

“Moving Alachua County Forward” Transportation Surtax on the November Ballot

At their June 10th meeting, the Alachua County Commission voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance levying a one percent (1%) sales surtax for a period of eight years to plan, develop, finance, construct, reconstruct, operate, provide capital improvements and maintain county and municipal roads and bridges, bus systems and bicycle and pedestrian projects, subject to voter approval, citizen oversight, and annual audit. They also unanimously approved the name *Moving Alachua County Forward* as the name of the surtax initiative.

[Read the ordinance](#)

A. Key Elements of the Ordinance

- 1) authorizes a transportation surtax of one percent (1%) upon most taxable transactions within incorporated and unincorporated Alachua County
- 2) to plan, develop, finance, construct, reconstruct, operate, provide capital improvements and maintain county and municipal roads and bridges, bus systems and bicycle and pedestrian projects, subject to voter approval, citizen oversight, and annual audit
- 3) the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax requires majority vote of the County electorate in a referendum election conducted by the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections to be held at the November 4, 2014, election
- 4) The County will distribute surtax proceeds to the County’s municipalities as per prior percentage agreement: Unincorporated Alachua County – 43.24%, Alachua – 3.74%, Archer 0.57%, Gainesville – 43.24%, Hawthorne – 0.87%, High Springs – 3.31%, La Crosse – 0.12%, Micanopy – 0.69%, Newberry – 3.67%, Waldo – 0.55%, for a total of 100% of surtax distribution

B. Ballot Language

TITLE

ONE PERCENT TRANSPORTATION SALES SURTAX

To improve funding for the planning, development, financing, construction, reconstruction, operation, capital investment and maintenance of roads and bridges, bus systems, and bicycle and pedestrian projects, shall Alachua County levy a countywide one percent (1%) sales surtax for eight years, beginning January 1, 2015, with funds to be applied to the transportation project lists adopted by Alachua County and the cities of Alachua County, and subject to citizen oversight and annual independent audit?

_____ **FOR the one percent (1%) transportation sales surtax.**

AGAINST the one percent (1%) transportation sales surtax.**C. Use of Surtax Proceeds by Alachua County**

In accordance with Subsection 212.055(1)(d), Florida Statutes, surtax proceeds will be used as follows:

- 1) Ninety-five percent (95%) of funds shall be used as listed in Exhibit A (Alachua County Road Reconstruction, Resurfacing, Paving and Maintenance Projects).
- 2) Five percent (5%) of funds shall be used as listed in Exhibit B (Alachua County Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects).

D. Use of Surtax Proceeds by Municipalities within Alachua County

In accordance with Subsection 212.055(1)(d), Florida Statutes, surtax proceeds will be used as follows:

Funds to be distributed according to interlocal agreement for the purposes set forth within the adopted transportation project list incorporated within the interlocal agreement.

E. Effective Date and Duration of Surtax

If approved by majority vote, the surtax would take effect on January 1, 2015 and shall continue for a period of eight (8) years from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2022.

F. Proceeds to be held in a dedicated Fund

The approved surtax ordinance would establish the Alachua County Transportation Trust Fund for Improvement of Roads and Bridges, Transit Facilities and Operations.

G. Fund Oversight

Alachua County shall establish a citizens' oversight committee, and shall conduct an independent audit of expenditures of each local government's transportation sales tax proceeds annually.