



HORRY COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Contact: Lisa H. Bourcier, PIO
Post Office Box #1236
Conway, SC 29528
E-mail: bourcier@horrycounty.org

Phone: 843-915-5390
Fax: 843-915-6390
www.horrycounty.org

..... **ATTENTION!**

November 13, 2007

HORRY COUNTY UNVEILS NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR SALES TAX INITIATIVE

Conway, South Carolina –Today, residents and visitors in Horry County will see a new slogan around town called *Riding on a Penny*, which is the title of the new public information campaign. On November 7, 2006, Horry County voters, by a 61.4 to 38.6 percent margin, supported a One-Cent Capital Projects Sales Tax for roads. The sales tax was implemented in May 2007.

Horry County officials unveiled the new slogan, logo, and website www.ridingonapenny.org (.com will go live tomorrow). The website will give an overview of the tax, a description of each road project and a construction timeline. Road signs were also unveiled and are placed throughout the county marking the locations of future interchanges, paving and widening projects.

“It’s important the citizens know we are being good stewards of their money and that we are moving forward with the road projects,” stated Liz Gilland, Horry County Council Chairman. “We want the public to stay informed as these projects progress and hopefully at the end of this seven year endeavor, the citizens may have more confidence in approving another referendum for another list of much needed road improvements in the county.”

Horry County received its first quarterly payment in the amount of \$18,888,063 from the South Carolina Department of Revenue, which is what the extra penny generated in May, June and July 2007. It is estimate that the sales tax collected over the seven year period will total \$425,539,087.

(more)

The Horry County Engineering Department is conducting the resurfacing work on the roads that were approved in the Capital Projects Sales Tax referendum. Work has been completed on the first 12-mile grouping of roads on August 2, 2007, at a cost of \$840,003.05, which was \$75,000 under budget. The next 12-mile grouping is expected to begin in 2008.

Horry County signed a contract with RPM Engineers of Myrtle Beach to pave the first group of 20 miles of county dirt roads, which consists of 50 projects. For the last several months, RPM Engineers and their sub-consultants have been conducting surveys, designing and acquiring right-of-way easements for Phase 1 of the dirt road paving projects. RPM will oversee the construction and will prepare a detailed scope-of-work, budget and schedule for these 20 miles of county dirt roads. RPM Engineers recently announced that Coastal Grading has been awarded the contract for the first set of roads and Palmetto Paving the second set of roads to be paved. The first set included Eric's Lane, Shawn Lane and Timrod Lane while the second set included Crepe Myrtle, Pink Dogwood, Ole Holly Drive and Rose Hill Drive. Timrod Lane will be the first of 50 roads that will be paved in phase I of the \$19,600,000 dirt road paving program

Horry County entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to act as project/construction manager for those named state highway projects included on the road list. Those road projects include (1) a grade separated interchange at the intersection of US Highway 17 Bypass and SC Highway 707 at the backgate of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base; (2) widen SC Highway 707 from Enterprise Road to the county line including intersection improvements at SC Highway 544; (3) construction of the Aynor Overpass; and (4) widen Glenns Bay Road to 3-lanes and construct a grade separated interchange at US Highway 17 Bypass.

As project/construction manager, the SCDOT will prepare for each project listed above a detailed scope of work, budget and schedule based upon three phases for each project: (a) design, preliminary engineering and environmental work; (b) right-of-way acquisition; and (c) construction.

For more information on the penny sales tax, please log onto www.ridingonapenny.org.

###