

# Georgia Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Transportation Finance Database and Clearinghouse

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### Agenda

- History and Purpose
- Partners and Process
- Sample SPLOST Webpage
  - Queries Pane
  - Map Pane
  - Graphical Results Pane
  - Numeric Results Pane
- Proposed Future Research



### History

### **History:**

- Georgia's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
  program has existed since 1985 and provides funding support for
  local capital outlay projects.
  - SPLOSTs must be approved by voter referendum.
- SPLOST ballot initiatives have had mixed outcomes.



### History

### **History:**

- Literature suggests diverse factors affect the success or failure of transportation ballot measures—
  - Socio-demographic characteristics and trends
  - Existing infrastructure and financial characteristics
  - Campaign strategies



### Research Project Purpose

 Thus, research indicated a need for a comprehensive data source to help local and state governments better understand these factors to prepare for SPLOST votes.

#### **Project Purpose:**

To "facilitate the exchange of financial information and knowledge and to provide access to Department of Transportation officials and local and county decision makers and legislators"



### Research Project Purpose

- The data is now available in a dynamic interactive format.
- Clearly shows the context and spatial relationships between the data components, such as adjacencies and geographic patterns across the state.
- Critical to make transportation decisions across the system.



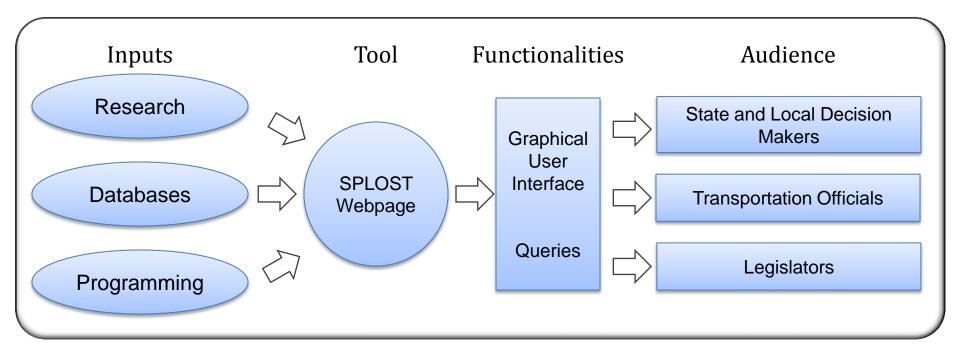
### **Partners and Process**

#### **Partners**



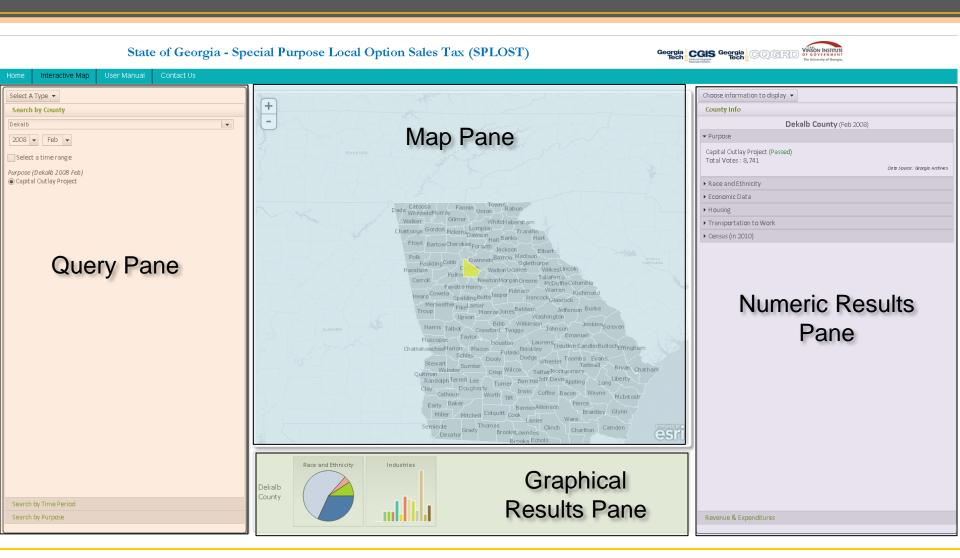






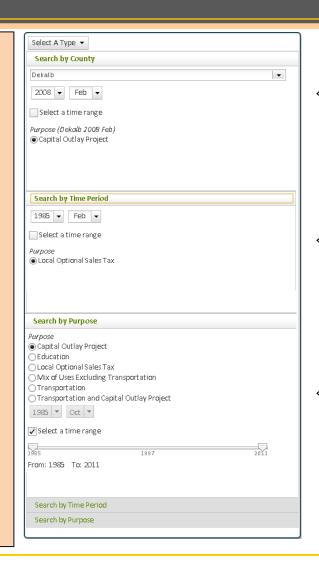


# Sample SPLOST Clearinghouse Webpage





# Query Pane



#### **Select by County**

Choose a county and year from dropdown menu

#### **Select by Time Period**

 Choose a year and month to search for SPLOST votes

### **Select by Purpose**

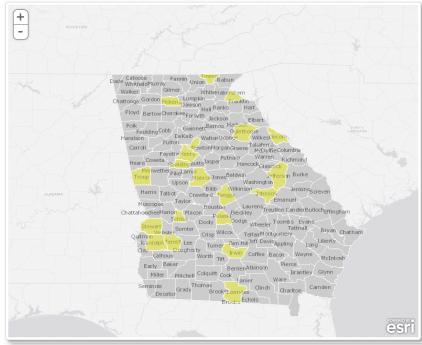
Choose a SPLOST type and time period



### Map & Graphical Results Panes

#### Map

- Visually displays counties matching query
- Also allows user to select counties by clicking on map
- Allows panning and zooming



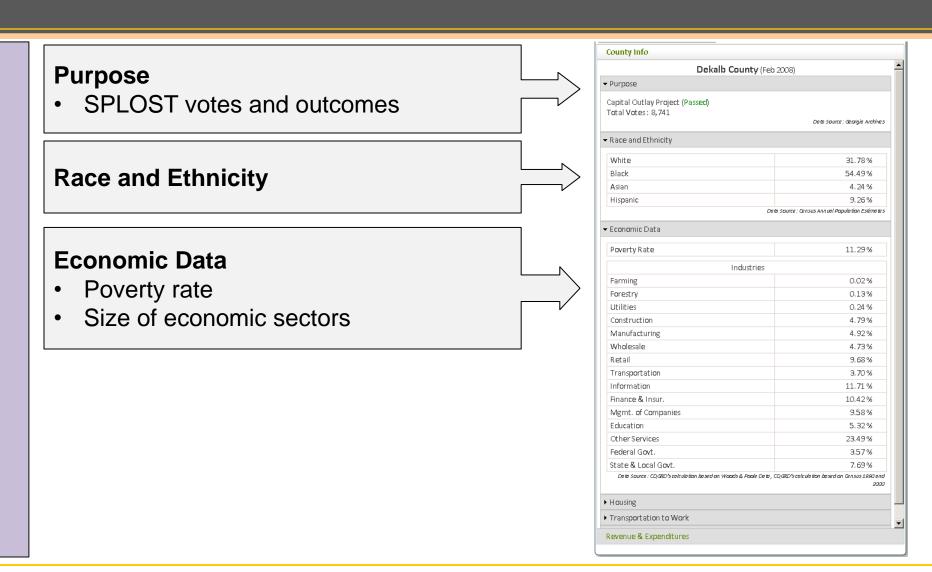
#### **Graphical Results**

 Displays race and ethnicity, and industries in country





# Numeric Results Pane (1 of 3)





# Numeric Results Pane (2 of 3)

#### → Housing Housing Owner-occupied housing units 58.81% Owner-occupied housing rate Median home value \$157,200 Data Source: CDGRD's calculation based on Census 1990 and 2000 Median home value ▼ Transportation to Work Work at home 3.76% **Transportation to Work** Travel time to work more than 25 minutes 64.52% Drive to work alone 69.67% Commute length and mode choices Carpool to work 18.30% Data Source: CO,GRD's calculation based on Census 1990 and 2000 ▼ Census (in 2010) White 33.30% Socio-Demographic Data from Census Black or African-American 54.30% American Indian 0.40% Poverty rate 5.10% Asian Native Hawaiian 0.00% Size of economic sectors Other Race 6.90% Data Source: United States Census Bureau Revenue & Expenditures



# Numeric Results Pane (3 of 3)

#### Revenue

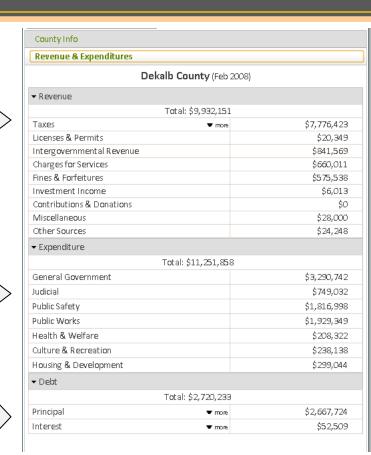
Sources of county revenues

#### **Expenditures**

 County government budget and distribution

#### **Debt**

Principle and interest owed by county





### **Proposed Future Research**

Expansion to More States

Expand SPLOST database to include additional southeastern states

**New Data Sources** 

Incorporate new data sources, including most recent Census, and data from state and local sources

Physical Infrastructure

Include major physical infrastructure present in the county, assessing potential needs for expansion or improvements

**Spatial Analysis** 

Add capability for assessing revenue or existing infrastructure according to adjacent county characteristics, identifying gaps or inequities





### Thank you!

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