

House Resolution 565

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th, McClain of the 100th, Lopez of the 99th, and Holcomb of the 81st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recommending that the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners take action to incorporate
2 mass transit options into Gwinnett County; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in the metropolitan Atlanta region is an ongoing problem that
4 negatively impacts the lives of Georgia residents and visitors; and

5 WHEREAS, Gwinnett County stands as one of Georgia's most populated counties, and the
6 number of county residents continues to grow and is expected to exceed 1 million people by
7 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, among the counties of the metropolitan Atlanta area, Gwinnett is being left
9 behind by neighboring counties where providing mass transit options have become priorities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, mass transit options are vital to ensure economic prosperity of people and the
12 neighborhoods in which they live, work, and play; and

13 WHEREAS, Gwinnett has been affected negatively to its detriment by not creating or
14 promoting mass transit opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2015 Gwinnett County lost out on 3,600 well-paid jobs when NCR decided
16 to move their company to Midtown, asserting that their main reason for leaving was the lack
17 of transportation and the number of hours their employees spend in traffic; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2016 Gwinnett lost another company, WEST ROCK, that had been a staple
19 in the community, taking with it another 800 well-paid jobs; and

20 WHEREAS, viable transit alternatives already exist in the region, most notably, the
21 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), which provides efficient rail

22 service throughout Atlanta, giving passengers with access to its trains the freedom to travel
23 without the burden of a car or traffic; and

24 WHEREAS, extending the MARTA rail line into Gwinnett County to the Gwinnett Center
25 Arena would not only help alleviate traffic congestion in the area but also spur economic
26 growth; and

27 WHEREAS, many citizens in Gwinnett County would welcome the addition of rail service
28 as a transportation option and have voiced their frustration with elected officials who do not
29 advocate for their desire to join MARTA; and

30 WHEREAS, the first steps have already begun and have made clear the need for
31 transportation alternatives in Gwinnett County that go beyond the expansion and use of
32 roads; and

33 WHEREAS, whether the county should join MARTA and decrease the time drivers are stuck
34 in traffic must come from the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body recommend that members of the Gwinnett County Board of
37 Commissioners take affirmative actions, guided by the various Georgia Department of
38 Transportation reports, to ease the traffic congestion caused by a lack of transportation
39 alternatives in the county.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is
41 recommended to take immediate action so that a vote of the people may be taken during the
42 2018 elections as to the expansion of MARTA and other transportation expansion projects
43 or alternatives.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.