, Main Street District and Taylor/Harden to eat and connect at some of your favorite spots downtown!

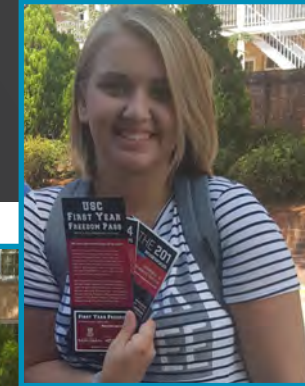
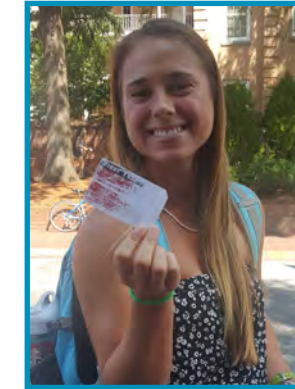
The COMET Soda Cap Connector is a simple system of dedicated routes that connect you to major Columbia destinations, including The SC State Museum, the Vista, Main Street District, the State House, Five Points and HBCUs.

The bus stop signs are shaped like a soda cap and match the buses so getting on the bus is easy for free travel between destinations. The route names appear on bus LED display above the driver, and on the sides of vehicles.



## Richland School District Two Pass Program

The COMET's Pass Program with Richland School District Two allows students, faculty, and staff to ride The COMET for free. This provides them with unlimited access to every route in The COMET service area. Students who do not have their own transportation are able to catch The COMET to the Richland Two Institute of Innovation (R2i2) in order to attend the courses offered there. This partnership also allows them to be mobile outside the school environment as some students have after school activities and jobs. Providing staff and faculty with free passes also encourages them to catch The COMET on the way to work.



## First Year Freedom Passes

First Year Freedom Passes makes it easy for college freshmen or transfer students to get around outside of their campuses. Whether they need to get to an internship, the grocery store, or a night out with friends, they will be connected to their school as well as their community. Participating schools are the University of South Carolina, Columbia College, Allen University, and Benedict College.

## Blythewood Express

The Blythewood Express is an express service that provides a park-and-ride option for the Town of Blythewood to connect residents to the downtown Columbia corridor. There are two morning trips from Blythewood and three evening trips to Blythewood. This service runs Monday - Friday.



### Ribbon Cutting of the New Buses

The COMET updated nearly its entire fleet with the purchase of new diesel and propane buses that use cleaner fuel and are quieter than the previous Blue Bird buses. The heavy duty diesel buses are expected to last 15 years and also come equipped with new technology such as Wi-Fi, cellphone outlets, and cameras. With these new amenities, catching The COMET has become even more convenient, comfortable, and clean!

### Public Hearings

The COMET receives input from the community before major changes are made to any route. The public involvement process allows stakeholders, riders, and community leaders to comment on any proposed plans. The public plays a major role in decisions that are made involving route changes, the installment of bus stops, benches, and shelters and many other factors that affect the rider experience and quality of life.



### The Transit Academy

Community leaders, elected officials, riders and others have all graduated from The COMET Transit Academy. Transit cadets are trained on how to ride the bus, how The COMET's funding works, how to plan their trip, and how to be informative ambassadors to the community for transit. They are an extension of The COMET. They work externally to connect the people they work with and serve to resources in the community without moving their car or using it at all. Two classes graduated in 2017.





Since November 2012, with new funds, Richland County and The City of Columbia are continuing to provide to their citizens modern and cost-efficient transportation needs. In 2017, we added updated fuel-efficient buses to our fleet, increased service and expanded route areas, among other things.

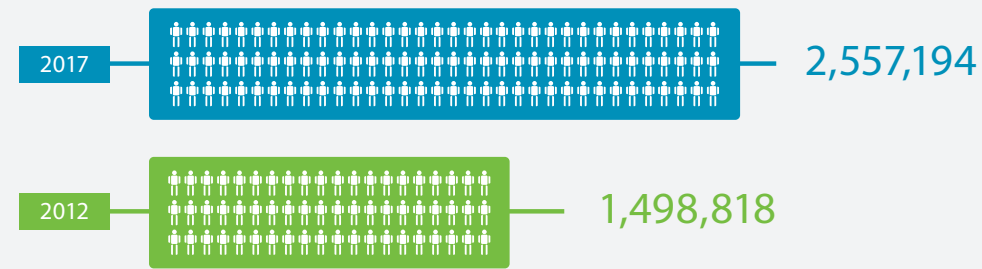
The COMET has been in existence in one way or another since the first streetcars rolled in 1892 — 125 years.

**\$11,024,199**

FUNDS OBTAINED THROUGH FEDERAL MATCH SINCE 2012  
CATCHTHECOMET.ORG

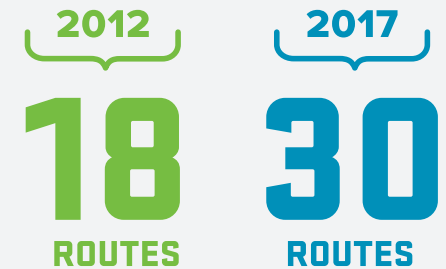
**MORE PEOPLE ON BOARD**

FROM 2012 THROUGH 2017, THE NUMBER OF BOARDINGS HAS INCREASED BY **71%**



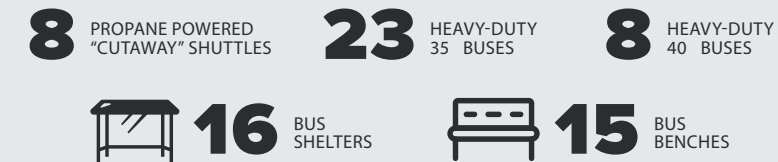
**MORE ROUTES**

SINCE 2012, WE ADDED **12 ROUTES**



**MORE FROM 2017**

**NEW BUSES + MORE**



**NEW TECHNOLOGIES**



**NEW SERVICES**



**MORE HOURS ON THE ROAD**

IN 2012, **61,557** SERVICE HOURS



IN 2017, **+200,000** SERVICE HOURS



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Shop Road Extension Phase 1

Extending Shop Road is one of the Penny Program's most prized projects due to the huge economic impact it will have on Richland County. China Jushi, a leading producer of fiberglass reinforcements and fabrics, has decided to build a production facility in the Pineview Industrial Park, located off the Shop Road Extension.

The 900-acre site on Shop Road will be China Jushi's first U.S. operation. The new production line is designed to supplement the growing composite

material industry in the United States.

The global company will invest an initial \$300 million into the local economy and create 400 new jobs. Future employees at the production facility will get to work by traveling along the Shop Road Extension.

While China Jushi, which is headquartered in Zhejiang, China, is the first tenant for the Pineview Industrial Park, the County is confident more industries will follow.



### PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Richland Penny	\$29,139,510.83
City of Columbia	\$281,890.00
Economic Development	\$3,476,675.25
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$32,898,076.08</b>



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Bluff Road Phase 1

Bluff Road, between Rosewood Drive and George Rogers Boulevard, was widened to five lanes with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The Richland County Transportation Program, SCDOT and the Richland County Transportation Committee funded the \$9 million project.

The State Fair donated roughly 8 feet of property along Rosewood Drive and Bluff Road for the walkway and USC coordinated crosswalk locations with the County to ensure pedestrians can cross the roads safely.

"This is an example of so many different things," Richland County Councilman Jim Manning said. "We



have the wide sidewalks that are separated from the road, the road improvements, the intersection improvements...it's just a model project."

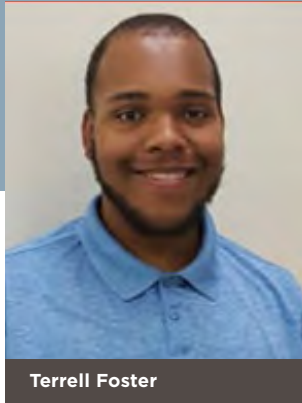
Richland County Councilwoman Dalhi Myers said the Bluff Road widening is one of the biggest Penny Program projects to date.

"We're pretty excited to be moving forward with this project," she said. "We look forward to the rest of the project."



### PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Richland Penny	\$7,487,082.78
SCDOT / COATS	\$1,000,000.00
SCDOT CTC	\$800,000.00
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$9,287,082.78</b>



Terrell Foster

# RICHLAND PENNY INTERNSHIPS

Seven other interns and I spent nine weeks with the Richland County Transportation Penny Program. The experience changed my life — literally. It had such an impact on me that I'm changing my major from business administration to finance and communications.

We were regularly matched up with mentors. I met many influential and successful people and their achievements, knowledge and guidance had a positive influence on me. We were even assigned a real-life project to design from start to finish. We designed a \$6.7 million greenway that will improve the quality of life in Southeast Richland; we sought to reduce traffic in the area by including a component that promotes walking.

I also learned about the history of the program, which helped me understand its importance to Richland County. As I came to understand the many transportation needs, as well as state and federal leaders' failure to provide help, I developed a deep admiration for County voters' decision to increase the sales tax to solve transportation problems in their communities.

I also learned how important public transportation is. When I rode The COMET and saw people board the bus in work uniforms, it dawned on me that employers depend on the bus system to deliver workers on time and that those workers need transportation for work and for the other trips that car owners take for granted.

There's far more to this program than meets the eye.

**Terrell Foster**  
Blythewood  
College of Charleston

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Hard Scrabble Road Widening



The South Carolina Department of Transportation is partnering with the Richland County Transportation Program to widen and improve Hard Scrabble Road between Farrow and Kelly Mill roads.

The \$85 million project includes widening Hard Scrabble Road to five lanes (including a center turn lane), curbs, sidewalks, bicycle lanes and intersection improvements. It also includes widening one bridge and building another.

"There will be obvious positive impacts," said Jim Manning,

Richland County Council member and chairman of the transportation ad hoc committee. "It will lessen congestion, improve safety for pedestrians and bicycles. It will improve the quality of life for the citizens who live, work, visit and shop in this area."

The Hard Scrabble Road widening is expected to be complete in 2020.

### PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Design	\$4,000,000
Right of Way	\$16,125,500
Utilities	\$3,450,000
Construction (including CEI)	\$64,405,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$87,980,500</b>

*Richland County Transportation Program Contribution \$29,860,000*

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## North Main Street Widening

In this North Main Street project, the roadway from Anthony to Fuller avenues will be repaved, and other improvements along the stretch will spruce up the road and make it safer and more accessible for pedestrians. Those improvements include imprinted and textured pavement stamping for designated crosswalks, enhanced landscaping, decorative



traffic signals, street lighting, improved pedestrian routes and crosswalks. Overhead utilities will be relocated underground.

"This is doing exactly what the intent of the penny was supposed to do," said Paul Livingston, Richland County councilman. "We're improving the infrastructure of Richland County and creating opportunities for businesses in our communities."

Richland County Council Chairwoman Joyce Dickerson said what will now be a pleasing corridor is "a gateway to the City of Columbia and the center of this city."

"It will also help improve the quality of life for all of us," she added. "As you see, the Penny (Tax Program) working through this county, it's going to help all of us."

**The North Main Street widening project is expected to be complete in 2020.**

### PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Richland Penny	\$35,400,000.00
Tiger Grant	\$16,656,967.00
Federal Earmark	\$1,310,000.00
City of Columbia	\$5,784,706.45
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$59,151,673.45</b>



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Three Rivers Greenway

A 3-mile path with an 8-foot-wide concrete walking and bicycle trail and boardwalks along the Saluda River will be available to residents and visitors in about a year following completion of Phase 1 of the Three Rivers Greenway Extension.

The walkway – made possible through the Richland County Transportation Program – will go around the rapids and continue past Riverbanks Zoo to the confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers.

Future phases will result in connecting walkways along the river from the Lexington Medical Center area to Gervais Street.

“This is wonderful for our community,” said County Councilman Paul Livingston. “This will be amazing, not just for economic development but for quality of life, for leisure. It’s absolutely wonderful.”

**The Three Rivers Greenway is expected to be completed in 2018.**



## GOING TO DESIGN IN 2018

- CRANE CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
- BULL STREET AND ELMWOOD AVENUE INTERSECTION
- COUNTY ROAD RESURFACING
- COUNTY DIRT ROADS PAVING PROGRAM
- SPEARS CREEK CHURCH ROAD WIDENING
- LOWER RICHLAND BOULEVARD WIDENING
- SHOP ROAD EXTENSION PHASE 2
- SMITH/ROCKY BRANCH GREENWAY
- VARIOUS SIDEWALKS
- VARIOUS BIKEWAYS

## GOING TO CONSTRUCTION IN 2018

- CLEMSON ROAD WIDENING
- FARROW ROAD/PISGAH CHURCH ROAD INTERSECTION
- SOUTHEAST RICHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS (SERV)
- BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
- CANDLEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
- COUNTY DIRT ROADS PAVING PROJECTS
- ALPINE RESURFACING
- COUNTY ROADS RESURFACING
- PERCIVAL ROAD SIDEWALK
- HARRISON/MAGNOLIA/SCHOOL HOUSE SIDEWALKS
- VARIOUS SIDEWALKS
- PEDESTRIAN INTERSECTIONS