

## House Resolution 1227

By: Representatives Jordan of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Heckstall of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Barnes of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Dodson of the 75<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Requesting that if there is a shortfall in subsidizing the Lovejoy to Atlanta rail project, the
- 2 Department of Transportation and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority shall cover the
- 3 costs; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been in the process of
- 5 negotiating an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad for implementation of a Lovejoy
- 6 to Atlanta commuter rail project; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation plans to spend \$106 million of
- 8 federal and state transportation dollars on this project; and
- 9 WHEREAS, absent additional federal or state funds, the responsibility of paying for the rail
- 10 line's operational costs falls to the counties and municipalities along rail line's route,
- 11 particularly the taxpayers of Clayton County; and
- 12 WHEREAS, requiring Clayton County and the other counties and municipalities along the
- 13 rail line to carry the burden of subsidizing the rail line's operational costs is inherently unfair;
- 14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation's cost estimates indicate that
- 16 approximately \$4 million in additional annual operating subsidies will be required after the
- 17 initial three-year start-up period.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
- 19 it is the sense of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Georgia
- 20 Regional Transportation Authority should provide funds to cover any shortfall in the
- 21 operational costs for the Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project and that the burden for
- 22 covering said shortfall shall not fall to the taxpayers of Clayton County and the other
- 23 counties and municipalities along the proposed Lovejoy-Atlanta commuter rail line.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall deliver
- 2 a copy of this resolution to the appropriate officials of the county and municipal governments
- 3 along the line of the proposed project and to the commissioner of transportation.