

Proposed Charter or Management Recommendations

Subcommittee: Meeting the Infrastructure Needs of Smart Growth

_____ Charter Amendment Section:

X Management Recommendation

Current wording of the Charter article:

Proposed Charter amendment or management recommendation:

The Subcommittee supports the implementation of a ½-cent sales tax, concurrent with the revocation of the 5-cents gas tax. The Subcommittee further recommends that these sales and gas tax projects be formally identified and presented to the public in a five-year capital program that is updated annually by the County and Volusia municipalities.

As part of its support for the ½ cent sales tax, the Subcommittee recommends that 1/16 of the ½ cent sales tax be established as a permanent funding source for off-beach parking improvements, including land acquisition and construction.

Identify benefits of proposed language:

The Subcommittee understands that a citizens' survey has indicated the public does not at this time support the implementation of a half-cent sales tax concurrent with the revocation of the five-cent gas tax. Nonetheless, the Subcommittee believes that there are many worthy projects and improvements that would benefit the County with the addition of this extra funding, which would be substantially more than the amount now being raised by the gas tax. The members believe support for this measure would be aided by the creation of a list of projects and programs that would be funded by the sales tax. The County and the cities would update this list every year and present it to the public as a five-year capital program.

A lack of off-beach parking sites has long been identified as a problem for the County in its management of Volusia beaches. A dedicated funding source would allow the County to purchase land and facilities to create off-beach parking spaces, making the beach more accessible to residents and visitors.