

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## County Sales Tax Dollars Fund Road Improvements

**Thomasville, Georgia, 27 September 2011** --- The Thomas County Board of Commissioners approved \$1,000,000 of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) dollars for the **second time this year**. The funds will be used to resurface four county roads and widen two 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 begin the 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 begin county road resurfacing.

At current asphalt prices, it costs the County about \$80,000 to resurface one mile of road and about \$43,000 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 need to be resurfaced now at a total estimated cost of \$22,480,000.

The approved resurfacing projects at an estimated cost of \$800,000 are as follows:

1. North Maddox Road (from Dollar Store Road to Grady County Line)
2. Lee White Road (from GA 3 to Grady County Line)
3. Ozell Road (from SR 33 to Brooks County Line)
4. Grooverville Road

County Public Works crews will do the resurfacing work which will begin in 30 days.

The approved widening projects at an estimated cost of \$200,000 are as follows:

1. Summerhill Road (from US 84 to Cedar Hill Road)
2. Stewart Road (from US 84 to Maddox Road)

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 crumble 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.

For more information on the county's road improvement program please contact **Tony Wooten** at 229-226-4389 or [tcpwtony@rose.net](mailto:tcpwtony@rose.net).

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