



December 23, 2025

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1
Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4
Commissioner Kelly Martinez Semrad, District 5
Commissioner Michael Scott, District 6

FROM: Byron W Brooks, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Discussion on Engagement with the Trust for Public Lands Re the Local Government Infrastructure Sales Tax Consideration

As you may recall, Commissioner Wilson submitted a memorandum in February 2025 regarding the involvement of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) in previous sales tax referendums in other counties across the state (memorandum attached). In response to her memorandum, Ms. Pegeen Hanrahan, Associate Director of Conservation Finance for the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), was invited to make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) during Transportation Visioning Session #2 held on May 15, 2025. The presentation, also attached, was received as information since the Board had not made any decision at that time of whether there was interest or intent to advance a transportation funding option for consideration by county residents or a preferred revenue source if there was interest.

As you know, last week the Board conveyed its intent to proceed with discussions of possibly advancing a sales tax referendum to the ballot in November 2026 pending its final decision by April 7, 2026. Further, and especially important in this context, the Board selected the Local Government Infrastructure Sales Tax as the revenue source of choice. This source provides for an array of eligible uses, such as acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, park lands, trails, stormwater/drainage, facilities, affordable housing projects, and of course capital transportation projects. The inclusion of environmentally sensitive lands as one of the possible uses is what creates the opportunity for the involvement of the TPL, thus the Mayor now scheduling this item for the Board's consideration.

Specifically, the TPL can provide technical advice and assistance, which would include activities such as conducting feasibility research and public opinion surveys, provide advice on ballot language, and develop strategies for the Board's consideration as you prepare for a final decision in April. TPL provides this service at no cost to the local governments with whom they partner (they have worked with Alachua, Citrus, Osceola and Sarasota Counties, to name a few).

Ms. Pegeen Hanrahan can provide a short presentation on TPL's services at the January 13, 2026 BCC meeting, and the BCC can then take action on whether you support submitting a letter requesting the advice and assistance from TPL, at no cost to Orange County, associated with your deliberations and ultimate decision on placing a Local Government Infrastructure Sales Tax referendum on the November 2026 ballot.

Attachments

BWB/cr

c: Roseann Harrington, Mayor's Chief of Staff
Jeffrey Newton, County Attorney
Georgiana Holmes, Deputy County Attorney
Jon Weiss, Deputy County Administrator
Carla Bell Johnson, Deputy County Administrator
Joe Kunkel, Director, Public Works Department
Tanya Wilson, Director, PEDS Department
Anne Kulikowski, Director, Administrative Services Department
Brett Blackadar, Deputy Director, Public Works Department
Susan Ussach, Deputy Director, Public Works Department
Scott Skraban, Deputy Director, PEDS
Jason Reynolds, Deputy Director, PEDS
Renee Parker, Manager, EPD
Liz Johnson, Assistant Manager, EPD
Beth Jackson, Environmental Programs Administrator, EPD