What is the Transportation Investment Act (TIA)?

In 2012, voters in three Georgia regions - River Valley (RV), Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA) - approved a 10-year one percent sales tax to fund regional and local transportation improvements. The Southern Georgia (SG) Region passed the legislation in 2018. Prior to the votes, regional roundtables of local elected officials, with significant public input, selected projects for each region’s Approved Investment List. Combined, these list represent 1,022 TIA projects valued at $1.58 billion. TIA tax collections will continue through 2022 for the original three regions, and until 2028 in the SG Region.

What are some key features of TIA?

- Each region may levy a 1% transportation sales tax for up to 10 years
- Individual counties may not opt out
- All revenue raised in a region stays within that region
- TIA funds are not subject to Congressional District Balancing
- Regional roundtables establish project criteria, and ultimately select projects to form a final investment list
- Regions that pass TIA receive a LMIG match reduction to 10% from 30%

(Counties that elect the single county T-SPLOST option offered via the 2015 Transportation Funding Act will not receive this LMIG match reduction and must continue to pay the 30% match).

How is TIA funding divided?

- 75% REGIONAL
- 25% LOCAL

- Of a region’s TIA proceeds is used to fund all projects on the region’s final project list as approved by that region’s roundtable. GDOT is responsible for the delivery of these projects.
- Of a region’s TIA proceeds is divided among all local governments within the region based on the current “LARP Formula.” These discretionary funds may be used for any transportation project, and are selected and delivered solely by local governments.

How can discretionary funds be used?

In accordance to Code 48-8-242(10), discretionary funds can be used on any new or existing transportation projects, such as airports, roads, bridges, mass transit, ports, terminals, bike lanes, pedestrian facilities, etc., including operations and maintenance thereof. Discretionary funds may also be used as a local match for state and/or federal funding.

Who administers and provides oversight for TIA?

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in collaboration with local and state agencies, GDOT is responsible for management of the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of projects on the Approved Investment Lists.

Georgia Department of Revenue (DoR) collects the tax.

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) distributes the funds and transfers the 25% monthly allocations to local governments.

A Citizens Review Panel assesses progress and expenditures in each region, and presents an annual status report to the Georgia General Assembly at the end of each calendar year.