

December 23, 2019

The Honorable Michael L. Thurmond
CEO
DeKalb County
1300 Commerce Drive, 6th Floor
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear CEO Thurmond:

On December 12, 2019, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Board of Directors approved a resolution requesting a Fifteenth Amendment to the Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement ("RTCAA"). A copy of this resolution, together with the Fifteenth Amendment, is attached. The RTCAA is the document which governs the relationship between MARTA and the City of Atlanta, DeKalb, Fulton and Clayton Counties. MARTA and its jurisdictions have previously made fourteen amendments to the RTCAA as authorized by Section 4 (d) of the Contract. The Fifteenth Amendment would amend the Contract and Engineering Report to provide for certain changes to the Engineering Report, the collection of an additional one-half penny and an extension of the time for the collection of the full one penny MARTA tax.

Specifically, the Fifteenth Amendment amends the present Engineering Report to reflect a list of projects expanding the service within Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton and the City of Atlanta as reflected in Attachments A, B, C, and D to the Amendment. This Amendment also provides for the collection of an additional one-half cent sales tax within the City of Atlanta to run concurrently with the one cent tax authorized by the MARTA Act. This additional tax is to be utilized to fund the City of Atlanta expansion projects. Such tax was approved by the City of Atlanta residents in a referendum held November 8, 2016.

The Fifteenth Amendment also amends Section 2(d) of the Contract to extend the term for the levy of the full one cent sales tax provided for in the MARTA Act. Currently, the RTCAA provides for the collection of the full one cent sales tax until June 30, 2047, at which time the tax reverts to one half cent. Pursuant to an Act of the Georgia General Assembly, approved May 15, 2015, Section 25 of the MARTA Act was amended to authorize the collection of the tax at the maximum rate permitted by law until June 30, 2057. The Fifteenth Amendment will extend the term for the collection of the one cent tax to June 30, 2057.

The Amendment also provides for the appointment of jurisdictional transit-oriented development councils by any jurisdiction wishing to form one and provides for a future reexamination of the Contract to conform to the current plans for the system.

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In accordance with Section 5 of the RTCAA, MARTA requests approval of the Fifteenth Amendment within sixty (60) days of today's date by the appropriate formal action of the DeKalb County Commission.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Parker
General Manager/CEO

Encl.

CC: Honorable Jeff Rader, Presiding Officer, DeKalb County Commission
Viviane Ernstes, DeKalb County Attorney