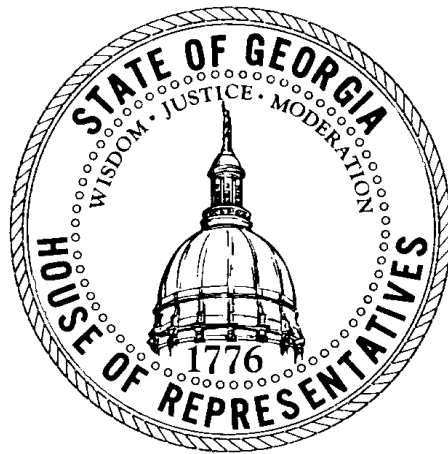


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A Path For A Regional Transit System In Georgia



Final Report **Joint Transit Governance Study Commission**

REP. DONNA SHELDON
CHAIRMAN

Report prepared by: Brian Walker

Joint Transit Governance Study Commission

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Joint Transit Governance Study Commission

INTRODUCTION

The Joint Transit Governance Study Commission was created through the Statewide Regional Transportation Funding Bill, HB 277, with the expressed duty to examine the methodical development of a regional transit governing authority in Georgia through specific legislative proposals. In order to identify the best possible system for the growth and development of Georgia's transit network a series of meetings have been held in order to hear testimony from Georgia's current transit providers as well as providers from other states. In satisfaction of the requirements of HB 277, the Commission presents the following final report.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting 1: September 8th, 2010, Coverdell Legislative Office Building Room # 606

Meeting 2: September 30th, 2010, Coverdell Legislative Office Building Room # 606

Meeting 3: December 7th, 2010, Coverdell Legislative Office Building Room # 606

Working Meeting: December 20th, 2010, Capitol Building Room # 417

Meeting 4: March 9th, 2011, Coverdell Legislative Office Building Room # 606

EXECUTIVE FINDINGS

Currently, metro Atlanta has a multitude of transit entities that operate essentially independently from one another. Taken as a whole, these uncoordinated systems are confusing to transit users, fall short of achieving economies of scale and cost efficiencies, do not provide a definitive picture of return-on-investment to taxpayers, and produce a disjointed message about the region's transit priorities.

The Transit Governance Study Commission finds that commuters, transit stakeholders and the general public would benefit from oversight, streamlining and coordination of the individual transit systems in the metro Atlanta region.

Because the transit services in most need of streamlining efforts and management coordination activities are those that cross county and city boundaries, state government representatives should be given this responsibility. It is not necessary for the state to create a new government agency to accomplish this task. An existing state transportation agency should be charged with achieving the necessary coordination and oversight of current and future transit systems.

Since the predominance of transit funding is presently supplied by local governments, representatives of the local communities should be formally involved in decision-making. Therefore, such state agency's official policy-making process should include substantive input and guidance by local officials and their representatives.

Given these findings, the next step is for state lawmakers to craft the necessary legislation for the 2012 session of the Georgia General Assembly. Governor Nathan Deal has communicated to the Commission his support of advancing this important issue.

The Commission supports and recommends that the General Assembly and Governor, with continued input from local communities, stakeholders and the public, prepare legislation for the 2012 session to create a coordinated transit system for metro Atlanta.

Joint Transit Governance Study Commission

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Rep. Donna Sheldon, Chairman
House District 105

Sen. David Shafer
Senate District 48

Rep. Edward Lindsey
House District 54

Sen. Judson Hill
Senate District 32

Rep. David Knight
House District 126

Sen. Steve Henson
Senate District 41

Rep. Pat Gardner
House District 57

Sen. Ronald Ramsey
Senate District 43