

## **TP 1: Why the Sales tax**

The Great Recession has left our county with \$100s of millions of deferred new construction and maintenance projects, new road construction and repaving, new sidewalks, and water quality improvements.

We simply do not have the funds with existing revenue sources to make up for these overdue projects.

Additionally, gas taxes (which have been a source of infrastructure funding) have been steadily declining with increased fuel efficiency standards in vehicles.

Hurricane Irma added an additional \$10-14 million dollars

## **TP 2: Every dollars stays**

Sale tax expires after 10 years

Funds are exclusively allocated for these capital projects.

They cannot be spent on personnel or operating programs.

It's estimated that visitors to St. Lucie County will pay 15-20% of the sales tax generated. Also, a sales tax is fair in that all users of these important infrastructure improvements pay their fair share.

All revenue stay in the county and cities

Several counties in the region are already at a 7-cent sales tax, including Indian River, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach, so this brings us in line with our neighboring counties.

### **TP 3: 4 layers of protection**

First, **Florida law** explicitly governs the type of expenditures

The **ordinance the BOCC adopted** to place the sales tax on the ballot clearly lays out the types of projects

Our **local elected officials must approve all expenditures.**

Finally, a **local citizens' advisory committee**