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County SPLOST Road Improvements Total \$ 3 Million

Thomasville, Georgia, 27 December 2011 --- The Thomas County Board of Commissioners approved \$1,000,000 of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) dollars for the **third time this year**. The funds will be used to resurface and widen county roads. The SPLOST was approved to begin in January 2007 and runs until December 2012.

Up until now sales tax dollars have been used to fund the construction of the new Judicial Center on Madison Street, upgrade the county-wide 800 Megahertz radio system and rehab of the historic Courthouse. Even though sales tax revenues declined about 10% over the past three years enough funds are on hand to complete the rehab of the historic Courthouse and continue county road resurfacing.

At current asphalt prices, it costs the County about \$100,000 to resurface one mile of road and about \$50,000 per mile to widen a road. The County maintains 433 miles of paved roads. According to Public Works Director **Tony Wooten** about 65% or 281 miles are in need resurfacing now, at a total estimated cost of \$22,480,000.

Completed resurfacing projects at an approximate cost of \$ 1.8 million are as follows:

1. Dillon Road (phase I)
2. McMillian Road
3. Stage Road
4. Egg & Butter Road
5. Lee White Road
6. Ozell Road
7. North Maddox Road
8. Grooverville Road

Pending projects previously approved are as follows:

1. Resurfacing Salem Road
2. Widening Summerhill Road (from US 84 to Cedar Hill Road)
3. Widening Stewart Road (from US 84 to Maddox Road)

Newly approved resurfacing projects are as follows:

1. Dillon Road (phase II)
2. Ozell Road (phase II)
3. Old Cassidy Road
4. Oak Hill

Private contractors will do the widening projects following a competitive bid process.

Chairman **Elaine Mays** states, "Without the sales tax for road improvements either we would have to raise property taxes or sit back and watch our road system fall apart". The current sales tax is expected to generate about \$5 million more for additional road resurfacing projects before it runs out at the end of 2012.

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