

## House Resolution 254

By: Representatives Smith of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 109<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that before any state funds are committed to the Lovejoy to Atlanta rail project  
2 all the county and municipal governments to be directly served by this rail project agree, by  
3 local referendum or other binding document, to subsidize the difference between operating  
4 costs and operating income; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been in the process of  
6 negotiating an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad for implementation of a Lovejoy  
7 to Atlanta commuter rail project; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation plans to spend \$106 million of  
9 federal and state transportation dollars on this project; and

10 WHEREAS, the county and municipal governments directly served by the line have provided  
11 written confirmation to the Georgia Department of Transportation that they will pay future  
12 operating subsidies for the line; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation's cost estimates indicate that  
14 approximately \$4 million in additional annual operating subsidies will be required after the  
15 initial three-year start up period; and

16 WHEREAS, if the county and municipal governments along the line do not provide the  
17 necessary operating subsidies, the State of Georgia may be obligated to repay the federal  
18 government for the capital funds expended for the project.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
20 GEORGIA that it is the sense of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation and  
21 the Georgia Passenger Rail Authority should delay creating any further obligations of state  
22 or federal funds for the Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project until operating subsidy

1 agreements have been executed with all of the county and municipal governments along the  
2 proposed line.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and Budget, the Legislative  
4 Budget Office, and the Georgia Department of Transportation review and reach agreement  
5 on the capital costs, operating costs, operating revenues, and operating subsidies for the  
6 proposed project.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation develop a  
8 formula for sharing the operating subsidies among the county and municipal governments  
9 that have agreed to provide operating subsidies for the proposed project.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation negotiate and  
11 execute binding contracts with each of the county and municipal governments along the line  
12 to provide operating subsidies for the first ten years of the proposed project and providing  
13 for an initial payment equal to the 2010 estimated annual operating subsidy.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall deliver  
15 a copy of this resolution to the appropriate official of the county and municipal governments  
16 along the line of the proposed project; the commissioner of the Georgia Department of  
17 Transportation; the Office of Planning and Budget; and the Legislative Budget Office.