

## **Collaboration with MARTA to Achieve Portions of the DeKalb County Transit Master Plan Goals without Additional Sales Tax Levies**

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County is committed to enhancing transportation options, improving accessibility, and promoting sustainable mobility for its residents;

**WHEREAS**, The DeKalb County Transit Master Plan outlines a comprehensive vision for the expansion and improvement of transit services within our county, with a focus on enhancing transit accessibility, equity, and sustainability;

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County seeks to explore innovative financing methods to fund transit projects, reducing reliance on additional sales taxes;

**WHEREAS**, MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) plays a vital role in the region's transportation infrastructure and is a key partner in achieving the goals outlined in the Transit Master Plan;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners expresses its commitment to working collaboratively with MARTA to advance certain objectives of the Transit Master Plan and to explore alternative financing mechanisms beyond sales taxes;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requests MARTA to provide a detailed plan that outlines strategies for achieving the Transit Master Plan goals without relying on an additional sales tax;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MARTA is encouraged to consider the following alternative financing methods and provide an assessment of their feasibility and potential application within the context of DeKalb County's transit initiatives:

- a.** Pursuing federal grants and funding opportunities from agencies like the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- b.** Exploring public-private partnerships (PPP) with private sector entities to invest in and operate transit systems.
- c.** Implementing value capture mechanisms, such as tax increment financing (TIF) or special assessment districts, to capture increased property values around transit stations.
- d.** Evaluating the issuance of bonds or municipal financing options to provide upfront capital for transit projects.
- e.** Seeking grants from non-profit organizations and foundations that support transit initiatives.
- f.** Encouraging developer contributions as part of development agreements to fund transit infrastructure.

g. Exploring innovative financing models like infrastructure banks, green bonds, or revolving loan funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that DeKalb County and MARTA shall engage in a collaborative and transparent process to determine the most effective and sustainable means of achieving the goals outlined in the Transit Master Plan while ensuring equitable access to transit services for all residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to MARTA (administration and Board Members), the Georgia Department of Transportation, the DeKalb Municipal Association, and the DeKalb Legislative Delegation for their consideration and collaboration in achieving the objectives outlined in the resolution.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Mereda Davis Johnson  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners DeKalb  
County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer DeKalb  
County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

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**ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS**  
Chief Operating Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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**BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Office

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia