

Town of Edisto Beach

2016 Legislative Initiatives

Beach Nourishment

The Town of Edisto Beach is the only coastal, tourist destination in Colleton County and provides 48% in tax revenues to Colleton County. The Town's beach needs nourishment and the groins that hold the sand in place are in need of rehabilitation. The Town would like to see additional funds available to support beach nourishment projects that bring \$18 billion in tourism dollars to South Carolina. This could be accomplished through a state capital improvement plan or special appropriations.

Local Government Fund

The Town of Edisto Beach promotes fully funding the local government fund according to state statute. This past year the LGF was only funded at 74% and since 2009, the General Assembly has not fully funded the LGF.

State Accommodations Tax

The Town of Edisto Beach is unique that it is the only coastal community not exempted as an area of high tourism (receives greater than \$900,000 in ATAX) and therefore falls under the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee review. The Town of Edisto Beach would like legislation passed to provide all the same allowances as those communities that are in areas of high tourism and be exempted from TERC oversight.

Department of Transportation Grant Management

Grants are a major source of funding for municipalities for a variety of reasons. Recipients of these funds should be allowed to administer and manage the project because they can typically "do it for less". The FHWA has made it so cumbersome to use resources other than the DOT for project management that smaller municipalities who do not have an engineer on staff must hire the DOT to manage their grant funds. The bureaucracy of the DOT is dysfunctional and projects that cross technical divisions are not being managed effectively leading to additional cost overruns and time delays wasting valuable resources.

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