



*Fayette*  
COUNTY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Fayette County Releases Core Infrastructure SPLOST List** *Total of 181 stormwater projects make the list*

**Fayette County, Georgia, July 8, 2013 – The Fayette County Board of Commissioners released their list of stormwater projects for the countywide Core Infrastructure SPLOST. The county's list contains only stormwater projects, as promised at the Stormwater Town Hall Meetings, ranging from serious to needing replacement within three to five years.**

Fayette County has reached the point where the early stormwater structures installed throughout the unincorporated county are decades old and now need replacement. There were no funds set aside reliably over time to cover the costs of replacing deteriorating infrastructure. The current Board of Commissioners has taken ownership of the problem and is working to bring the system up-to-date.

The county government has been performing culvert repair and replacement under local roads on an emergency-only basis, grabbing funding from other budget line items when available. Morrison Road, the latest road collapse, occurred the day before the second Stormwater Town Hall Meeting. With only one entrance to the subdivision, Public Works crews had to work around the clock on Morrison Road to restore the residents' access to their homes.

**This will be the first ever two-year SPLOST** undertaking in Fayette County. Historically, past SPLOSTs have been 10-years in duration. "We promised our constituents in the Stormwater Town Hall Meetings that the SPLOST proposal would only cover essential core infrastructure problems, no fluff, and that's what we have delivered," said Commissioner David Barlow. The repair of the projects on the list will ensure that the county's collector roads and major arterial roads will be sound well into the future.

Basic replacement, operation, and maintenance costs for stormwater structures are rising every year as the county ages, and new federal requirements will further increase these costs. The expense to the county related to stormwater management comes from having to repair or replace drainage structures that were initially installed by developers who built streets and roads that later became county-owned and maintained once homes and businesses were built and sold. Those old corrugated metal pipes are being replaced with concrete pipes that have an extended lifespan of 50 years or more.

The idea for using a short-term SPLOST to bring the county's stormwater drainage system back into a good state of repair came from citizens' comments at the town hall meetings. The idea is popular since it incorporates out-of-county shoppers who would contribute to the revenue through paying sales taxes.

"We promised our stormwater utility customers they wouldn't have to pay the annual stormwater fee for the next four years if the Core Infrastructure SPLOST passes, so we will be incorporating that into the wording of the referendum," said Commissioner Randy Ognio.

Jacobs Engineering reviewed over 40 large projects, producing cost estimates for each one. The total cost for the unincorporated county's projects is \$16, 802,091. "Our list consists only of stormwater projects as the Board of Commissioners promised, and we came in under budget, allowing us to provide additional funding to the cities to accomplish their core infrastructure needs," said County Administrator Steve Rapson.

The engineer's findings on core infrastructure SPLOST projects are in booklet form, including detailed information such as photos, maps, descriptions and costs for all projects over \$20,000, and are open to public inspection at each City Hall, County Administration Building, local libraries and the county's website.

The county's municipalities are aggressively trying to resolve some of their critical core infrastructure problems as well and will have project lists of their own.

Fayette County is poised for a momentous post-recession recovery with new business opportunities following the Pinewood Studios development, new industry expansion in Peachtree City and an up-tick in housing sales. Tackling aging infrastructure problems now gives Fayette County an advantage over other metro counties.

"This is another great example of the county and the municipalities working together to remove obstacles, like aging culverts collapsing underneath roads, that could potentially block our economic progress moving forward," said Commissioner Chuck Oddo.

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