

Election Day is November 5th.

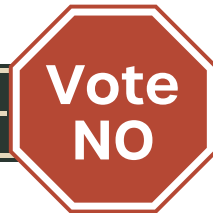
Why is the Mark Clark/I-526 Extension a bad idea?

The **total cost is \$2.3 billion** – nearly half of all the money collected by the proposed sales tax over 25 years. Charleston County is responsible for \$1.9 billion of the project because it is NOT a priority for state and federal funds.

Extending I-526 would **destroy over 38 acres of wetlands, 30 acres of James Island County Park, displace homes and businesses, and open the floodgates to more traffic, more sprawl, and greater gentrification** across rural Johns and Wadmalaw islands.

What will happen if this referendum does not pass?

Nothing, yet. The half-cent sales tax from 2004 will not run out until 2027, at the earliest. The tax from 2016 will last as long as 2041. If this referendum fails, there will be an opportunity to vote for another one in 2026, with a better project list. In the meantime, Charleston County can follow through with projects they already committed to complete.



LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED



Scan the QR code to learn more.

This year, when you cast your ballot for president make sure you read to the bottom to have your say in what happens next in Charleston County.

Spread the word on why residents should **vote NO** on the 2024 sales tax referendum in November.



The November 2024 sales tax referendum would cost you.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

On November 5th, Charleston County will ask residents to vote to approve **ANOTHER 25-year transportation sales tax.**

The existing transportation sales tax will not expire until 2027. If this new sales tax is approved, Charleston County will have the highest allowable sales tax rate in South Carolina, on par with places like Atlanta and Los Angeles.

34% of the entire tax would be dedicated to funding the outdated, overpriced, and destructive Mark Clark / I-526 Extension, **draining funding from other more pressing priorities across Charleston County.**

NOW IS NOT THE TIME

Charleston County residents are already dealing with:



High inflation

Food prices in the United States rose 25% from 2019 – 2023. (USDA)



Loss of nature

Charleston has lost over 10,000 acres of tree cover since 1992.



Increasing housing costs

1 in 3 households in Charleston County are cost-burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs. (Charleston County's "Housing Our Future" plan)



Existing taxes

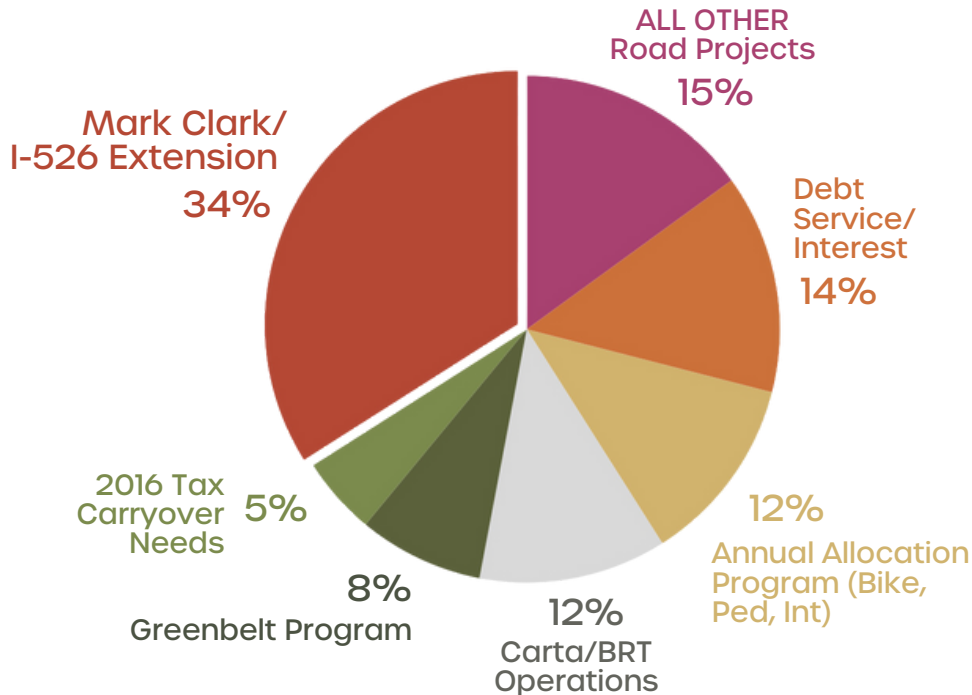
Charleston County has an existing 1/2 percent transportation sales tax that residents will be paying until 2041. Little progress has been made on the transportation projects from that list.

BREAKING DOWN THE 2024 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX

We have bigger priorities in Charleston County than just 9 miles of road.

There are plenty of other projects needed in Charleston County. Funding for CARTA and greenbelt would be reduced from current allocation.

Think of all the infrastructure improvements we could fund with **\$2.3 billion**.



COMPARING THE COST OF I-526

The projects below are each a *fraction* of the cost of the I-526 Extension (\$2.3 billion) and would provide much greater benefits to the community.

Construction of Lucy Beckham High School

\$103 million
4% of Mark Clark

Highway 41 Improvements

\$148 million
6.4% of Mark Clark

Lowcountry Rapid Transit

\$625 million
27% of Mark Clark

What's the tradeoff?

Results from Charleston County's sales tax survey revealed the I-526 Extension is one of the least popular projects for residents, ranking 21 out of 22 potential projects. Yet, **it would be the only priority project**, draining funding away from more widely supported projects. **This sales tax would REDUCE the funds allocated to greenbelt, bike/pedestrian, and public transportation compared to the 2016 sales tax.**