

PUBLIC HEARING

2026 Comprehensive Plan Transmittal

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated staff has been working for the past several months with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to prepare the 2026 Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Dillard stated the purpose of this public hearing is to notify the public that it will be transmitted to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, who will then transmit it to the Department of Community Affairs at the state level for their review. During the review period, the document will be available online for public comment and if there are any final questions, suggestions or changes the commission would like made to the document, they will be accepted during this review period. Mr. Dillard further stated staff is ready to transmit the 2026 Comprehensive Plan at this time.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Resurfacing Batch 1 P.I. # 0020532 — Local Project Delivery Application Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Resurfacing Batch 1 is a TIA II approved project. The Local Delivery Application starts the process by allowing Lowndes County to manage the project at the local government level. Mr. McLeod further stated if approved, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will send an approval letter and agreement to be approved by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. The project will include resurfacing 36 county roads, with a budget of \$13,134,000.00. Mr. McLeod stated staff will let the project in three (3) phases between 2026 and 2029. Commissioner Smith asked if this is all paid for out of TSPLOST. Mr. McLeod stated that is correct.

BID

Hickory Grove Road Widening P.I. 0020527 and Skipper Bridge Road Widening P.I. 0020528 - Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Hickory Grove Road widening and Skipper Bridge Road widening are TIA 2 approved projects. The project mainly consists of adding 2' of pavement widening to each side of the existing road width, overlaying with OGI, resurfacing the entire new width with 12.5 MM super paving, rebuilding the shoulders, and temporary & permanent striping. Mr. McLeod further stated Hickory Grove Road begins at State Route 7 (US 41) and ends at the Echols County line, which is 7.8 miles. Skipper Bridge Road begins at the end of the curb and gutter section north of the bridge at the Valdosta City Limits line and ends at the Cook County line, which is 8.8 miles. Mr. McLeod stated the contract time is 180 calendar days. Staff received two (2) bids, one from The Scruggs Company for \$5,039,798.50, and one from Reames and Son Construction for \$5,248,172.38. Commissioner Smith asked if the work will start soon if this is approved. Mr. McLeod stated they anticipate starting in August. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if the county could get three feet instead of two. Mr. McLeod responded no, sir. Commissioner Smith stated widening it makes it safer. Mr. McLeod stated it gives a wider driving lane and it is safer because it helps to prevent people from running off the road. Commissioner Marshall mentioned adding an inch or two for people who ride bikes.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked Mr. McLeod to explain about TIA's approach from a contingency standpoint and how careful we have to be as far as overages. Mr. McLeod stated that based on collections and estimates from the 2016 to 2018 timeframe, we were able to use inflation costs on TIA I to cover some of the overages. We have estimated TIA II at the current cost, but they are being