



# City of Fort Pierce Meeting

Jan. 12, 2026

## ½ Sales Tax History and Update

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St. Lucie County Communications Director  
Erick Gill



- In 2016, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners asked voters to approve a ½ Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax to address the backlog of deferred maintenance projects. The initiative only received 48 percent of the votes.



## BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS, AND CLEANER RIVERS.

VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO DECIDE ON  
A HALF-CENT SALES TAX ON NOVEMBER 6.

The half-cent increase would help improve roads, build more sidewalks and support water quality projects in unincorporated St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Village. The increase will expire in 10 years.

**EVERY DOLLAR STAYS HERE**  
About \$18.6 million will be raised annually and every dollar will be used for projects in St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Village.

**VISITORS WILL CONTRIBUTE  
15 to 20%**  
That means everyone who uses our roads, sidewalks and rivers will help pay for them, *not just* residents and property owners. If these improvements were paid through property taxes, only local property owners would carry the burden.

**IT WON'T APPLY TO ALL PURCHASES**  
The half-cent sales tax will not apply to purchases of gas, groceries, or medicine. For automobile or boat purchases, the tax would only be applied to the first \$5,000 of the purchase.

**FOUR LAYERS OF PROTECTION**  
There are 4 layers of protection to ensure the money is spent as approved:

- Local citizen oversight committee.
- Florida law ensures the money can only be used for project areas listed on the ballot.
- Local ordinances will clearly define where the money will go.
- Locally elected officials, not state and federal, will be making these decisions.



[www.pshalfcent.com](http://www.pshalfcent.com)

- In 2018, the St. Lucie County worked with the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie to ask voters again to consider the ½ Cent Sales Tax with a focus on “Better Roads, More Sidewalks and Cleaner Rivers.” This time it was approved by 56 percent of the voters.



Every Dollar Stays Here

Visitors Will Contribute 15 to 20%

It Doesn't Apply to All Purchases

Four Layers of Protection

- Local Citizen Oversight Committee
- Florida law ensures the money can only be used for projects
- Local Ordinances define where money will go
- Local elected officials approve the projects

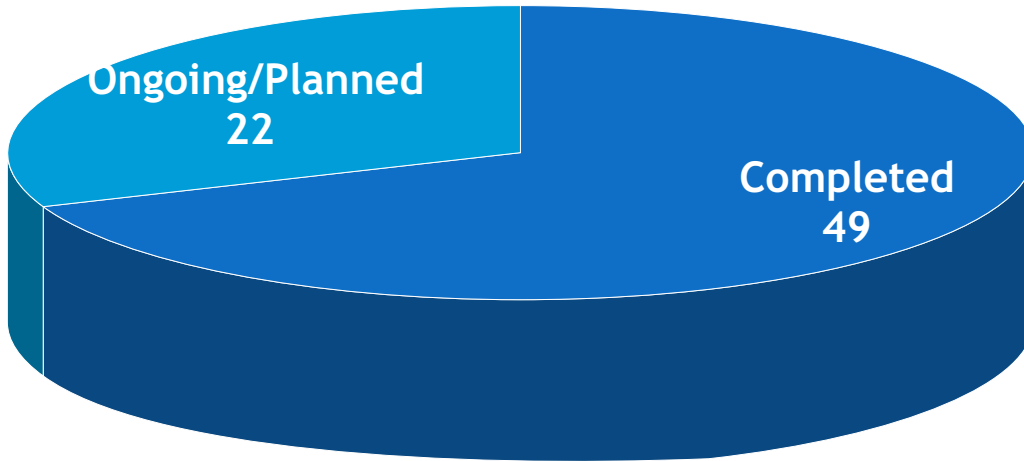




Sales Tax Projects



**\$47,317,450 Invested++**



- Completed
- Planned/Ongoing

Project Name	Comments
Prima Vista Boulevard (Airosa Boulevard to US 1)	Completed
Atlantic Beach Boulevard (Shorewinds Drive to Southern Terminus)	Completed
Avenue Q (Angle Road to North 25th Street)	Completed
Bimini Drive (Flotilla Terrace to Western Terminus)	Completed
Bermuda Beach Drive (Flotilla Terrace to Western Terminus)	Completed
Carlton Road over SFWMD C-24	Completed
Carlton Road Emergency Culvert Replacement	Completed
Dar Road (Lookout Boulevard) (Dar Lane to Vikings Lookout Gate)	Completed
Easy Street (US 1 to Eastern Terminus)	Completed
SE Festivo Court (Selva Court to Calmosa Drive)	Completed
Flotilla Terrace (Shorewinds Drive to Northern Terminus)	Completed
Glades Cut Off Road (Carlton Road to I-95 Overpass) Limits Extended	Completed
Glades Cut Off Road over SFWMD C-24	Completed
Glenview Avenue (South 7th Street to US 1)	Completed
Gordy Road (S. R. 70 to Southern Terminus)	Completed
Header Canal Road (S.R. 70 to Orange Avenue)	Completed
Johnston Road (Angle Road North to Chip Seal Section)	Completed
Kanner Drive (South 7th Street to Oleander Avenue)	Completed
Marina Drive (North A1A to Western Terminus)	Completed
Midway Road with Guardrail (Glades Cut Off Road to S.R. 70)	Completed
Midway Road (Selvitz Road to Torino Parkway) Not on original list	Completed

North Boulevard (Emerson Avenue to Eastwood Drive)	Completed
Orange Avenue with Guardrail (Graves Road to County Line)	Completed
San Diego Avenue (North 41st Street to North 53rd Street)	Completed
East Seminole Road (North Boulevard to Miramar Avenue)	Completed
West Seminole Road (North Boulevard to Hibiscus Road)	Completed
Melville Road - Phase 1	Completed
Harmony Heights - Phase 1 North	Completed
Paradise Park - Phase 4 (Final)	Completed
San Lucie Plaza - Phase 28	Completed
Gordy Road Bridge over Ten Mile Creek (944010)	Completed
Bell Avenue Sidewalk (Oleander Avenue to 25th Street)	Completed
Indian River Drive Restriping (South County Line to Citrus Avenue)	Completed
Edwards Road (US1 to Oleander Avenue)	Completed
Midway Road at NSLRWCD C-22	Completed
Midway Road at NSLRWCD C-92	Completed
Midway Road at Shinn Road (Culvert B)	Completed
Russo Road at FPFWCD C-6	Completed
Selvitz Road at NSLRWCD C-102	Completed
Oleander Avenue Sidewalk (Midway Road to South Market Avenue)	Completed
Carlton Road (S.R. 70 to South to Chip Seal Section)	Completed
Range Line Road (Glades Cut Off Road to County Line)	Completed



## Why can't the City/County use the money already raised?

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Most funds are specific purpose; Sheriff, Other Constitutionals, Mosquito Control, Building Department, Tourism.

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Amount of money over which the Board has discretion is just a portion of the budget.

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Roads, bridges and culverts funded out of gas tax revenues have been declining or stagnant as costs continue to rise.

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Funding roads, bridges, culverts out of General Fund would result in service reductions elsewhere.



## Benefits of a Sales Tax vs. Property Tax?

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Share the burden.

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Visitors will contribute 15 to 20%.

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Everyone who uses our roads, sidewalks and rivers will help pay, not just businesses and property owners.

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Ad valorem (property) taxes are 100 percent paid by property owners.

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**How much is  
the tax and for  
how long?**

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1/2 Cent for 10 Years

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Palm Beach, Indian River, Martin  
Brevard & Okeechobee at 7.0

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Applies to only first \$5,000 of  
sales cars, boats

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Cost average family about \$50  
per year

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# How Much Money Does the Sales Tax Generate?

## Annually

BOCC -	\$15.4 million
Port St. Lucie -	\$13.6 million
Fort Pierce -	\$2.8 million
St. Lucie Village -	\$36,000
▶ Total	\$31.8 million



# How Much Money Does the Sales Tax Generate?

## 10-year timeframe

BOCC -	\$179.3 million
Port St. Lucie -	\$158 million
Fort Pierce -	\$32.6 million
St. Lucie Village -	\$400,000
▶ Total	\$370.3 million



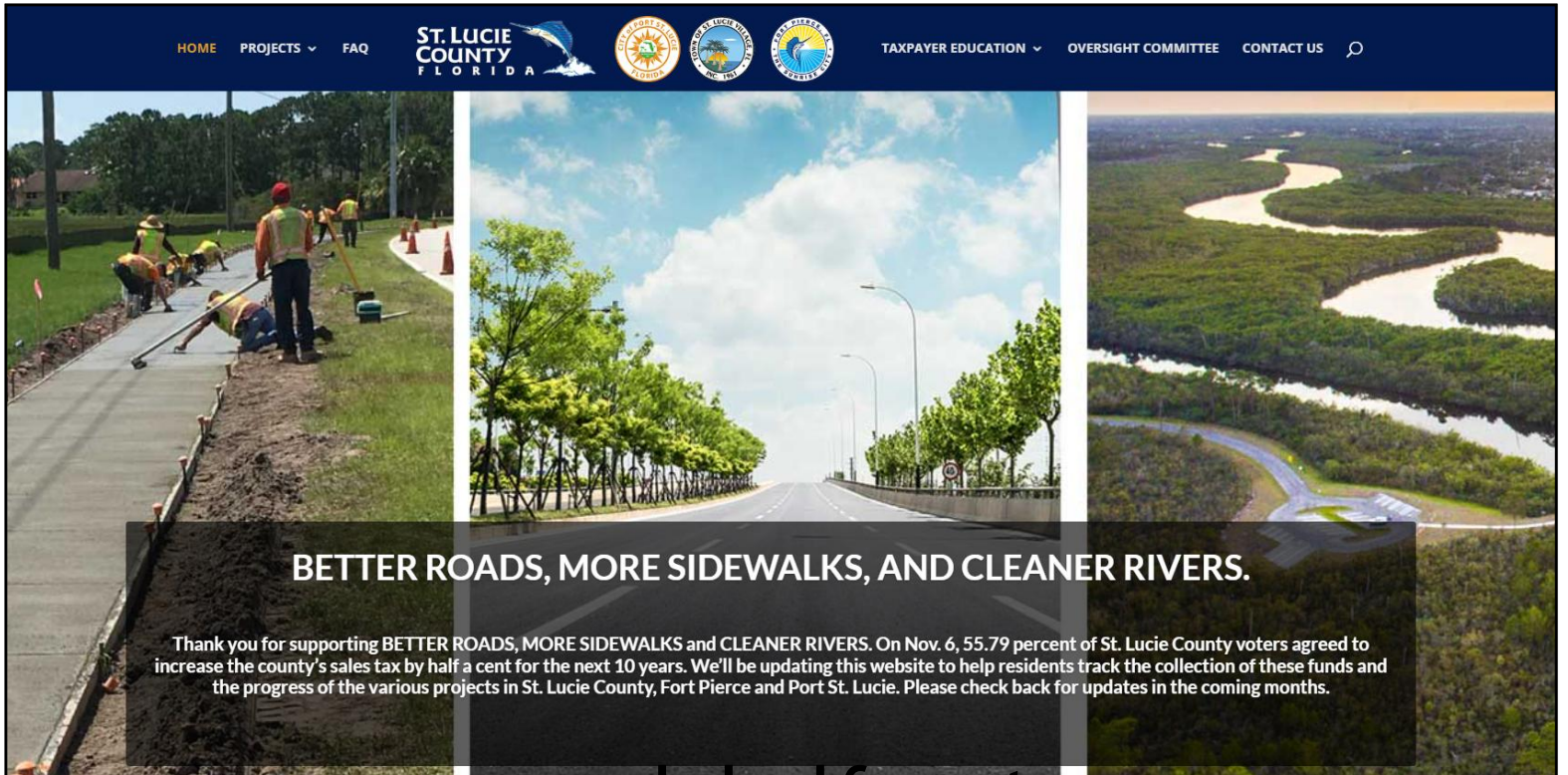
## Next Steps

- Municipalities updating project lists for the next 10 years
- St. Lucie BOCC vote to add a 10-year extension to the Nov. 2026 ballot
- Municipalities conduct educational/information meetings with civic groups and HOAs in the summer/fall.



**BETTER ROADS,  
MORE SIDEWALKS,  
AND CLEANER RIVERS.**

# Questions?



**BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS, AND CLEANER RIVERS.**

Thank you for supporting BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS and CLEANER RIVERS. On Nov. 6, 55.79 percent of St. Lucie County voters agreed to increase the county's sales tax by half a cent for the next 10 years. We'll be updating this website to help residents track the collection of these funds and the progress of the various projects in St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie. Please check back for updates in the coming months.

[www.slchalfcent.org](http://www.slchalfcent.org)