

## TSPLOST Distribution Rate Calculation and Potential State Auditor Certification

If your County and other municipalities do not have an Intergovernmental Agreement in place, the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) would need to audit the transportation expenditures for the three most recent fiscal years of the County and all the municipalities located in the County. Then take a three-year average in order to certify the distribution rate.



**Why?** State law requires the State Auditor to notify the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue at least 30 days prior to the referendum of the certified distribution percentages. According to the provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) 48-8-267, the Commissioner will use the certified percentages for the distribution of proceeds of the term of the tax.

**Please note the upcoming general election is on November 8, 2022.**

**Timing** - DOAA would need a minimum of two months to document the transportation expenditures and to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the accounts. We would need to start the certification process as soon as possible to meet that deadline.

### How Does It Work?

- We have specific steps to be followed to document the transportation expenditures and to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the amounts.
- The steps would include the examination of the general ledger accounts as well as inspecting some of the accounting records or supporting documents.
- We will use the Reports of Local Government Finances (RLGF) filed with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by each party for the last three fiscal years to calculate the unofficial estimate or average transportation expenditures.

For questions, please contact [locgov@audits.ga.gov](mailto:locgov@audits.ga.gov).

## Recommendations to Complete an Unofficial TSPLOST Estimate to Use in Negotiations

1. According to the way the Code Section reads (OCGA §48-8-267), Uniform Chart of Accounts section 4200 (4210-4270) would be included. Then further broken down by class 54 - Capital Outlays 54.1000-54.1400 and 54.2000-54.2500 as well as 54.3000 which the RLGf follows the account structure.
2. Sometimes not separated from the RLGfs are any transportation expenditures for the maintenance and operation costs to support local government airport and transit operations in functions 7561 and 7563 of the UCOA – therefore please provide estimates if you would like to include the amounts in the unofficial estimate.
3. Cities located in multiple counties – they will be included in the unofficial estimate. 5- XXXXXX County and all municipalities located in the County included in the estimate regardless of fiscal year end date.
4. If an audit is required, it would be of the transportation expenditures for the same 36 months for all governments to be fair and to ensure completeness and accuracy of the amounts.
5. Please keep in mind that these are unofficial estimates and DOAA would need to perform an audit of the transportation expenditures to certify the distribution rates.