



## **BRYAN COUNTY PASSES T-SPLOST, MEASURE EXPECTED TO BRING IN \$20 MILLION**

**RICHMOND HILL, GA – May 22, 2018** – Bryan County residents' vote to implement a 1 percent increase in sales tax to fund road-improvement projects means a five-year increase will go into effect July 1. The county – along with the cities of Richmond Hill and Pembroke – will receive several million dollars in additional tax revenue, thanks to the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. With about 99 percent of precincts reporting in at 10 p.m. Tuesday, the measure passed 2,179 to 1,175.

The county's portion of TSPLOST totals \$10.5 million and will be spent on intersection improvements, resurfacing and road improvements; pedestrian, bicycle and trail projects; and capital equipment.

"This is very exciting to have this much support," Bryan County Commission Chairman Carter Infinger said. "I think it's a great testimonial that the citizens of Bryan County are ready to move forward, they're embracing and initiating positive change, and they're ready to enjoy good, quality roads and better accessibility."

The Georgia Legislature now allows counties to individually seek such transportation funding. A regional TSPLOST proposal in 2012 lost, with Bryan being one of only two counties (out of 10) in Coastal Georgia to approve the measure. The newly passed T-SPLOST will bring in about \$20 million over five years.

The Georgia Department of Transportation gives cities and counties a certain amount of money for road improvement projects through a grant. However, local government has to match 30 percent of that money. Additionally, if the money isn't spent within three years, it has to be returned to the state. TSPLOST will give the county and its cities enough money to match the 30 percent.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Bryan County was the 27<sup>th</sup>-fastest-growing county in the nation from 2010 to 2015. The population here in 1980 was 7,000. It is now approaching 40,000 and expected to reach 60,000 by 2030.

For more information about Bryan County or to see a full list of projects T-SPLOST will fund, please visit [www.bryancountyga.org](http://www.bryancountyga.org).

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