



***“Christmas is coming. The goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the old man’s hat.
If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny will do.
If you haven’t got a ha’penny, God bless you.”***

Eight years ago, the voters of Okaloosa County approved a 10-year one-half cent surtax on purchases to fund infrastructure projects. Prior to that vote, the County published a list of needs for projects that would be addressed with the funds generated from the surtax. I want to thank each and every one of you for that vote. We used the funds to address the list below, and all of the projects listed are finished or near completion.

Southwest Crestview Bypass

Public Safety

- Emergency Services Communication Equipment
- Fleet Improvements for Improved Response
- Headquarter Improvements
- School Resource Officer Equipment & Support

Transportation Capacity

- Bone Creek Road Improvements
- College Boulevard Improvements
- Commons Drive Improvements
- CR 393 Phase 3 Reconstruction
- Crestview Northwest Bypass
- Dowdy Road Roadway Improvements
- Ellis Road Improvements
- HWY 2 Bridge Replacement & Roadway Improvements
- John King Widening & Intersection Improvements
- Millside Road Roadway Improvements
- Old River Road Roadway Improvements
- US 98 & Stahlman Drive Intersection Improvements
- West Dodson Road Improvements

Transportation Safety

- Carmel and Beal Parkway Intersection Improvements
- Farmer's Market Access Improvements
- Forest Road Improvements
- Hill & Lovejoy Intersection Improvements
- Hospital Road and Lewis Turner Boulevard Intersection Improvements
- Poquito Road and Lewis Turner Boulevard Intersection Improvements
- Prioritized Multi-Modal Improvements
- Redwood Avenue & John Sims Parkway Intersection Improvements

Stormwater

- 6th Avenue Area (Port Dixie) Stormwater Enhancements
- Bayshore Area Stormwater Improvements
- Beachview Drive Drainage Improvements
- Echo Circle Area Stormwater Improvements
- Griffith Mill Area Stormwater Improvements
- Indian Lakes Stormwater Improvements
- Lake Lorraine Area Stormwater Improvements
- Lancaster Drive Area Stormwater Improvements
- Lloyd Street / Mayflower Area Stormwater Improvements
- Mooney Road Stormwater Improvements
- Northridge Area Stormwater Improvements
- Overbrook Area Stormwater Improvements
- Santa Rosa Boulevard Stormwater and Roadway Improvements
- South Avenue Area Drainage Improvements
- Standish Court Stormwater Enhancements
- Union Avenue Stormwater Improvements
- West 98 Area Stormwater Improvements
- Willow Bend / Greenacres Area Stormwater Improvements

One-half cent is not a lot of money, but small money has added up to big improvements, and an estimated 30% of all surtax money comes from visitors to our area.

The sunset of this surtax is approaching in 2028. On November 3, 2026, the voters of Okaloosa County have the opportunity to extend this surtax another 10 years. To help you see what we are planning for, I have included the needs list for 2026-2027 below.

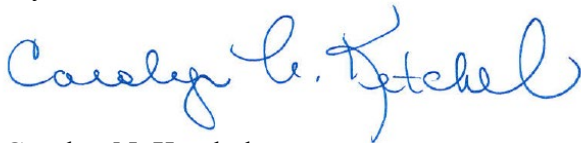
- College Blvd intersection improvements
- Santa Rosa Blvd improvements
- Mar Walt Dr improvements
- West 98 Collector
- Northwest Crestview Bypass
- Gap Creek area stormwater improvements
- Hollywood Blvd improvements

- 3rd Ave stormwater improvements
- Eglin Dr sidewalk
- Poquito Rd & Sunset Ln intersection improvements
- Sunset Blvd area stormwater improvements
- Rocky Bayou area stormwater quality
- Commons Dr improvements
- Edgewater Dr sidewalk
- Bluewater Blvd pedestrian improvements from SR 20 to Oakmont Dr
- Oakmont Dr pedestrian improvements
- Antioch Rd improvements
- Log Lake Rd improvements
- Rocky Bayou Dr multi-use path from Forest Rd to Crossing Blvd
- Rocky Bayou Dr and SR 20 intersection improvements
- Redwood and SR 20 intersection improvements
- John Givens Rd & Adora Teal Way intersection improvements
- Dirt to pave on antiquated platted roads – “The Last 8 Miles”
- Sidewalk improvements
- Pavement preservation & equipment
- Land acquisition for parks and conservation
- Multi-purpose building at OCSO training center
- 911 radiorecorder
- Evidence section fire suppression upgrades at OCSO headquarters
- Larry Ashley training center elevator
- Multi-function crisis command & mobile E911 vehicle
- Facilities
- Debt service

Together we can continue to make improvements in many ways to Okaloosa County. This surtax measure will be on the ballot on November 3rd. I wanted you to be informed regarding the many ways that a half penny has made a difference.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your commissioner.

My Sincere Thanks,



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