

**WORKSHOP**  
**Infrastructure Sales Tax Extension and**  
**Consideration of the City of Tallahassee's**  
**Water and Sewer Master Plans**  
**April 12, 2011**  
**12:00 p.m.**

The Board of County Commissioners conducted a workshop regarding the Infrastructure Sales Tax Extension and Consideration of the City of Tallahassee's Water and Sewer Master Plans on April 12, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

Present were Chairman John Dailey, Vice-Chairman Akin Akinyemi, and Commissioners Jane Sauls, Kristin Dozier, Nick Maddox, Bill Proctor and Bryan Desloge. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Chairman Dailey called the Workshop to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Facilitator(s):** Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator  
Vincent Long, Deputy County Administrator  
Tony Park, Public Works Director  
Wayne Tedder, Blueprint 2000 Interim Director

The workshop was turned over to Mr. Long who stated that the Board had discussed the extension of the infrastructure sales tax first at the Board's Annual Retreat and subsequently as part of several meetings. He recalled that the "penny sales tax" for Blueprint 2000 was put in place in 2000 with revenue collections beginning in 2004. He advised that the tax is set to expire in 2019 and he stated, for the record, that revenues collected through the penny sales tax funded capital improvement projects throughout the County.

Staff provided a presentation regarding the possible infrastructure sales tax extension and information regarding the consideration of the City of Tallahassee's Water and Sewer Master Plans. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Florida Statutes authorizes the Board to impose up to one-cent sales tax for local government infrastructure needs.
- An Intergovernmental Agency, i.e., Blueprint 2000, was recreated pursuant to an interlocal agreement between the City and County.
- Sales tax revenues are allocated as follows: Blueprint 2000 (80%); County projects (10%) and City projects (10%).
- Interlocal agreement identifies tier one and two projects.
- Majority of first tier projects are either completed or will be completed (funding has been identified).
- Projects Completed:
  - Capital Circle NW (I-10 to US 90)
  - Capital Circle SE (Tram to Connie)
  - Capital Circle SE (Woodville to Tram)
  - Headwaters St. Marks NFWMD

- Projects Under Construction/On-going:
  - Capital Circle SE (Woodville to Crawfordville)
  - Capital Cascade Trail – Segment 2 (Cascades Park)
  - Capital Circle NW/SW (US 90 to Orange)
  - Cascade Trail – Segment 1 (Franklin Blvd)
  - Water Quality Program – City/County
  - Headwaters St. Marks
  - Lafayette Floodplain
  - Lake Jackson Basin/Fred George
  - Mahan Drive
- Projects Currently Under Design:
  - Capital Cascades Connector Bridge
  - Capital Cascades Trail – Segment 3 (Monroe to Gamble)
  - Capital Cascades Trail – Segment 4 (Gamble to Black Swamp)
- Projects currently under design (funds not available)
  - Capital Circle SW (Crawfordville to Orange)
- Projects Identified for Extension
  - Sewer improvements
  - Private dirt roads
  - Major road projects – Bannerman Rd & Tharpe St
  - Maintenance related to existing infrastructure
  - Road resurfacing/Intersection Safety Improvements
  - Fairgrounds redevelopment
  - Economic Development
  - Operation of County parks built through the sales tax revenue

Regarding the Water and Sewer Master Plans, Mr. Rosenzweig provided a brief summary of the Board's previous actions regarding the Master Plans and recommended that the City's 2030 Master Sewer Plan Phase 2 be approved contingent upon the City amending the plan to include the additional areas: NW Leon County (Talquin Water Area), Avondale and Plantation Estates Subdivisions and areas west of the Woodville Special Development Area. Staff also recommended that the City utilize the information and cost estimates contained in the original workshop packet as the basis for the addendum to the plan. It was also suggested that the Board approve the City's Water Master Plan dated April 2010.

Mr. Long noted the critical revenue source that the sales tax provides in addressing significant infrastructure needs of the County. He restated that the sales tax extension expires in 2019; however, sufficient time was needed to develop an inclusive process to identify the long term needs of the community. In addition, he shared that citizen participation was critical to ensure all aspects of the community are addressed and represented. He assured the Board that that staff would bring back more detailed information and recommendations on issues of importance as this issue moves forward.

Mr. Long reviewed staff options and noted the areas where Board direction was being requested. This concluded staff's presentation and Board discussion ensued.

### **Commissioner Discussion and Comment**

Commissioner Proctor proclaimed that Springhill Road should be included on the list of projects as the route provides a "gateway" into the community from the airport. Mr. Long provided that Springhill Road is included as a tier 2 project and would be brought back, along with other tier 2 projects, for the Board's consideration. Upon learning from Mr. Long that the Board is not locked in the current tiers, Commissioner Proctor stated that he viewed Springhill Road as a tier 1 project. In addition he

established that sewer connectivity could be provided to the Woodville area without it being part of the Urban Service Area (USA).

Commissioner Sauls referenced the recent Townhall meeting held in Ft. Braden to address the safety concerns along Highway 20 and requested that Highway 20 be included under Option 4 as a possible project for future funding.

Commissioner Dozier opined that staff's proposed list provided a good start, but she is primarily interested in discussing how the list will be established over the next few years. She discussed the makeup of the citizens committee and wanted to ensure that there is a good cross section of the community, to include experts, to help vet projects. Commissioner Dozier emphasized the need for public engagement during this process, which will help ensure a good understanding of how the sales tax extension will continue to benefit the community.

Commissioner Desloge recommended that the citizen group contain a "hybrid" of individuals who are appointed by the Board, but also include those stakeholders within the community that is agreed should be included on the citizen group. He voiced his support and agreement for the inclusion of economic development on the list of proposed projects for future discussion.

Commissioner Proctor referenced the Bannerman Road widening project and mentioned that it could conflict with the more stringent stormwater environmental restrictions for the area. He expressed concerns about the \$100,698,632 the County has "tied up" on the Capital Circle NW/SW project as residents have entered into a legal challenge against the project. In addition, he viewed it premature to form a citizens committee in 2011 for a tax that will expire in 2019. Commissioner Proctor stated that he was concerned about the amount of stormwater flow from the northside into southside neighborhoods. He requested that the County recommend to the City the closure of the sewer plant on Lake Bradford Road.

Commissioner Akinyemi commended Commissioner Dozier for her foresight in bringing this issue before the Board and thanked staff for its excellent presentation. He sought clarification on staff recommendation of options 3 and 4(h). Mr. Long offered that staff wanted to provide an opportunity for the Board to identify any alternate projects to be considered, and in regard to economic development, he wanted to be sure the Board was aware that this was an allowable use of the proceeds and staff will bring specific projects back for the Board's consideration.

In inquiry from Commissioner Maddox regarding the inclusion of Centerville Trace on the list to receive central sewer, he was assured by staff that approval of the City's Master Sewer Plan would not in any way remove the subdivision from the top three priorities identified by the Board in the water/sewer agreement.

Commissioner Dozier concurred with Commissioner Desloge's suggestion that the citizens committee include a "hybrid" of Board appointments and staff recommended individuals. She wanted to insure that all citizens interested in serving had an opportunity to apply and be considered. She believed the timing of the initiative to be appropriate and reminded the Board that once on the ballot projects, such as sewer, could be bonded. Commissioner Dozier articulated that she had a number of questions on the economic development component and had reservations about funneling monies into a general fund for economic development without more direction. She suggested that the citizens committee should look into each component and bring in experts in these areas.

Commissioner Sauls spoke in support of the Capital Circle NW/SW (US 90 to Orange) project and submitted that the residents of the area, with the exception of one family, want the project to be completed. She asked that the project remain as presented.

Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dozier, to approve Options 1 - 6, with an add-on to schedule a workshop specific to economic development.

- 1) Direct staff to prepare an agenda item establishing a citizens committee appointed by the Board of County Commissioners;
- 2) Direct staff to schedule a future workshop to address the following:
  - a. A proposed overall process and timeline for the sales tax extension initiative;
  - b. A detailed status of the current Blueprint 2000 projects, and
  - c. The process to evaluate and prioritize Countywide needs (to include both City and County projects) for the time horizon of the extension.
- 3) Directed staff, at a future date, to prepare a separate workshop regarding the economic development component of a sales tax extension. This workshop would be separate from the on-going existing economic development efforts the County is currently engaged in.
- 4) Approve the following list of projects to be included as part of any future discussion related to the infrastructure sales tax extension:
  - a. Sewer projects consistent with the City's Master Plan as amended by the Board.
  - b. Private dirt road paving, contingent upon a defined road selection process.
  - c. Bannerman Road widening.
  - d. Tharpe Street widening.
  - e. County facility maintenance.
  - f. County road resurfacing and intersection/safety projects.
  - g. Fairgrounds relocation.
  - h. Economic Development.
  - i. Ongoing maintenance of park projects developed through the sales tax extension.
  - j. Highway 20
  - k. Springhill Road
  - l. All Tier 2 projects from the original infrastructure sales tax list.
5. Approval of the Tallahassee's 2030 Master Sewer Plan Phase 2 dated January 2010 contingent upon the City amending the plan to include the additional areas: NW Leon County (Talquin Water Area), Avondale Subdivision, Plantation Estates Subdivision, and areas west of the Woodville Special Development Area. Staff recommends the City utilize the information and cost estimates contained in the original workshop packet as the basis for the addendum to the plan.
6. Approve the City of Tallahassee's Water Master Plan dated April 2010.

Commissioner Proctor requested that the workshop include the identification of projects which could be bonded or fast tracked and also includes discussion on the hiring of subcontractors on County projects.

Commissioners Sauls and Proctor asserted that current tier 2 projects should be given special consideration, as they have been on the list for the past 15 years. In addition, they requested that the motion be amended to include Highway 20 and Springhill Road as projects under Option 4. The amendment was accepted by Commissioner Desloge.

There was continued Board discussion regarding the projects on tier 2 and how they could be considered in the future. Commissioner Proctor noted specifically that Springhill Road should be elevated to a tier 1 project. Staff reminded the Board that Option 2 included the scheduling of a workshop with a detailed status of all current Blueprint projects.

Commissioner Dozier suggested that the motion include the inclusion of all Tier 2 projects. This was agreed to by Commissioner Desloge, with the understanding that not all tier 2 projects will be approved for funding.

Chairman Dailey restated the motion: Approval of Options 1-6, with option 4 amended to include Highway 20, Springhill Road and all tier 2 projects and the scheduling of a workshop on economic development.

Commissioner Dozier reiterated her comments regarding the make-up of the citizens committee and determined that staff had received clear direction. Mr. Long stated that this issue would be brought back as an agenda item in the near future. Commissioner Proctor requested that geographic representation be considered in the makeup of the committee.

The motion as amended carried 7-0.

There being no further action required, Chairman Dailey adjourned the workshop at 1:39 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Dailey, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court  
Leon County, Florida