

House Resolution 905

By: Representatives Holmes of the 53rd, Watson of the 70th, Ashe of the 46th, Wilkinson of the 43rd, Willard of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Commission on Regional Transportation; to provide for the membership,
2 powers, duties, and mission of the commission; to provide for related matters; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the metropolitan Atlanta area has severe and continuing traffic problems which
5 detract from the quality of life in the region; and

6 WHEREAS, as Georgia has increased in population and development, the demand for
7 transportation has grown and placed great stress on the ability of existing transportation
8 infrastructure to meet the growing need for travel in the region; and

9 WHEREAS, the growth of the region has extended the transportation problem from the core
10 counties of Fulton and DeKalb into the surrounding counties; and

11 WHEREAS, many counties are developing transportation plans with little or no coordination
12 with other counties to meet the transportation demands of the region; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a continuing and worsening problem with the pollution and
14 contamination of our air and, consequently, the health of our citizens as a result of traffic
15 congestion in the region which also affects the ability of the state to obtain transportation
16 funding; and

17 WHEREAS, there is a compelling need to develop a regional plan for the management of
18 transportation and transportation resources in Georgia.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Commission on Regional Transportation to be composed
21 of 13 members, as follows: one citizen appointed by the Governor from each of the following
22 counties: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett; the executive director of the
23 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority or his or her designee; the executive director
24 of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority or his or her designee; one member from

1 each of the legislative delegations representing Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett
2 counties selected by the members of each respective delegation from among the members
3 of the respective delegation; and an expert in the issues of mass transit and transportation
4 selected by the Governor. Any vacancy on the commission, including a vacancy caused by
5 a legislative member ceasing to serve in the Senate or House, shall be filled by appointment
6 by the original appointing authority. The members of the commission at their first meeting
7 shall select one of the members of the commission to serve as chairperson and another
8 member to serve as vice chairperson. The commission may appoint such other offices or
9 positions from among its members as it deems necessary. The commission shall meet at the
10 call of the chairperson.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to normal legislative staff support services,
12 the commission shall make use of staff support services provided by the Carl Vinson Institute
13 of Government of the University of Georgia.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
15 conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, to specifically
16 include, but not be limited to, the development of a comprehensive regional transportation
17 management plan for the state and the development of state policies regarding the methods
18 of funding transportation systems in the region and the coordination of transportation
19 services as well as the advisability of creating a single transportation system for the entire
20 region as opposed to separate county systems, and recommend any actions or legislation
21 which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. The commission may conduct such
22 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
23 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
24 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the commission shall
25 receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees
26 but shall receive the same for not more than 12 days unless additional days are authorized.
27 The public members of the commission who are not public employees shall receive from
28 legislative funds a daily expense allowance as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section
29 45-7-21. Any public employee on the commission shall receive no compensation from
30 legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses by their employers. The funds
31 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
32 appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. In the event the commission makes
33 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
34 any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2002. The commission shall stand
35 abolished on December 31, 2002.