



County Reallocates \$5.35 Million in SPLOST Funds to Strengthen Local Projects

Posted on November 11, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Nov. 6, 2025) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners approved a major reallocation of 2021 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds during its November workshop, aligning more than \$5.35 million in additional revenue with updated county priorities.

Chief Financial Officer Rebecca Jones reported that SPLOST revenues have exceeded early projections, allowing the county to reinvest in essential projects without impacting the general fund. “Because our sales tax collections have remained strong, we’re able to make adjustments that keep up with both costs and community needs,” Jones said.

Resolution R-43-25 details the redistribution of funds across multiple categories, addressing both project inflation and changing priorities. The most significant adjustments include:

- **Elections Building** — The original estimate of \$400,000 increased to approximately \$2 million to reflect construction costs and scope expansion.
- **Historic Courthouse** — The project remains stable at \$1.9 million, closely aligned with budget expectations.
- **Public Works (Roads / Bridges)** — Increased to \$4.55 million to cover road paving and heavy equipment needs. The county had originally planned for a Transportation SPLOST (TSPLOST) to supplement road improvement funding, but voters did not approve the measure in November 2017, Spring 2018, or November 2022. Without TSPLOST revenue, Dade County has relied on general funds derived from property taxes, as well as grants and existing SPLOST funds, to maintain and improve local roads.
- **Senior Center** — Reduced from \$600,000 to \$200,000 due to renovations already completed with federal ARPA funding.
- **Sheriff / Jail** — Increased from \$900,000 to \$1.45 million to cover higher vehicle costs and the installation of a backup generator.
- **Information Technology** — Increased from \$400,000 to \$750,000 to include the recently approved server upgrades and communication systems improvements.



Chairman Don Townsend noted that the overall increase reflects healthy sales tax collections across Dade County and its municipality. “Over the last four years, SPLOST, LOST, and ESPLOST revenues have been stronger than expected, which benefits both the county and the City of Trenton,” Townsend said.

Townsend also noted that while the county continues to pursue grants and alternative funding for infrastructure improvements, a future TSPLOST could expand Dade County’s capacity to improve roads and transportation projects at a faster rate.

Commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining balance between departments as project costs evolve. Commissioner Phillip Hartline emphasized accurate budgeting and departmental tracking to ensure transparency and accountability as funds are reallocated.

The total change represents more than \$5 million in additional capital investment toward county infrastructure, technology, and public safety. Townsend said the adjustments reflect both fiscal responsibility and forward planning. “Our goal is to manage taxpayer dollars wisely,” he said. “These reallocations allow us to meet real needs and prepare for long-term growth.”

Resolution R-43-25 was unanimously approved and added to the November consent agenda for final adoption during the regular meeting.

