

Three bond issues totaling \$235,000,000 to be voted on in the General election Nov. 8, 2005.

The County's Executive office added back approx. \$50,000,000 that had been expunged by the Future Funding Commission appointed earlier this year. The Board of Commissioners was asked to vote on it BEFORE public hearings were held, but postponed that vote until five hearings could be hurriedly substituted for other items planned. At press time, the Commission was scheduled to vote August 23. They had been successful in getting a division into three areas, to be voted on separately, and the final amount is likely to be reduced somewhat. These are proposed to be 25 year bonds and many proposed projects would not last nearly that long.

Neither \$20,000,000 for land to build an amphitheatre near Lithonia nor \$30,000,000 for land to build a convention center in Central/North Central DeKalb are included in this proposal but the CEO has continued to state that DeKalb needs to be a "Destination County" and currently has no place to keep visitors for any length of time, except the jail, and he still intends to have plans underway to alleviate that situation before he leaves office.

There is considerable apprehension that some of the money included in this issue, if passed, could be diverted to the amphitheatre. Efforts are being made to get a detailed, public list of projects before the vote, in the other two categories, as we have in libraries.

Here is a limited summary of the three proposals:

I. Transportation	<u>\$83,210,000</u>
a. Major Arterial Roads	\$23,000,000
MAY include widening, turn lanes, upgrades of intersections, bike lanes or sidewalks. Top priorities are sections of River, Redan and Briarcliff Roads.	
b. Congestion management on other roads	\$ 3,000,000
Mostly upgrading and coordination of signals	
c. Intersection Improvements	\$ 7,000,000
Smaller, specific intersection improvements, mostly have been suggested by citizens	
d. Sidewalk, pedestrian, bicycle facilities	\$26,000,000
Mostly school walk routes or heavy pedestrian accident sites	
e. Resurfacing Projects	\$20,000,000
124 miles of roads	
f. Special Projects	\$ 4,210,000
As you would think - a lot of small projects that would make someone happy	

II. Parks and Greenspace Projects **\$97,750,000**

- a. Major Park Development \$40,000,000
Brook Run, Wade Walker, Mason Mill, Gresham,
Brown's Mill and Exchange Parks
- b. Beltway PATH Project \$ 3,000,000
- c. Land Acquisition \$28,000,000
Have to create new greenspace
- d. Neighborhood Park Development \$13,000,000
Dresden, Deepdene, Redan, Little Creek Farm, Fork
Creek Mountain Parks, Constitution Lakes Nature
Preserve, Sugar Creek and Mystery Valley Golf
Courses, Arabia Mountain plus small improvements
of Community Parks
- e. Athletic Complex Renovations \$ 7,000,000
Pleasantdale, Murphy Candler, Hamilton, Gresham,
Shoal Creek, Rock Chapel, Redan and Southeast
Athletic Comp.
- f. Dam Renovations \$ 2,000,000
Improve Structural Integrity - Glen Emerald,
Henderson and Kelly Cofer
- g. Arts and Cultural Centers \$ 3,250,000
Renovate & expand Callenwalde; construct S. DeKalb
Arts Center; Replace Ashford Community Park
- h. Historic Renovation - Old Courthouse \$ 1,500,000

III. Libraries **\$54,040,000**

- New: Stonecrest and Ellenwood/River Rd. \$14,255,000
- Replace: Processing Ctr., Reid Cofer, \$23,350,000
Brookhaven, Toco-Hills (Ava Williams), Scott Candler
- Expand: Chamblee, Salem-Panola, Hairston Crossing,
and Embury Hills \$16,050,000
- Upgrade Redan-Trotti \$ 375,000