



ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

RICHLAND COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA



Investing in Your Future

In the November 2024 general election, Richland County voters decisively chose to drive forward with their previous investment, approving a continuation of the County's 1 percent special sales and use tax to fund transportation infrastructure improvements and public transit in the County. Maximum revenue of the Penny is **\$4.5 billion over 25 years, or until the maximum revenue is received, whichever comes first.**

Some of Your Penny's Positive Impacts to Date:

- 500+ roadways, bikeways & greenways
- Nearly 20,000 new jobs
- \$4.7+ billion in total investment
- 29 new COMET routes



Guiding Penny Principles

To support the voter-approved continuation of the Transportation Penny, County Council has created a transparent, community-driven identification of future needs, with the goal of fairly and accurately prioritizing projects through six guiding principles.

Those Project Principles are:

1

Additional Funding Sources

Availability of matching state or federal funds
(up to 10 points)

2

Overall Impact and Cost Ratio

The number of County residents affected by the project
(up to 20 points)

3

Safety

The effect a project would have on improving public safety
(up to 25 points)

4

Improvement of Overall Condition

The effect of project improvements on blighted conditions
(up to 10 points)

5

Economic Development

The impact a project would have on economic development in the County
(up to 20 points)

6

Public Support

The input of the public and other stakeholders (e.g., municipalities)
(up to 15 points)

Penny Project Categories

The Transportation Penny program is designed to upgrade infrastructure, improve access and safety for pedestrians, create greenways and bikeways, and expand public transit.

Projects are reviewed and assigned to one of three project categories:

Community Investment Projects

(48% of Penny funding or about \$2.16 billion)

- Address integrity, safety, reliability and sustainability
- Impact day-to-day activities of residents and local businesses
- Include resurfacing, intersection improvements, bikeways, sidewalks, etc.

County Advancement Projects

(30% of Penny funding or about \$1.35 billion)

- Target expansion of transportation infrastructure
- Support and sustain economic growth throughout the County
- Can include new construction, roadway/intersection improvements, commuting corridors, etc.

NOTE: To ensure significant projects occur in all County Council districts, each district is guaranteed a minimum of \$20 million for projects in the Community Investment or County Advancement categories.

COMET Enhancement Projects

(22% of Penny funding or about \$990 million)

- Ongoing support for operations and expansion for the next 25 years or until the maximum revenue is received, whichever comes first.
- Operational sustainability, new routes & construction, rider safety & comfort, new buses/modes of transportation, etc.

Accessibility Improvements

When it comes to supporting the one in three South Carolinians who have a disability, the Transportation Penny has helped create:

- Dial-a-Ride (DART) – Curb-to-curb, wheelchair accessible transportation
- COMET bus shelters that follow ADA guidelines
- Sidewalk improvements for better connectivity and personal mobility, especially for people with disabilities who can't, or choose not to, drive
- Intersection upgrades such as clearly defined curbs and ramps, smooth, hazard-free paving and clearly marked crosswalks
- Road area upgrades, such as improved access to the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center from Veterans Road. The North Main Street widening project provided improved intersections, imprinted stamping for crosswalks, street lighting for safety, and upgraded pedestrian routes.

Preparing for Unforeseen Needs

An emerging-needs fund will provide flexibility over the next 25 years.

- County Council will work with the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee (TPAC) to establish a protocol for addressing future projects
- Once emerging needs are established, the Transportation Department assigns and prioritizes each project by score
- The fund will remain nimble as needs and opportunities arise

Penny Management Transparency

The Transportation Penny will:

- Be administered by the County's Transportation Department
- Have continued, transparent oversight by the public, a citizen advisory committee, TPAC, and County Council
- Use data-driven information to prioritize projects

Keeping You Informed

To provide residents with access to the latest Transportation Penny news, we've developed a website specifically for that purpose.

The web address, **RichlandPenny.com**, is where you'll find:

- A brief history of the Transportation Penny in Richland County
- Upcoming, current and completed projects
- The latest on news and community events linked to Penny projects
- A calendar of upcoming committee meetings you can attend
- An online form to request a speaker for your next community meeting
- Educational materials including video, FAQs and downloadable brochures and presentations
- Links to all Transportation Penny social media
- A subscription form to sign up for our Penny Progress newsletter



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