

# ST Transportation in the Region

A Publication of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission  
Volume IV Issue 1- October 2011

## Exit 18 Ramp Improvements

Recently the City of Valdosta and the Georgia Department of Transportation collaborated to ease congestion on the southbound ramps on I-75's Exit 18 (St. Augustine Road). The joint effort resulted in new traffic signals and new dual left turn lanes, allowing for less cars to queue onto the ramp and mainline of I-75. More photos are available on our Facebook page at Valdosta-Lowndes MPO.



## Community Planning Month

The City of Valdosta is hosting several events for National Community Planning Month, an opportunity for the citizens to engage the local planning staff. Some of the upcoming events include:

10/13 - Peter Kageyama "For the Love of Cities"

10/20 - Traffic Management Center Tour

10/25 - Five Points Development Lunch & Learn

10/31 - Transportation Sales Tax Lunch & Learn

For more details and other events visit [www.valdostacity.com](http://www.valdostacity.com).

## Proposed Transportation Sales Tax Project List Approved

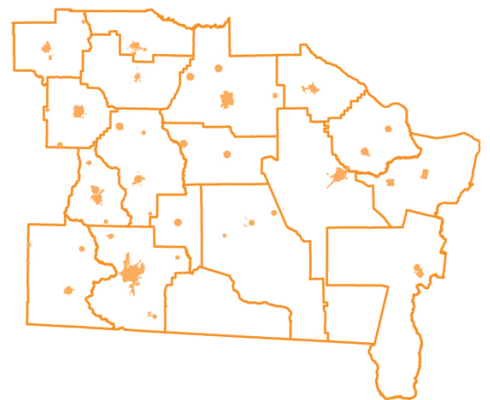
On October 10, the Southern Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable approved a project list of over \$495 million that will be funded by a proposed 1% sales tax. The proposed sales tax will be presented to voters in July 2012.

In 2010, then Governor Sonny Perdue signed into law the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. This law among other things created the proposed 1% sales tax and project list approved by the newly created Regional Transportation Roundtable. The RTR consists of the county chair and a mayoral representative from each county. The 35 members of the Southern Georgia RTR first met in December 2010 to develop criteria for selection of projects.

The local governments and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) proposed projects to be include on an unconstrained list that would be refined first by the GDOT Director of Planning, then by the Executive Committee of the RTR. In June 2011 the Executive Committee began the process of constraining a list of more than \$2.1 billion down to just \$500 million that would be funded by the tax. After several meetings and negotiations, a draft constrained list was presented at a series of public meetings that were held in September 2011.

At the final RTR meeting on October 10, the Roundtable discussed and reviewed the projects, ultimately deciding on a listing of 58 projects, including at least one project in every county. Some of the popular projects included on the list that will be presented to voters include:

- Jerry Jones widening in Valdosta
- US 84 widening in Clinch and Ware Counties
- SR 133 widening in Brooks County
- SR 32 widening in Coffee County
- St. Augustine Road Overpass in Valdosta
- Five Points Intersection Improvements in Valdosta



The proposed 1% sales tax will create two sources of revenue for local communities: the 75% 'regional pot' includes the \$495 million project list mentioned above, the 25% 'local discretionary pot' provides each community local transportation funding distributed by formula, based on population and road centerline miles.

More information on the project list is available on our website at [www.sgrc.us/transportation](http://www.sgrc.us/transportation). If you would like someone to speak to your community, church, or other local group about this proposed sales tax please contact Corey Hull at 229-333-5277 or at [chull@sgrc.us](mailto:chull@sgrc.us).

## *Southern Georgia Transit Day*

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Transit Association are once again hosting a Transit Day for Southern Georgia. This is an opportunity for citizens and local elected officials to talk with one another about how important public and coordinated transportation is in their lives and communities.

This year the event will be hosted in Waycross on Wednesday, October 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the SGRC office (1725 S. Ga. Parkway W.) The day will feature a brief introduction from state elected leaders, local rider testimonials and the opportunity for a discussion about transit in Southern Georgia. Refreshments and giveaways will be available for all of those in attendance.

This is your opportunity to speak to legislators about public transit in your community. If you have any questions contact Janice McKinnon at [jrmckinnon@sgrc.us](mailto:jrmckinnon@sgrc.us).

### *Welcome*

This newsletter is a tool to provide information to transportation stakeholders and the public about upcoming transportation improvements throughout Southern Georgia. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area.

#### **MPO Policy Committee**

Keith Golden, GDOT Commissioner (Interim)  
Larry Hanson, City of Valdosta  
John Leonard, SGRC  
Ashley Paulk, Lowndes County  
Joe Pritchard, Lowndes County  
Dr. Walter Sandlin, City of Lake Park  
Joseph 'Sonny' Vickers, City of Valdosta

#### **MPO Staff**

Corey Hull, MPO Coordinator  
Janice McKinnon, Planner

## Do you use Social Media?



Valdosta-Lowndes MPO



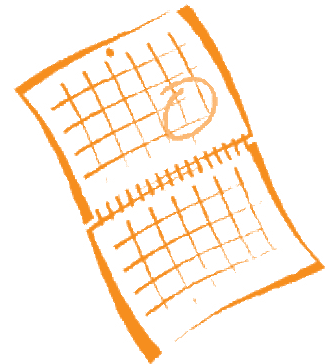
@VLMPO

#### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Citizen's Advisory Committee  
11/29/11 3:00 PM  
3/6/12 3:00 PM

Technical Committee  
12/13/11 10:30 AM  
3/13/12 10:30 AM

Policy Committee  
12/13/11 1:30 PM  
3/13/12 1:30 PM



Meetings are typically held quarterly in March, June, September and December. All meetings are open to the public and held at the SGRC office unless otherwise indicated.

Visit our website at: [www.sgrc.us/transportation](http://www.sgrc.us/transportation) and click on Public Participation for more Information.



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