



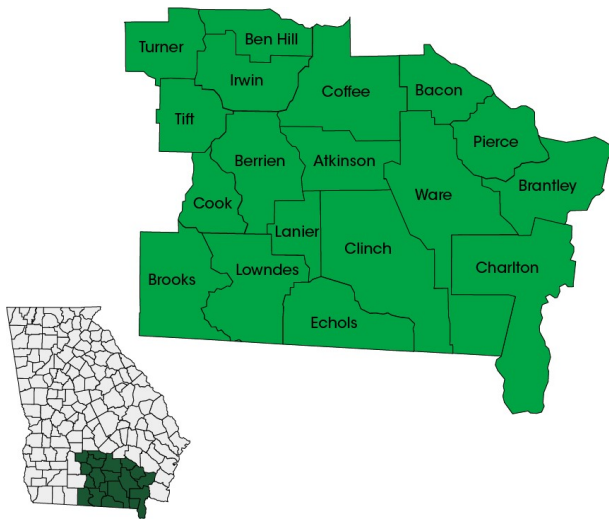
Georgia Department of Transportation

PRESS RELEASE

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Voters approve a second 10-year TIA term for Southern Georgia region, expected to go into effect in 2026



SOUTHERN GEORGIA: 209 TIA 2 PROJECTS BY TYPE

Project Type	Total
Resurfacing	127
Dirt Road to Paved	42
Safety/Operations	11
Sidewalks	10
Widening/Passing Lanes	8
New Roadway	5
Bridge Work	2
Airport Improvements	2
Interchange Improvements	2

VALDOSTA, Georgia — With vote totals in all Southern Georgia region counties now official, the referendum to continue participation in the State of Georgia’s Transportation Investment Act (TIA) has passed with 56.75% of voters approving a second 10-year term.



According to the state code, if more than one-half of the votes cast throughout the entire special district are in favor of levying the tax, then the tax shall be levied. Throughout the 18 counties in Southern Georgia, the measure passed by more than 6,000 votes.

Enacted in 2012, TIA provides a unique process for Georgia’s regions to fund community-selected transportation infrastructure projects through a voter-approved one-cent sales tax. In partnership with the Georgia DOT, participating regions are empowered to advance their economic and community development goals with regionally-oriented funds for necessary construction projects, allowing them to be undertaken more quickly and efficiently.

The Southern Georgia region is currently tackling 151 projects funded through TIA within its first 10-year term. Local officials and TIA administrators estimate the second TIA term, called TIA 2, will start in 2026. At that point, the one-cent sales tax that will specifically fund the locally-selected list of TIA 2 projects will go into effect. There are 209 projects that will be undertaken in the TIA 2 term.

“The one-cent sales tax is structured so that participating regions collect 10 years of sales tax, but this process stops when the original projected revenue amount is collected. Southern Georgia’s current TIA term will be the first time that the forecasted amount will be collected before the 10-year window,” said Kenneth Franks, the Georgia DOT’s state TIA administrator. “When the sales tax for TIA 1 completes its collection, Southern Georgia’s TIA 2 tax collections and projects would start the following calendar quarter, and that is currently projected to happen in 2026.”

Projects on the first TIA investment list ranged from large-scale interstate construction projects like Lowndes County’s improvements to the interchange at Interstate 75 and SR 31, to small neighborhood-level projects like sidewalk and roadway drainage improvements made at multiple locations in the City of Douglas in Coffee County.

“The referendum passed because of the quality of the projects that were selected for the first TIA investment list. Citizens could see the projects in their counties and understand the need for improvement,” said William ‘Bill’ Slaughter, chairman of the Lowndes County Commission and member of the Southern Georgia region’s TIA Citizens Review Panel. “They also understood and appreciated that the one-cent sales tax is the fairest and best way for us to pay for these long-needed projects.”

Of the 209 projects on the TIA 2 investment list, 127 involve roadway resurfacing. Other projects will convert dirt roads to paved, install or repair sidewalks, widen roadways and add passing lanes in some cases, rehabilitate bridges and provide a variety of other improvements. All projects were selected by a committee of officials who represented each of the region’s counties.

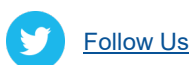
A number of unexpected economic and civic influences arose during Southern Georgia’s first TIA term, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath involving inflation and the labor workforce. Despite these challenges, the partnership of the region’s local leadership and the Georgia DOT’s TIA administrators ensured that project delivery and program transparency remained priorities.

“Flexibility became important and we opted to slow some projects, speed up others, facilitate reviews for cities’ and counties’ locally delivered projects, and adapted plans when needed,” added Kenneth Franks. “We learned a lot from our successful experiences and are committed to continuing the region’s progress while being open and receptive to local leaders and citizens.”

For more information on TIA-funded projects in the Southern Georgia region, check out: <http://www.ga-tia.com/>.

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***The TIA Program:** Georgia’s Transportation Investment Act (TIA) provides a unique process for regions to fund community-selected transportation infrastructure projects through a voter-approved one-cent sales tax. In partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation, regions are empowered to advance their economic and community development with regionally-oriented funds for construction projects, allowing them to be undertaken more quickly and efficiently. In 2012, voters in three regions - River Valley, Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), and Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA) - approved their participation and in 2018 the Southern Georgia Region joined them. In 2020, CSRA approved a second decade of involvement - called TIA 2 - and in 2022, River Valley and HOGA voters also approved an additional term. TIA’s first term (TIA 1) includes 1,022 total projects with an original approved total budget of \$1.9 billion. The Southern Georgia region approved participation in TIA 2 in May 2024.*



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