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## Path forward on sales tax, true Christmas season, SC must evolve | Letters

FROM OUR POST AND COURIER READERS

DEC 21, 2025



Flood mitigation for chronically flooded roads, such as Lockwood Drive, are among the city's road project priorities for the 2026 transportation sales tax.

FILE/ANDREW J. WHITAKER/STAFF

### Engage on sales tax

The city of Charleston supports extending the Charleston County half-cent sales tax next November. The city recently asked downtown neighborhood presidents to sign a letter supporting the use of an unspecified portion of the peninsula's share "in part for the City of

Charleston's local match" for The Battery extension. The letter cited bicycle and pedestrian benefits and called it "a once in a generation opportunity to leverage federal resources with local funding."

The letter provided no details regarding how much would go to The Battery extension, what other projects would be funded or whether uptown needs — sidewalks, traffic calming, pedestrian safety and road repairs — would receive funding, and when. Several uptown neighborhood presidents could not sign without answers.

Before the City Council considered spending priorities, Mayor William Cogswell convened a conference call to discuss our concerns. We asked for clarity and noted that outreach should have preceded the endorsement request; public comments had not been meaningfully solicited; and neighborhood associations were not invited to submit priority lists.

In response, the mayor committed that no more than \$300 million of the peninsula's \$500 million share would support The Battery extension, with the remainder reserved for smaller, direct-impact transportation projects selected with public input. He also committed to greater transparency, including attending neighborhood meetings and supporting a joint public forum for upper peninsula neighborhoods.

Major public investments require clear priorities and meaningful engagement. We appreciate the mayor's willingness to engage and look forward to continued dialogue before endorsements are finalized.

STEPHEN ROSENBERG, North Central Neighborhood Association

SARAH SPANGLER, Westside Neighborhood Association

JARETT NICHOLSON, Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

KEVIN EBERLE, Hampton Park Terrace Neighborhood Association

*Charleston*