



Greenwood County Capital Projects Sales Tax Audit

May 1, 2017-June 30, 2024

August 13, 2025

South Carolina Department of Revenue
300A Outlet Point Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Carolina Department of Revenue conducted a compliance audit of Greenwood County's One Percent Capital Projects Sales Tax program. The audit evaluated the collection and use of the tax revenues from May 1, 2017 to June 30, 2024.

The audit concludes that Greenwood County was in compliance and the penny tax collections were used exclusively for projects listed on the 2016 referendum.

I. INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina Department of Revenue (Department) conducted an audit of the Greenwood County Capital Projects Sales Tax. The Department has a duty to ensure public accountability and transparency regarding the expenditures of the Capital Projects Sales Tax revenue collected, by utilizing its authority as the administrator of the tax.

II. AUDIT OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

The purpose of this audit was to perform an independent and objective compliance audit of the Greenwood County Capital Projects Sales Tax. The audit scope included review of the expenditures and collection of the sales tax revenue for the period from May 1, 2017 to June 30, 2024.

III. BACKGROUND

The Capital Projects Sales Tax Act (SC Code Section 4-10-300) empowers counties to impose, pursuant to a referendum, a sales and use tax not to exceed 1% within its jurisdiction for a specific purpose or purposes and for a specific period of time. The revenue from the tax is to be used to pay for capital projects provided in the resolution and included in the referendum question directly, to service general obligation bond debt incurred by the county for such improvements, or a combination of these purposes.

In the 2016 General Election Greenwood County voters approved a referendum on the imposition of the 1% Sales and Use tax for a period of eight years beginning May 1, 2017.

IV. AUDIT SUMMARY

As noted in the 2016 referendum, all revenue received from the sales and use tax would be used to pay the costs of the capital projects detailed in the aforementioned referendum.

To verify collections, we compared the deposit amounts on Greenwood County's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) statements to the South Carolina Department of Revenue's

Allocation Report. To verify expenses, we reviewed all withdrawals from the LGIP account as well as capital project transactions from the general ledger and verified supporting invoices.

V. TAX COLLECTION

Greenwood County collected \$77,072,344 in 1% Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax for the audit period. Below is a list of the Greenwood County projects as approved by the 2016 referendum that reflects the actual expenditures from May 2017 through June 2024.

Greenwood County Capital Projects				
Project Name	Original Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Project Status
(1) Piedmont Technical College Manufacturing Center	\$ 6,099,696	\$ 6,099,696	\$ -	Complete
(2) Parks and Trails	5,578,754	3,951,688	1,627,066	In Process
(3) Countywide Public Safety Radio System	4,858,409	4,166,910	691,499	Complete
(4) Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Historical Site Expansion	646,592	621,592	25,000	In Process
(5) Fire Master Plan Implementation	14,242,921	10,031,309	4,211,612	In Process
(6) Lake Greenwood Master Plan	810,000	810,000	-	Complete
(7) Ware Shoals Sewer Lines*	1,569,339	-	1,569,339	In Process
(8) Ninety Six Waterlines	671,456	626,422	45,034	Complete
(9) Greenwood County Parks and Recreation Facilities	10,723,817	10,723,817	-	In Process
(10)North Greenwood Industrial Park	8,456,666	4,558,489	3,898,177	In Process
(11) Ninety Six Storm Water Drainage Repairs	1,105,446	934,039	171,407	In Process
(12) Promised Land Walking Track	66,326	57,150	9,176	Complete
(13) Cokesbury College Restroom Facilities	33,163	32,563	600	Complete
(14) Brewer Center Renovations	27,636	27,636	-	Complete
(15) Law Enforcement Records Management System	1,326,535	607,166	719,369	Complete
(16) Watershed Study	1,747,000	304,281	1,442,719	In Process
(17) Highway 246 Widening, Construction	11,942,770	4,000,000	7,942,770	In Process
(18) Katherine Hall Rehabilitation	3,397,273	63,600	3,333,673	In Process
(19) Greenwood County Detention Center Repairs	429,939	315,818	114,121	In Process
(20) Case Management System for the Solicitor's Office	208,998	208,998	-	Complete
(21) Fiber Optic Cable-Greenwood Genetic Center	358,283	358,283	-	Complete
(22) Carolina Avenue Connector	2,447,774	49,750	2,398,024	In Process
(23) Arts Center Renovations	685,987	55,000	630,987	In Process
(24) Railroad Historical Depot Construction	1,221,806	19,779	1,202,027	In Process

Greenwood County Capital Projects				
Project Name	Original Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Project Status
(25) City Platform Truck **	1,468,664	-	1,468,664	In Process
(26) Water lines for Harris Landing Area	1,223,887		1,223,887	In Process
(27) Water lines for Hwy 25 South	4,895,548	-	4,895,548	Not Started
Total	\$ 86,244,685	\$ 48,623,986	\$ 37,620,699	

*Project originally planned for 2019 with DHEC approval completed in 2020. Delay due to inability to acquire easements requiring redesign of water lines. New engineering firm was hired to design and bid the project. Other funding was used for engineering and design services. CPST funds will be used for construction costs.

** Truck ordered and delivery expected in October.

VI. CONCLUSION

For the audit period, this audit concludes that Greenwood County is in compliance with the Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Act and the 2016 referendum. The Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax revenue was utilized exclusively for projects identified in the 2016 referendum.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Greenwood County currently pays invoices by making transfers from the LGIP that are net of all Capital Project Sales Tax revenue and expenses. In the future, to ensure best practices, transparency and improved audit trail, it is recommended that Greenwood County record all revenue and invoices independently. In addition to documenting deposits and withdrawals separately, if multiple invoices will be included in individual withdrawals, we recommend creating a request form that details all invoices included in the transfer.