

My name is Karin Callan. I am here to represent the City of Douglasville which is a member of the Georgia Municipal Association. I am the Finance Director. I am here with City Manager Bill Osborne and Councilman Dennis McClain.

From our perspective we have two points we would like to communicate to the council:

First: We feel it is important that you consider additional revenue options. Specifically allowing Cities to put before their voters a Municipal Option Sales tax. This would provide a simple and fair way for local governments to raise the funding needed for much needed infrastructure.

The City of Douglasville benefited from a 2002-2007 SPLOST; however, the most recent SPLOST referendum in Douglas County was for a jail which is considered a Level 1 project. The referendum passed by a narrow margin; therefore, it will be more than five years before another SPLOST for infrastructure can be planned. The City of Douglasville will not receive any SPLOST revenues for at-least six years. SPLOST revenues funded many transportation projects for the City and the County. This situation has been made worse because of the decline in Georgia Department of Transportation dollars available to the City.

Lastly:

We also would like to see a more efficient method of collecting and disbursing sales tax

Revenue by moving to a point of sale system or allowing local governments to collect sales taxes or by hiring a private company to collect sales tax. This could ease the burden of the DOR to focus on collecting past due sales taxes. This could possibly be used also to identify boundary issues, compliance issues and accountability issues.