the SPLOST News

progress on the commitment

When Chatham County's citizens voted to support the 2003-2008 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Referendum (SPLOST), they approved $276 million to fund a wide range of capital projects, from local drainage improvements to neighborhood revitalization efforts.

SPLOST is a forward-thinking investment in the future that allows us to have a wonderful quality of life and enjoy incredible growth in the coastal area. However, SPLOST is also, in many ways, a promise to the community. It is a promise to improve infrastructure for all our citizens. A promise to fund projects that might otherwise be out of reach for city and county governments. A promise to improve the quality of life right here in Chatham County.

The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to join forces with the Savannah Morning News, the City of Savannah and Chatham County to provide a current and accurate accounting of how SPLOST money is being spent throughout the area. This special section of the Savannah Morning News reflects our intention to provide local citizens with "Progress on the commitment."

Up-to-date reporting on the status of current SPLOST projects, an overview of this critical sales tax initiative and features about some of the referendum's most successful projects are just some of the highlights of this special section. We invite you to learn more about this important source of revenue for Chatham County residents and to see the ways in which local officials are making good on their promise.

The City of Savannah, Chatham County, Tybee Island, Pooler, Thunderbolt, Vernonberg, Port Wentworth, Garden City and Bloomingdale have been instrumental in providing information to make this special report on SPLOST possible. Special thanks goes out to all the government offices which collaborated with the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce to track the progress on more than 100 local projects that have been funded with SPLOST dollars.

Above all, however, we thank you, the citizens of Chatham County, for your long-term support of the SPLOST referendum. Please read on to learn more about how this one-cent sales tax has made a tremendous impact on economic development and the quality of life right here in our own community.

Sincerely,

William W. Hubbard
President and CEO
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

what is it?

SPLOST stands for "Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax." This one-cent sales tax, which is paid on most goods, is part of the six percent sales tax that the public currently pays on items purchased in Chatham County.

SPLOST carries more restrictions on its use than the Local Option Sales tax. For example, SPLOST funds can only be used for particular kinds of projects which must be approved in advance before the tax revenue is disbursed.

Additionally, SPLOST must be renewed once every five years by a voter referendum in order to remain in effect. The last SPLOST referendum was passed in March of 2003 to cover a five year-period from 2003 to 2008.

The residents of Chatham County have voted for SPLOST by an overwhelming majority in five different elections. From 1985, the first year that the referendum went into effect locally, through 1993, all SPLOST funding went towards building, widening or re-paving roads. In 1993, SPLOST money was allocated for other projects including drainage improvements, the construction of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center on Hutchinson Island and a range of recreational and cultural projects. Since its inception, approximately 71 percent of SPLOST funds have been used for local roads projects, from Islands Expressway to the Truman Parkway.

Convention Center

"Our houses are being protected with a reduced risk of flooding, our commutes are being made easier with vital traffic improvements, and our kids are playing in enhanced parks and recreation facilities," said Savannah city manager Michael Brown. "All of this is possible due to the commitments that have been made through SPLOST."

WHAT CAN SPLOST FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Georgia's General Assembly passed a law that allows local governments, statewide, to implement a SPLOST program, with a number of restrictions on the use of funds. SPLOST can only be used for the following:

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Pooler Parkway

Martin Luthr King, Jr. Boulevard

page 3

SPLOST funds build, widen and improve roads and higways throughout Chatham County.

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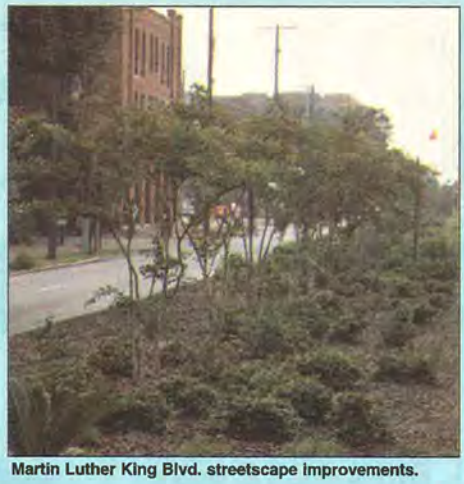
The revitalization of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard corridor is a major project funded by SPLOST.

A SPLOST success story. Revitalization, Martin Luther King, Jr. corridor improvements.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridor is widely considered to be one of the most important streets in downtown Savannah due to its historic, cultural and economic significance. The location of the Central of Georgia Railroad connections and the Union Train Station made this street, which was formerly known as West Broad Street, a vital link to the ports and the greater community. As a result of the Urban Renewal Administration actions of the 1950s and 1960s, however, many of these connections, neighborhoods and businesses were lost. As a result, the street entered a long period of decline which lasted well into the 1990s.



Martin Luther King Blvd. streetscape improvements.

In 2000 and 2001, the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority and City completed a streetscape improvement plan for the 52 block MLK Corridor. In 2003, the project was awarded $3.3 million in SPLOST funds to continue implementation and to support the development of a plan for Montgomery Street. SPLOST revenue provided the opportunity to complete a number of critical infrastructure improvements to lighting, sidewalks, landscaping and medians along the MLK Corridor.

The SPLOST contribution toward the revitalization of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street has sparked a renaissance of private investment along the corridor. The Savannah Development and Renewal Authority reports that, since the first streetscape improvements began in 2000, more than $176 million of private investment has occurred along the MLK and Montgomery Corridors.

"A net gain of 111 new businesses have opened and 411 net new jobs have been created," said Lise R. Sundrla, executive director of the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority. "A comprehensive land-use strategy is also being developed for the Corridor Urban Redevelopment Area which includes plans for infill development of the more than 82 vacant lots, design strategies for new infill and rehabs, and zoning strategies and funding tools to maximize the ability for the existing and potential property and business owners to improve their properties and businesses."

Did you know?

- Of Georgia's 159 counties, only Chatham County has the distinction of implementing SPLOST when it first became authorized (1985) and continuing it every year thereafter.
- SPLOST funds have enabled more public improvements during a 20-year period than the sum total of public improvements (excluding ports and schools) during the past century.
- To generate the sales tax revenues from ad valorem taxes during a comparable 20-year period would cost the owner of a $100,000 home more than $12,000 in added property taxes.
- Under the law, the one percent increase in the sales tax can be used for a specific period/dollar amount for certain capital projects (i.e. roads, courthouses, recreation and libraries) and other projects by interlocal agreement, such as drainage and civic and community-based improvements.
- SPLOST is a popular revenue source. Voters have approved it in every election (1985, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2003).

From 1985 to 2003, raod and drainage projects benefited from 73 percent of SPLOST funding.

- From 1985 to 2003, road and drainage projects benefited from 73 percent of SPLOST funding. The 2003-2006 SPLOST uses approximately 41 percent of funds for road and drainage projects.
- The current SPLOST tax will expire on September 30, 2008. Voters can elect to continue SPLOST collections and funding for an additional five-year period by voting in a county-wide election.

For more information about SPLOST, please visit www.chathamcounty.org/splost.asp online or visit www.savannahga.gov and click on SPLOST update.

SPLOST funds can be used for many different projects. Chatham County and the municipalities of Chatham County work together to develop a master project list that allocates funds based on factors including community-wide need, economic benefits, cultural benefits and potential effect on future operating budget. The Pooler Parkway (above), Garden City police cars, the renovation of the Historic Lucas Theatre and the Tybee Island Bike path (left) were all funded by SPLOST funds.

The value of SPLOST

The City of Savannah has used nearly $100 million in SPLOST revenue to fund major drainage improvements, adding state-of-the-art pump stations which have a combined pumping capacity of nearly 2.5 million gallons per minute.

The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) has enabled Chatham County as a community of about 240,000 citizens to invest some $1.5 billion in capital improvements. This valuable economic engine has not only provided a popular way to fund necessary capital improvements in roads, drainage, recreation, economic development and civic projects but also helped to fuel the local economy in jobs and construction.

"I don't know of another community the size of Chatham County that has benefited more than we have from SPLOST," said assistant county manager Patrick Monahan. "To have $1.5 billion to spend on capital projects is unparalleled anywhere in the United States. Even cities like Atlanta haven't raised as much SPLOST money as we have because the local voters have supported all of the SPLOST votes since 1985."

Unlike property taxes, which are paid almost exclusively by local residents, SPLOST enables residents to share the tax burden with tourists who visit Chatham County. The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce estimates that visitors from outside of Chatham County pay approximately 38 percent of the total sales tax.

"That is very important because the tax burden doesn't fall only on the backs of the citizens," said Bill Hubbard, president and CEO of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. "The value of SPLOST is that it is the most efficient and the most effective way to raise money for capital projects. If you were to have done a significant number of these projects without sales tax funds, almost assuredly it would have forced a rise in property taxes."

Chris Morrill, the City of Savannah's assistant city manager explained that SPLOST has helped to reduce the millage rate, bringing property taxes down for local homeowners. The millage rate was increased to fund much-needed drainage improvement projects throughout Savannah, he said, but SPLOST helped to alleviate that financial pressure.

"Once we were able to use SPLOST money for drainage projects, we were able to reduce our property tax rate by 25 percent," he said. "In fact, SPLOST allowed us to address drainage problems more quickly at less cost to taxpayers."

He estimated that the city's reduction in millage rates translates into an annual savings of $200 in property taxes on a $100,000 home. SPLOST has also helped fund a number of quality of life improvements, like improving lighting, parking and sporting amenities at Daffin Park. Minick Youth Complex renovations, public safety improvements and the construction of a new Cultural Arts Center are just some of the local projects which have been funded by the one-cent sales tax.

"In the past 15 years, so many things that have been done in Chatham County could not have been done without SPLOST," said Chatham County Manager Russ Abolt.

While Chatham County has used 73 percent of the funds for roads and drainage, voters have approved use of the revenue for many other economic development projects and quality of life issues including:

- Funding of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center provides a recurring economic impact by boosting visitor spending and creating more than 1,000 service-related jobs. The Trade Center also became the economic engine for the development of Hutchinson Island, a mixed-use 600-acre development which added more than $800 million in new real estate value.
- Funding of the Olympic Legacy Program provides recreational projects, including an Olympic-sized competitive Aquatic Center, Olympic Track, Soccer Complex and Weightlifting Center.
- Funding of various historic and cultural projects provides a catalyst for matching private funding for the completion of such noteworthy renovation projects such as the Lucas Theatre, Owens-Thomas House, Dr. Mark Ralph Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, King-Tisdell Cottage and Telfair's Jepson Center for the Arts.
- Funding of various municipal projects also helps improve local communities through use of the sale tax law's intergovernmental provisions. Chatham County distributed funds to Savannah and other municipalities for specific city proj-

see, **Value, page 5**

"Nowhere does the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation remain stronger than with the sharing of SPLOST proceeds. This non-property tax revenue source has benefitted the community's quality of life by providing funding for major road, drainage and recreational projects and also the smaller capital projects that touch the lives of citizens within each municipality."
– Pete Liakakis

A SPLOST success stoty, Roads, building critical local highways.

Since its inception in 1985, the bulk of SPLOST revenue has gone to developing, widening and improving roads throughout Chatham County. Some of the area's most notable new roads - including the Pooler Parkway, Truman Parkway, Chatham Parkway and Jimmy Deloach Parkway - have been developed with SPLOST funding.

Pooler Parkway

These new highways which connect to I-95, I-16 and beyond have spurred substantive economic development by providing the necessary infrastructure for the Georgia Ports Authority and for major distribution centers like Home Depot, which was attracted to Chatham County due, in large part, to its impressive road system.

"We have major interstates, railway systems and - thanks, in large part, to SPLOST - a great network of roads that tie everything together," said Rick Winger, president and CEO of the Savannah Economic Development Authority. "The logistics of taking containers at the port and moving them on to warehouses and their final destination is enhanced by a good road system."

Chatham County's CUTS Master Plan details the present and future transportation needs of the county, identifying areas which need road improvements to relieve traffic congestion or to promote economic development. The SPLOST referendum has helped to make the CUTS Master Plan a reality, said Al Bungard, director of engineering for Chatham County. "Roads have been a major SPLOST success story," said Bungard. "We've built more roads in the past 20 years than we had in the last 50 years. If we had waited on state and federal government funding, we wouldn't be a tenth as far along as we are now."

"SPLOST is an excellent alternative to raising property taxes. It truly helps relieve the property tax burden on our citizens and enables us to complete projects we wouldn't be able to do otherwise."

Mayor Otis S. Johnson, City of Savannah

What

continued from the cover

- Capital roads, streets, sidewalk projects
- Capital library, arena/convention, solid waste projects
- Capital outlay operated jointly or in whole by municipalities
- Capital recreation, historical or cultural projects
- Retirement of general obligation debt

By Georgia law, SPLOST funds cannot be used for ongoing operating expenses like salaries or maintenance projects.

Who decides which projects are funded?

Chatham County and the municipalities of Chatham County - including the City of Savannah, Tybee Island, Thunderbolt, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Vernonberg, Garden City and Bloomingdale - collaborate together in an attempt to develop a master project list that allocates funds based on factors including community-wide need, economic benefits, cultural benefits and potential effect on future operating budget.

Ultimately, the Chatham County Commission must pass a final list in conjunction with the City of Savannah. Funds are collected and disbursed by Chatham County.

Conclusion

By any measure, SPLOST has had a tremendous, overwhelmingly positive impact on the citizens in Chatham County. Since its inception, this one-cent sales tax has contributed critical infrastructure, kick-started economic development and improved the quality of life for residents throughout the county.

The current SPLOST tax is set to expire on July 1, 2008. Ultimately, it will be up to the citizens of Chatham County to renew the referendum and to continue to benefit from all that SPLOST has to offer.

SPLOST funds can be used for a large variety of projects ranging from capital road and arena projects like the Pooler Parkway / Hwy. 80 Interchange (above left) and Savannah International Trade and Convention Center (above right), to recreational projects like the Tybee Island Bike Route (below left) and Optimist's Field, a 1000 seat soccer/football stadium at Daffin Park (below right).

A SPLOST success stoty. Economic development, the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center

The Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, a 365,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility located on Hutchinson Island, attracts conferences, meetings and conventions from across the country and around the world. This gleaming waterfront complex - which features 100,000 sq. ft. of divisible exhibit space, 13 meeting rooms, four executive board rooms, a 25,000 sq. ft. Grand Ballroom, and a high-tech auditorium - has helped to spur private development on Hutchinson Island.

The Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, a 365,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility

The Trade and Convention Center attracts conferences, meetings and conventions from across the country and around the world.

This remarkable facility was built with $85.5 million in SPLOST dollars. However, the economic development that has resulted from this project is even more remarkable. Since it opened its doors in 2000, the Trade and Convention Center has generated more than 326,000 room nights, resulting in more than $74 million in direct economic impact.

"SPLOST was absolutely critical to the success of the Convention Center," said Bob Coffey, general manager of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. "It enabled us to open up completely debt-free, which is extremely unusual for this type of facility."

Even more importantly, the Trade and Convention Center attracts conventions to Savannah, which serve as a valuable ongoing economic development tool for the city. "The Convention Center really is a community asset," said Coffey. "When people come to town for a convention, they spend money on hotels, dining, shopping and attractions."

However, the economic impact doesn't just stop there. Chatham County Manager Russ Abolt estimates that $2 billion in private development on Hutchinson Island has been a directly result of the Trade and Convention Center. "Development on Hutchinson Island would never have happened without SPLOST," said Abolt. "You wouldn't have the Trade Center, the Westin, the planned residential communities or the Legends of Golf Tour."

2003-2008 SPLOST local municipalities update

Port Wentworth

Project:
New wastewater treatment plant
Total funding approved: $2,497,291
Funding recieved to date: 25 percent
Status:
Wastewater treatment plant in design phase.

Bloomingdale

In Bloomingdale SPLOST funds paid for improvements to City Hall.

Projects:
Completion of public safety building, improvements to City Hall, recreation projects, upgrade to local wastewater treatment plant and local street improvements.
Total funding approved: $2,914,306
Funding recieved to date: 30 percent
Status: All projects in planning and engineering stages.

Garden City

Projects:
New police cars, city-wide beautification, water treatment plant improvements, fire station improvements, fire rescue equipment, park improvements, public works equipment and drainage improvements.
Total funding approved: $4,046,818

New Garden City police cars were funded by SPLOST.

Funding recieved to date: 30 percent
Status:
Police cars and public works equipment purchased, fire station improvements completed. All other projects in progress.

Pooler

Projects:
Drainage improvements, new sidewalks, new recreation park, new traffic light installation
Total funding approved: $4,046,818
Funding recieved to date: 30 percent
Status:
Drainage projects between 10 and 100 percent complete, sidewalks awaiting DOT approval, park in design phase, traffic light installation complete.

Thunderbolt

Projects:
Drainage improvements, construction of new public works facility, local road purposes, new police vehicles and settling of general obligation debt
Total funding approved: $2,730,257
Funding recieved to date:

see **Local,** page 13

"Without SPLOST, Savannah and Chatham County would still be dormant. It allowed us to put the necessary infrastructure in place to further the growth of this community."
– Floyd Adams, former Mayor of Savannah and publisher of the Savannah Herald.

SPLOST funds paid for Thunderbolt drainage improvements, local roads, public works and other projects.

A SPLOST success story. A significant reduction in flooding throughout the City of Savannah

In October of 1994, two separate storms spilled 12 inches of rainfall in 24 hours and nine inches of rainfall in 12 hours, overwhelming the region's drainage capacity and resulting in widespread flooding throughout the City of Savannah and Chatham County. This catastrophic incident underscored the urgent need to improve drainage throughout the area, which has historically been a challenge to the low elevation, dramatic tides and extensive network of rivers and creeks that define the coastal region.

Although the 1993-1998 SPLOST earmarked $10 million for drainage projects, that total was boosted to $146 million for the 1998-2003 SPLOST. As a result of this increased funding, Chatham County completed 17 SPLOST-funded drainage projects between 1993 and 1998, widening canals, making improvements to culverts and ensuring that areas with localized flooding would be better protected against heavy rainfall.
"We have had much fewer incidents of flooding since the SPLOST funding began," said Al Bungard, director of engineering for Chatham County. "There hasn't been any structural flooding in unincorporated Chatham County since these projects have been completed."

Since 1993, the City of Savannah has used nearly $100 million in SPLOST revenue to fund major drainage improvements, adding state-of-the-art pump stations which have a combined pumping capacity of nearly 2.5 million gallons per minute.

Since 1993, the City of Savannah has used nearly $100 million in SPLOST revenue to fund major drainage improvements

"Feedback from residents in flood-prone areas indicates that the improvements are working," said Billy Jones, director of the City of Savannah's Facilities Maintenance Bureau. "Thanks to SPLOST, we have been able to significantly reduce flooding throughout the City of Savannah.

Value,
from page 3

vides a reliable source of revenue which can help attract funding from state and federal sources, as well as private development.

For example, Battlefield Park - a historic Revolutionary War site which is currently being preserved, as well as a historic rail yard that is also being restored - promises to be one of Savannah's most exciting new tourist attractions. The project, which is part of the Coastal Heritage Society, was kick-started with $8 million in SPLOST funds, but the society was ultimately able to secure $1.3 million in federal and private dollars as well as $6 million in state bonds due to the fact that the project was already in progress and that the community displayed a commitment to the project.

"There is no question that SPLOST gives the local community a development fund that can be used to leverage other funds," said Scott Smith, executive director of the Coastal Heritage Society. "We can work on projects that would otherwise be out of reach for the community."

Likewise, $6.3 million in SPLOST funding has been dedicated to renovating Ellis Square, but that commitment on the part of local government has helped to attract an additional $50 million in private investment. "The bottom line is that SPLOST give us funds to invest in infrastructure which, in turn, spurs economic development," said Morrill. "Otherwise, the City of Savannah just wouldn't have the funding for many of these projects."

Interest on this one-cent tax can be used to help fund projects that run over budget or to cover shortfalls due to fluctuations in the economy. The SPLOST totals that are budgeted at the beginning of the five-year period are contingent upon revenue received. A sluggish economy or rising gas prices can reduce the expenditures at cash registers across Chatham County. Chatham County's SPLOST funds are independently audited annual by an external auditor who review expenditures and evaluates the status of various projects.

"Most of the money received goes out very quickly," said Abolt. "The goal is to get the money out as quickly as possible so that it will benefit the citizens of Chatham County."

Status of projects from prior SPLOSTS in Chatham County

The Truman Parkway is a major road project funded by SPLOST in Chatham County.

Bridge construction on Highway 17 between the Ogeechee River and Hwy. 204 in southwest Chatham county

Plans are underway to widen Whitfield Avenue .

The widening of Diamond Causeway is an upcoming SPLOST project.

Road projects

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) funding , which is allocated among Georgia's Congressional districts, balanced against priorities within the Chatham Urban Transportation Study (CUTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), largely determine the schedule for road projects. The CUTS Policy Committee approved a new TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan on June 22, 2005. Most projects are delayed due to reductions in federal funds. Key milestone events are summarized below.

Truman Parkway – Phase 4

Ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 22.

Truman Parkway – Phase 5

Right of way plans were approved on June 30, 2005. The acquisition process has started and will take until approximately December 2006 to complete (26 parcels acquired by early acquisition; 65 parcels to acquire). Design is underway.

US 17, Ogeechee River to SR 204

Under construction. GDOT resolved the design issues and the contractor resumed work in May on the south end of the project. Traffic southbound from near Canebrake Road has been shifted to the new roadway for reconstruction of the old bridge. A new contract completion date has not been established. GDOT is working on the change order for the outfall ditch work and has to assess how much additional time will be allowed for this.

Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening

Under construction. Power lines, telephones and water/sewer facilities are being relocated along the three mile length of the project.

Stephenson Avenue

Substantially complete as of April 1, 2005. GDOT, in company with the County, City of Savannah and the contractor performed the final inspection on June 14, 2005. A final punch list (129 items) was compiled by GDOT with input from the County and the City of Savannah. This was given to APAC on June 21, 2005. Some punch list items remain to be corrected. Staff is reviewing claims by APAC for additional costs and a time extension.

Whitfield Avenue Widening

U.S. Federal Highway Administration approved the Environmental Assessment document on February 13, 2004, which authorized the County to proceed with preliminary design (completed in June 2004). Chatham County was advised in January 2005 that the widening of the median for landscaping and the proposed reduction in speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. The wider raised median causes at least four additional residential displacements and increases the GDOT's right of way acquisition costs. Revised Concept Report was submitted to GDOT on July 6, 2005.

Diamond Causeway Widening

The Draft Environmental Assessment document was approved by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration in February 25, 2005, for advancement to public hearing. A Public Information Open House was held August 12. GDOT is relooking design criteria (width of median and design speed of high span bridge) in the Draft Environmental Assessment document. Also, County has offered to do improvements on Skidaway Island by County Contract. Guidance and decision by the GDOT is pending.

Jimmy DeLoach Parkway – Phase 2 (I-16 to US 80)

Another revised Final Enivronmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was forwarded to the GDOT on September 15, 2004. The GDOT forwarded the Environmental Assessment document to U.S. Federal Highway Administration on December 14, 2004, for approval. On March 1, 2005, the FHWA issued six additional comments requiring changes and an update of the Conceptual Stage Study. The revised Conceptual Stage Study was delivered to the GDOT on May 12, 2005. An updated Relocation Study was submitted on July 12, 2005. Resubmission of the Environmental Assessment document to FHWA by the GDOT is pending.

Skidaway Widening

The Final Environmental Assessment document was approved by U.S. Federal Highway Administration on December 30, 2004. The County's consultant submitted a proposal (over $750,000), which the County Engineer's Office will evaluate for an amendment to the engineering services contract or a new contract to incorporate all new GDOT requirements known to date to complete the design. In accordance with the Local Government Project Agreement, the County is responsible for acquiring the necessary right of way. The GDOT has agreed to fund, award and manage the construction project. Due to reductions in state and federal highway funds, Chatham County is looking at the feasibility of requesting that GDOT break this project into several construction contracts.

White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road

A Public Information Open

See, Carryover, page 7

"The Savannah area is one of the very few areas of the United States in which our infrastructure and our quality of life for most citizens is better today than it was for the previous generation. Without SPLOST, there would be no Truman Parkway, no Jimmy Deloach and Pooler Parkways, no Trade Center and far worse drainage problems in our community. Who could possibly argue with that success?"

– W. Brooks Stillwell, Partner Hunter Maclean

"SPLOST shows that our community doesn't just support funding for infrastructure like drainage and roads – it supports cultural and humanitarian infrastructure as well. SPLOST helps to create jobs and create facilities that will be important for decades, or even centuries, to come."

– Scott Smith, Executive Director Coastal Heritage Society

"SPLOST has funded the creation of new roads and infrastructure throughout Chatham County. We are so fortunate to be a growing community with an infrastructure that is ahead of the curve and ready for growth, thanks to SPLOST funding."
– Rick Winger, President and CEO Savannah Economic Development and Renewal Authority

Carryover, from page 6

House was held on August 12, 2004. Approximately 200 attended. GDOT is still reviewing letters to respondents of the public meeting. The "Need and Purpose" is being revised to create a 3-lane section from Willow Road to Cedar Grove (near entrance to Country Day School) and improve the two lanes (i.e. widen pavement to 12 feet wide travel lanes) from Cedar Grove to Rose Dhu Road. The project will include either sidewalks on both sides or a multi-purpose trail on one side.

Eisenhower Widening from Abercorn to Truman Parkway

The Concept Report was approved by GDOT on June 22, 2004, but was not received by the County until November 15, 2004. Because of the high estimated right of way costs (over $22 million — local cost), City of Savannah staff has been asked to look again at the need and purpose and the proposed width of the raised median. Also, the $22 million does not include costs to relocate utilities and other infrastructure.

Abercorn Widening from Largo Drive to Rio Road

The Concept Report was revised to reflect the changed terminus from Deerfield Road to Largo Drive and sent to GDOT on June 28, 2004. This project is affected by other projects currently under design (intersection improvements at Largo, and Truman Parkway, Phase 5).

Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. The Concept Report was approved by the GDOT on February 9, 2005. The Draft Enivronmental Assessment document was sent to the GDOT for review on May 20, 2005. The GDOT has requested additional information regarding the Savannah Housing Authority's plans for Fellwood Homes.

Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement

LPA Group (consultant) is under contract with County to develop the Concept Report. A Public Information Open House was held on May 26, 2005, presenting three alternatives to construct high span bridges. Approximately 75 attended. The consultant has prepared responses to the comments received. They are being reviewed by GDOT for approval.

US 80/SR26—Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive

GDOT is preparing the Environmental Assessment document. The GDOT schedule shows a public hearing in 2005 and award of a construction contract in 2007.

US80/SR 26—Bull River to Lazaretto Creek. GDOT is working on the Environmental Assessment document. The GDOT hosted a Public Information Open House on August 25, 2005, at the Tybee Island City Hall.

"One third to 40 percent of sales tax dollars come from visitors, which makes SPLOST an excellent return on investment for Chatham County residents. It's definitely the most efficient way to build roads and infrastructure."
– Brian Foster, President and CEO First Chatham Bank

Local Roads Projects

Fountain Road

Final plans and ROW plats have been submitted for right-of-way acquisition, which is underway. Due to the new alignment of the road, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that wetlands are impacted. Permit received July 12, 2005. GDOT executed the County Contract and has given notice to proceed. Chatham County expected the solicitations for bids for a construction contract to be out by the end of August, however, right-of-way negotiations required some plan changes which delayed this process. It is now expected to have the right-of-way issues completed within the nest few weeks after which the project will be advertised for bid.

Bond Avenue, Heather Street, Betran Avenue, Shore Road, Mobley Street, Yucca Place, Perkins Place, Stone Street

Final plans were provided

See, Carryover, page 12

The proposed widening of Eisenhower Dr. from Abercorn to Truman Parkway is being reconsidered by City of Savannah due to the high estimated right of way costs (over $22 million).

Right of way acquisition and design plans for the final stage of the Truman Parkway are underway.

SPLOST (2004-2008) Update - CITY OF SAVANNAH

Now that the SPLOST has been renewed we will keep you informed of each projects status from this area. In some cases the City will pay for projects up front and use later SPLOST funds for re-imbursement.

2nd Quarter update - 2005

Project	Type	Description	Funding	% Completed	Comments
Placentia	Drainage		$1,150,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Brick Line Replacement	Drainage		$1,000,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Casey South	Drainage	Continuing drainage improvements in Mid-town Savannah	$30,800,000	5%	Meeting with neighborhood to ensure project is as unobtrusive as possible
Springfield Basin - Phase II	Drainage		$1,000,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Harmon/Chippewa	Drainage		$1,600,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Wilshire-North Branch Improvements	Drainage		$7,800,000	5%	Project is currently out for bid
Bilbo - Alice & Tattnall	Drainage		$7,800,000	10%	In Planning and Design
Street Reconstruction Program	Streets	Projects will take place mainly downtown and mid-town	$3,000,000	20%	Reconstruction program is currently on schedule
Gwinnett St. Improvements	Streets	Straightens out severely curved portions of Gwinnett in westside	$2,220,000	5%	In Planning and Design
MLK Corridor Improvements	Streets	Includes lighting, sidewalks, and plantings along corridor from 52nd st. to Oglethorpe	$3,400,000	5%	Awaiting final council approval for next phase of streetscape
Sidewalk Installation	Streets		$1,000,000	5%	In Planning and Design
LaRoche/Delesseps Ave. Widening	Streets	Widens street for expected traffic increases	$4,000,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Minick Youth Complex	Recreation		$750,000	5%	In Planning and Design
Cultural Arts Center	Recreation	New center to feature a theatre, studio space, and offices	$3,000,000	10%	Site is being negotiated. Planning and design currently taking place
Regional Recreational Facility Improvements	Recreation	Includes bacon park tennis and ball fields	$1,180,000	95%	Bacon Park athletic fields are complete
Land Assemblage	Recreation		$3,000,000	40%	In negotiations for needed properties
Battlefield Park	Economic Dev.	Stabilization of the site and planning of new facilities including railroad museum and children's component	$8,000,000	20%	Environmental abatement is complete. Stabalization of structures is now taking place.
Ellis Square Revitalization	Economic Dev.		$6,301,471	15%	Agreement has been reached with private developer to restore the square and provide adequate parking underground
East Wing of Moses Jackson	Other	Developed as a child care center with classrooms	$839,424	10%	Design has been completed and bid documents are being created for construction
Ben Van Clark - Infrastructure & Park	Other	Includes streets, curbs, drainage, and lighting	$2,000,000	98%	Nearly all infrastructure is complete. Neighborhood park is complete. Drainage mitiagtion is still to be completed
Neighborhood Redevelopment	Other	Wide range of projects to help spur neighborhood re-development including sidewalks, lighting, playgrounds, and parks	$6,500,000	15%	Allocation for funds has been determined and planning/design/land purchasing is currently taking place.
Total			**$96,340,895**		

SPLOST (2004-2008) Update - CHATHAM COUNTY
2003-2008 Part I

Project	Type	Description	Funding	% Completed	Comments
Truman Parkway, Phase 5	Roads/Bridges		$833,032	0%	Phase 5 funding not needed until prior SPLOST $ spent
Benton Blvd. Extension	Roads/Bridges	J. DeLoach Parkway to SR 30	$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Interchange US 80 and J. DeLoach Parkway	Roads/Bridges		$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Dean Forest Rd Exten.	Roads/Bridges	US 17 to Veterans Pkwy.	$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Widen Dean Forest Rd.	Roads/Bridges	from I-16 to US 17	$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Traffic Safety	Roads/Bridges	Bull St to MLK Jr Blvd along Victory Dr	$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Islands Expressway	Roads/Bridges	Causton Bluff High Level Bridge	$2,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
Other CUTS Roads	Roads/Bridges	$4M 2008+	$2,000,000	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
City of Savannah Roads	Roads/Bridges		$13,620,000	30%	Funds distributed for road and street projects
Other Municipalilty Roads	Roads/Bridges		$0	n/a	Funds included with municipal funding category
Unincorporated Chatham County Roads	Roads/Bridges		$14,000,000	5%	Unincorp. road funding underway with six projects, others in planning
Administrative Expenditures - Roads	Roads/Bridges		$150,000	%0	Direct expenses for project management: roads
Reserve for Roads	Roads/Bridges	Undesignated funding	$5,016,960	0%	Restricted to approved road projects
Pipemakers Canal	Drainage	Phase 2	$15,000,000	5%	Pre-construction phase: planning, engineering, permits
General Drainage	Drainage		$500,000	20%	Funds for county public works equipment
Storm Drainage	Drainage		$300,000	0%	Funding not scheduled for distribution until 2006-2009
Administrative Expenditures - Drainage	Drainage		$150,000	0%	Direct expenses for project management: drainage
Unincorporated Chatham County Drainage	Drainage		$9,850,000	5%	Funding to continued unincorporated projects--several in design
City of Savannah Drainage	Drainage		$51,150,000	30%	Funds distributed for Savannah projects
Other Municipalilty Drainage	Drainage		$0	n/a	Funds included with municipal funding category
Pipemakers Canal	Drainage	$2M 2008+	$2,000,000	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Various Drainage Improvements	Drainage	$1M 2008+*	$1,000,000	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Retired bond debt	Debt Retirement	Henderson Golf & Mighty 8th AF	$16,000,000	100%	Complete
Greenspace: Bloomingdale	Greenspace		$53,540	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Garden City	Greenspace		$33,659	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Pooler	Greenspace		$33,659	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Port Wentworth	Greenspace		$20,078	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Thunderbolt	Greenspace		$14,172	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Tybee Island	Greenspace		$15,354	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation
Greenspace: Vernonburg	Greenspace		$1,200	30%	Purchase of space, bikeways in site evaluation

SPLOST Update - CHATHAM COUNTY
2003-2008 Part II

Project	Type	Description	Funding	% Completed	Comments
Greenspace: Unincorporated Areas	Greenspace		$2,322,122	0%	Funding not scheduled for distribution until 2006-2009
Greenspace: Savannah--w/ Municipal Project Funding	Greenspace		$0	n/a	Savannah receives greenspace with municipal projects
Greenspace: Municipality Projects	Greenspace	2008+	$1,855,434	0%	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Greenspace: Unincorporated Projects	Greenspace	2008+	$965,769	0%	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Municipal Projects: Bloomingdale	Municipal		$2,700,000	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Garden City	Municipal		$3,779,500	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Pooler	Municipal		$3,779,500	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Port Wentworth	Municipal		$2,254,426	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: City of Savannah	Municipal		$29,901,183	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Thunderbolt	Municipal		$2,600,000	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Tybee Island	Municipal		$6,400,000	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Municipal Projects: Vernonburg	Municipal		$400,000	30%	Funds distributed for municipal projects
Tom Triplett Park	Roads/Bridges	Phase 2	$1,700,000	30%	Continued development of regional park in W. Chatham County
Concord Road Soccer Fields	Recreation		$68,618	90%	Renovate soccer fields:add soil, grass, irrigation, lights in construction
Runaway Point Park	Recreation	Phase 2	$400,000	30%	Pavilion, restrooms, added. Fields in construction
Mother Mathilda Beasley Park	Recreation	Phase 2	$1,900,000	10%	Community center, landscaping, memorial; funding 2006
Boat Ramp Paving	Recreation		$700,000	5%	Asphalt surfacing Spencer, Skidaway, Kings Ferry lots; in design
Charlie Brooks Park	Recreation	Phase 2	$950,000	60%	Renovate ballfields: fields, fencing, lights--in construction
King George Bikeway	Recreation		$250,000	0%	Bikeway, trail; funding in 2006
US 80 Sidewalks	Recreation		$75,000	0%	Bikeway, trail on US 80 on Whitemarsh Island; funding in 2006
US 80 Beautification	Recreation		$75,000	20%	Median landscaping on US 80 from Bull River to Turners; in design
Wild Heron Bikeway	Recreation		$100,000	0%	Bikeway, trail; funding in 2006
Whitemarsh Island Bikeways	Recreation		$450,000	0%	Bikeway, trail on Johnny Mercer/Bryan Woods; funding in 2006
Bikeway/Sidewalk Projects: McCorkle Trail	Recreation		$100,000	0%	Bikeway, trail extension on Cromwell Road; funding in 2006
Library	Other	New SW Branch Library	$16,000,000	10%	Property acquisition in late 2005
Chatham County Courthouse	Other		$12,000,000	20%	Of 23 individual projects, seven complete; design 85% complete
Chatham County Police Merger	Other	Islands police precinct construction	$2,200,000	33%	Contract award in fall 2005

SPLOST (2004-2008) Update - CHATHAM COUNTY
2003-2008 Part III

Project	Type	Description	Funding	% Completed	Comments
County Vehicles	Other	Vehicle replacement program	$4,580,000	32%	Of 141 units, 87 law enforcement
County Courthouse/Tax Assessors Computer System	Other	New building for Chatham County Public Works	$800,000	90%	Replace CAMA assessment software w/ new technology
Public Works Building	Other		$1,000,000	10%	Funding in 2006
CAT	Other		$808,712	0%	Funds distributed for CAT capital projects; funding in 2006
CAT Shelters	Other		$117,631	32%	Funds distributed for CAT shelters--77 new, 24 replacements
Library	Other	2008+	$8,500,000	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Diversion Center, County	Other	2008+	$4,000,000	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
County Misc Unincorporated 2008+	Other		$1,669,711	n/a	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Administrative Expenditures	Other		$0	0%	Direct expenses for project management/DBE Program
Transfer to M&O	Other		$0	0%	Audited chargeback to SPLOST for sales tax administration
Transfer to SSD	Other		$0	0%	Audited chargeback to SPLOST for sales tax administration
Bloomingdale Fire Dept.	Fire Equip.		$100,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Garden City Fire Dept.	Fire Equip.		$200,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Isle of Hope Fire Dept.	Fire Equip.		$100,000	0%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Pooler Fire Dept.	Fire Equip.		$200,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Port Wentworth Fire Dept.	Fire Equip.		$200,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Southside Fire Dept	Fire Equip.		$800,000	0%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Thunderbolt Fire Dept	Fire Equip.		$100,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Tybee Island Fire Dept	Fire Equip.		$100,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Savannah Public Safety	Fire Equip.		$1,300,000	30%	Funds distributed for fire and safety equipment
Civil Rights Museum	Community	Phase 3	$1,328,248	30%	Funds for addition--design complete, w/ construction in fall 2005
Con ED	Community		$490,128	93%	Funds for renovation of property for community center
Telfair Museum	Community	Jepson Arts Center	$490,128	0%	Funding in summer 2005
Fort Jackson	Community		$1,078,283	0%	Funds for preservation, improvements - funding in summer 2005
W Chatham YMCA	Community	Public splash pool	$49,013	0%	Funding in summer 2005
Tatemville Comm. Center	Community	Westside community center	$735,193	0%	Funds for expansion in 2006
King-Tisdell	Community	Exhibit areas	$980,257	0%	Funds in summer 2005
WW Law Center	Community		$980,257	20%	Funds for cataloguing historic records - preservation, inventory started
Yamacraw Arts	Community	Public art at Yamacraw Village	$68,618	0%	Funding summer 2005
Rape Crisis	Community		$98,026	93%	Funds for property acquisition w/matching private $$ - complete
Royce	Community		$1,764,462	0%	Funds for property w/matching private $$ - funding summer 2005
Humane Society	Community	Building expansion w/ dog runs	$144,588	0%	Funding in summer 2005

SPLOST Update - CHATHAM COUNTY 2003-2008 Part IV

Project	Type	Description	Funding	% Completed	Comments
Food Bank	Community		$784,206	0%	Funds for property w/matching private $$- funding in summer 2005
Savannah Symphony	Community		$98,026	0%	Funds held based on Savannah Symphony's bankrupcy
Ash Tree	Community		$245,064	93%	Funds for property acquisition w/matching private $$ - complete
Greenbriar	Community		$1,470,385	0%	Funds for new construction w/ matching $$ - funding late 2005
Hospice	Community		$980,257	0%	Funds for property acquisition w/matching private $$ - summer 2005
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	Community	2008+	$98,026	0%	Funds for property acquisition w/matching private $$ - summer 2005
Telfair	Community		$500,000	0%	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Hospice	Community	2008+	$1,000,000	0%	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
King -Tisdell	Community	2008+	$1,000,000	0%	Funding contingent on sales tax collections
Total			**$276,627,425**		

Notes

1) SPLOST 2003-2008 based on actual collections and expenditures through June 30, 2005. Revenues and expenditure confirmation will be presented to independent audit for verification.

2) Distribution based on actual cash flow, which determines when funding will be available for some projects on a priority basis established by Board of Commissioners

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Carryover,
from page 11

to GDOT on Mobley, Yucca and Perkins Place. They sent the preliminary estimate for the County Contract to GDOT for these three streets on June 29, 2005. GDOT executed the County Contract for Bond, Heather, Betran and Shore, and gave notice to proceed on August 19, 2005. Solicitations for bids for a construction contract will be sent out during September 2005.

Dulany Road, Cramer Street, Palm Drive and Old Pine Barren Road

On May 27, 2005, the Board of Commissioners authorized entering into contract with a consulting firm to survey and design to pave these roads. The kick-off coordination meeting was held on June 23. The schedule calls for a construction contract to be ready for bidding on Old Pine Barren Road in December 2005, on Dulany Road in January 2006, and on Cramer Street and Palm Drive in June 2006.

SPLOST funds will pave Old Pine Barren Road.

Drainage projects

For construction contracts that have been awarded, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. All project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, larger bridges and culverts.

Hardin Canal: Phase 1 (From SR307 to I-16)

Widen channel and replace bridge crossings. Efforts to acquire necessary permits from the USACE are ongoing. Strong objections from various review agencies have not been overcome. As a result, County Engineer's Office is considering withdrawal of the permit application for Phase 1. This will enable the County to apply for a separate permit to cover only the crossings at SR307.

Crossings at SR307. Enlarging the crossings under Dean Forest Road (SR307) will be accomplished as a separate construction project. Design work is in progress.

Permit for Phases 1 & 2 (From SR307 to Pine Barren Road). By combining phases, this should address federal and state regulatory agency objections to the canal widening portions of the project.

Phase 2 (From I-16 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date.

Westlake/Springfield Canal

Phase 1: Crossing and channel improvements from Perimeter Road on Hunter Army Airfield downstream toward the Forest River. Completed January 2002.

Phase 2. Acquire flood-prone properties and convert the acquired land into a storm water retention facility to provide greater protection to remaining properties in

see **Carryover,** page 13

"The fact that SPLOST money comes out of our sales tax means that it comes from everybody, including residents and tourists. It's evenly spread so that it's not a burden on any sector."

– Connie Farmer Ray, President and CEO Coldwell Banker Greater Savannah, Chairman, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

Efforts to acquire the necessary permits the widen channel and replace bridge crossings of the Harden Canal are ongoing.

Carryover

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the area.

Construction drawings and specifications for required drainage improvements are complete. Property acquisition is complete except for one remaining parcel. Road pavement and utility demolition will commence upon resolution of the remaining parcel. The railroad undercrossing Final Design Report has been approved. Construction drawings are under review. Plans have been reviewed by the railroad.

Pipemakers Canal: Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21)

Double channel size, replace bridges, replace tidegate, and provide maintenance access. Approximately 90 percent of the channel widening is complete and the new sluice gates are being manually operated by the Contractor. The date for substantial completion was delayed to September 2005 as a result of weather delays.

Pipemakers Canal: Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95)

"From improvements in drainage to community revitalization, one cent makes our quality of life better."

– Reverend Tillman First African Baptist Church

Double channel size and provide maintenance access. Right of way acquisition is underway. The permit application package for this project has been returned to the consultant for corrections.

Kahn Mitigation Site

The final mitigation package for Phase 2, which includes the Kahn Site, is being designed concurrently with Phase 2 design.

Phase 1a (isolated areas within GPA up to SR21). A project to provide canal improvements that were not included in the Phase 1 Contract. This work was delayed until relocation of the water pipeline can be accomplished by the City.

Bridge Removal and Sheet Pile Wall Modifications. A project to remove the existing bridge (with the tidegates) restricting the flow of drainage from Pipemakers Canal into the Savannah River. Design is underway.

Placentia Canal

Phase 1. Tidegate at Bonaventure Road. Completed February 1999.

Phase 2. Crossing and channel widening from Bonaventure Road to Shell Road in Thunderbolt. Completed October, 2002.

Placentia Beautification Project

Correction of a drainage problem along Tennessee Ave. and to improve the appearance of the canal near the Bonaventure Bridge. Negotiations for the necessary rights of way and easements are pending.

Conaway Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal:

Phase 1: Widen channel with road crossing improvements and a maintenance road. Phase 1 includes channel improvements and crossing upgrades north of Main Street to Pipemakers Canal. Preliminary construction and right of way plans have been returned to the Consultant for corrections. Coordination with GDOT for the crossing at Highway 80 is ongoing. The estimated construction cost exceeds the current available budget. County Engineer's Office is considering options to address this issue. Application for approval of wetland delineation has been submitted to the USACE. Chatham County has approved recommended improvements of additional area requested by City of Bloomingdale. Consultant is working on preliminary construction drawings. Construction of these improvements to be funded by the City of Bloomingdale.

Phase 2 includes improvements to system south of Main Street to Hardin Canal. The plan to improve drainage south of Main Street will require an Intergovernmental Agreement with Bloomingdale.

Little Hurst Canal

Improve undercrossings at SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of SR21. Revised hydraulic analysis and recommendations were completed in 2004. The impacts of proposed land development projects by GPA and a private development in the City of Port Wentworth are being investigated by County Engineer's Office.

see Carryover, page 14

Approximately 90 percent of the channel widening is complete of the Pipemakers Canal is complete.

Carryover SPLOST Projects City of Savannah

Casey South Drainage Project

$30 million

This project has resulted in construction of the Montgomery Crossroads pump station and widening of the Casey Canal, allowing for better and quicker drainage in midtown and some areas in southside. Improvements are ongoing throughout Ardsley Park.

Phase I Wilshire Canal Improvements

$11 million

Drainage improvements along the Wilshire and Holland canals as well as Largo Drive and Tibet Avenue. Project is 90 percent complete.

Daffin Park Improvements

$3.5 million

Construction of a parking area around Grayson Stadium is complete. New lighting is also being installed (completed in half of the park) along with a jogging trail and new 1,000 seat football/soccer stadium.

Band Shell/Forsyth Fort Project

$750,000

Originally a Chatham County project, the band shell was transferred to the City of Savannah several years ago. The City decided to construct a semi-permanent staging area at Forsyth Park, along with renovations of the fort. Construction expected to be completed in 2006.

Grayson Stadium parking improvements.

Local

continued from page 5

25 percent

Status:

New public works facility completed, police vehicles purchased, drainage improvements in engineering or under construction, local roads ongoing, general obligation debt settlement pending.

The Tybee Island Bike Route was built with SPLOST funds

Tybee Island

Projects:

Bike path, playground, Marine Rescue Facility, sewer line and manhole rehab, water line work on Butler Avenue

Total funding approved: $6,532,779

Funding recieved to date: 29 percent

Status:

Playground and bike paths complete, sewer line and manhole rehab 85 percent complete, water line work began in September 2005.

Vernonburg

Projects:

Water and sewer improvements, well remediation project

Total funding approved: $402,541

Funding recieved to date: 20 percent

Status:

Water and sewer projects in engineering and design stage, well remediation project 40 percent complete.

Carryover,
from page 13

Wilmington Park Canal

Phase 1. (Construction of tide gate) Completed September 2002.

Phase 2 widens channel and improves culvert crossings under Wilmington Island Road. Received permit from USACE on July 5, 2002. Project is under design, incorporating changes to reduce cost while still attaining storm water goals. Surveying for alternative route is complete. Review of preliminary report and recommendations is underway. Design of a project to provide slope stabilization at Wilmington Island Road is underway, with preliminary recommendations now under review by County Engineer's Office underway.

Kings Way Canal

Widen channel and enlarge culverts east of Whitfield Avenue to Vernon River. Improvements to crossing of the canal under Whitfield are being constructed as part of GDOT's Truman Parkway, Phase 4 project. Preliminary design and rights of way drawings are under review by County Engineer's Office.

Romney Place Drainage.

Phase 1. Improve drainage along Central Avenue. Completed October 2001.

Phase 2. Improve storm drains and road crossings on Romney Place and along Parkersburg Road. Design is underway.

Village Green Canal.

Phase 1. Upgrade culvert under Cambridge Drive. Completed October 1999.

Phase 2. County Engineer's Office has accepted the consultant's recommendations for improvements. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USA Army Corps of Engineers. Compilation of citizen drainage survey to help establish project need and purpose for permitting is complete.

Port Industrial Park

Increase the capacity of the crossing under State Route 307 and improve the channel downstream to Pipemakers Canal. The crossing under SR 307 is being coordinated with the GDOT SR 307 widening project from R. B. Miller Road to SR21. Design of the project to improve the canal downstream from SR307 to Pipemakers Canal is complete. The wetlands permit has been signed by the County Engineer and was approved by USACE District Engineer on September 24, 2002.

– Conditions of revised Intergovernmental Agreement with GDOT to construct crossing under SR 307 as a County contract are not acceptable. The Agreement has been rejected. County Engineer's Office is evaluating options. County Engineer's Office is coordinating with Garden City on right of way issues to be worked out with developer of the impacted parcels.

– GDOT has approved new curb cuts at SR 307 to improve access to the canal for maintenance.

– Extension of the wetland permit has been obtained from the USACE.

– County Engineer's Office submitted comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Joint Public Notice related to proposed private commercial development on subject property.

Quacco Canal Drainage Improvements East of US17 (Formerly the Ecosystem Restoration Project)

Improve Quacco Canal and associated road undercrossing capacities from US 17 to marsh, including removal of a private tidegate structure. The work is expected to reduce the 50-year flood level by about 2 feet at US17 and at the same time restore a salt marsh ecosystem to its original condition.

– Efforts to acquire the permit from the USACE continues. Additional information is required to alleviate issues brought by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A permit from USACE is expected after SHPO agrees with the project.

– Access agreements to the private property and acquisition of easements is underway.Ogeechee Farms: Phase 2. The County has received the Section 404 wetlands permit from USACE. Final paperwork utilizing the County's new banking instrument for mitigation is complete. The design is being revised to incorporate changes including an additional road

see **Carryover,** page 15

"Dozens of non-profits have benefited from SPLOST funds over the past six or eight years. It has made an immeasurable contribution to the quality of life for all Chatham County citizens"

– Jim Battin, Director of Development and Marketing Telfair Museum of Art

Improvemts to the Quacco Canal are expected to reduce the 50-year flood level by about 2 feet at US17 and at the same time restore a salt marsh ecosystem to its original condition.

Carryover,
from page 14

undercrossing in the project and installation of box culvert sections instead of multiple pipes.

Louis Mills Canal.
Widen channel from Veterans Parkway downstream to outfall at Westlake Canal and improve crossing under Marshall Avenue. Design is complete. Acquisition of Easements and ROW is underway.

Redgate/Rahn Dairy.
A project to provide larger underdrains at several road crossings, canal widening and provisions for maintenance access. This project will reduce stormwater flows in the Louis Mills system as well as provide improve drainage in the existing canal. Preliminary design and Easement/ROW drawings are under review by County Engineer's Office. Acquisition of Easements and ROW will begin upon completion of the review.

Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills)
This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. Acquisition of ROW is underway.

Ogeechee Farms
Phase 1 – Improve internal collector system south of Vidalia Road. The project is substantially complete. The issue regarding sections of installed pipe determined by County Engineer's Office to be unacceptable has been resolved. The Contractor's repairs to the pipe have been accepted. Completion of final punch list is underway.

Fawcett Canal: Phase 1
Widen channel and improve crossings from Georgetown downstream to crossing under Grove Point Road, and replace tide gate. Construction completed in August 2002. Other work to improve the function and appearance of the lagoons completed in May 2005.

Fawcett Canal: Phase 2
Provide increased storm water drainage capacity in areas affecting Red Fox Drive and White Hawthorne Drive. Acquisition of easements from the City of Savannah is complete. Design work is currently underway.

Quacco/Regency Park
Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. The Design Study Report final report is to be submitted in September. Based upon its recommendations, County Engineer's Office is preparing a scope of work for design of the drainage improvements.

Halcyon Bluff Subdivision
Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. A construction contract was approved by County Commission on December 17, 2004. Construction is underway. Construction progress is slower than anticipated, partially due to the Contractor's inability to provide adequate manpower on the project. Other significant causes of delay include the weather and slow responses by utility companies to relocate their facilities. County Engineer's Office is working with the Contractor to address this concern.

Golden Isles Subdivision
Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community.

Phase 1. Outfall improvements completed 1997.

Phase 2. Improvements to collector system. Approval by Health Department to proceed with acquisition has been obtained. Preliminary title searches of affected properties are underway. Right of way acquisition has commenced. Closing has been completed on 24 of 26 parcels.

Henderson Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision
Canal 1 (henceforth referred to as Brown Thrush Canal): Crossing and channel improvements on the canal parallel to Brown Thrush Road, from Al Henderson Blvd. to Little Neck Road. Survey and analysis are complete. County Engineer's Office's review of consultant's final report is complete. County Engineer's Office is reviewing Consultant's fee proposal for design of recommendations.

Canal 2 (henceforth referred to as Henderson Canal): Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE.

North Rice Mill
Improvements to a local drainage system tributary to the Georgetown Canal. Improvements to the existing drainage system were requested by a local property owner to mitigate nuisance flooding on several area properties. New easements are required for construction and maintenance of the improvements. The property owner that made the request for drainage relief has expressed strong opposition to giving the easements and access to the site for maintenance. County Engineer's Office is investigating available options, including abandonment of the project.

Georgetown Canal
Upgrading roadway undercrossings to improve drainage capacity at St. Ives Way. Construction is underway.

Walthour Canal at Off Shore
A small project to improve the undersized culverts under the entrance road to the Off Shore Subdivision. Final construction documents have been received. Permitting is underway.

Wilmington Outfall
A project to correct storm sewer drainage pipes between Wilmington Road and the

see **Carryover**, page 16

"SPLOST has provided a means for us to build much-needed infrastructure that would have been cost-prohibitive or fallen on the shoulders of property owners."
– Stephen S. Green, President Stephen Green Properties

Library technology funding (computer hardware and software) for Live Oak Public Libraries remains 50% complete. The funds are used for replacement equipment, which reduces strain on operating budget.

Carryover,
from page 14

Wilmington River. A fee to prepare final design and Construction Documents has been requested from the consultant for drainage improvements to be based upon the Design Study Report.

Other projects

Coastal Georgia Greenway Project

Develop master plan and route for the Coastal Georgia Greenway, a designated trail through Georgia's coastal counties as part of the national East Coast Trail System, remains 85% complete.

Greenway Project: S&O Canal/Triplett Park

Project to develop trail connector at S&O Canal and Triplett Park remains 80% complete with recent completion of trailhead facilities, including restrooms. Funds also allocated to lock stabilization project on S&O Canal.

Library Technology

Funding for technology (computer hardware and software) for Live Oak Public Libraries remains 50% complete. Funds used for replacement equipment, which reduces strain on operating budget.

Hutchinson Island (Water & Sewer)

Project to extend water, sewer and treated effluent to Hutchinson Isalnd remains 90% complete; President Street pump station remains pending property acquisition.

Savannah-Ogeechee Canal

Funding of $820,000 remains (no funding spent) pending agreement with S&O Canal Society or Chatham County assumes project management for completion of some five miles of trail along historic S&O Canal.

Hutchinson Island Riverwalk

Project for 2,100 linear foot extension of riverwalk on Hutchinson Island remains 25% complete (design complete) but pending contract bidding until environmental permitting complete.

With recent completion of trailhead facilities, including restrooms. Funds also allocated to lock stabilization project on S&O Canal.

The Greenway Project to develop a trail connector at S&O Canal and Triplett Park remains 80% complete

Funding of $820,000 remains, pending an agreement with S&O Canal Society or Chatham County assumes project management for completion of some five miles of trail along historic S&O Canal.