

House Resolution 1237

By: Representatives Buckner of the 76th, Dodson of the 75th, Barnes of the 78th, Lunsford of the 110th, Sinkfield of the 60th, 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; and

11 WHEREAS, requiring the counties and municipalities along the rail line to carry the burden
12 of subsidizing the rail line's operational costs is inherently unfair; 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.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 GEORGIA that it is the sense of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation and
18 the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority should provide funds to cover any shortfall
19 in the operational costs for the Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall deliver
21 a copy of this resolution to the appropriate official of the county and municipal governments
22 along the line of the proposed project and to the commissioner of transportation.