

House Resolution 1091

By: Representatives Gonzalez of the 117th, Brockway of the 102nd, Frye of the 118th, England of the 116th, Park of the 101st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on an Athens-Atlanta Transportation Link; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in metropolitan Atlanta is among the worst in the nation, and
4 lack of transit options and methods for improving travel times throughout the state put
5 Georgia at an economic and business recruiting disadvantage to neighboring states; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Georgia Department of Transportation conducted a study on a
7 potential Athens to Atlanta Rail Line; and

8 WHEREAS, the department found that such a rail line had the potential to remove 5,300 auto
9 trips in a peak period on the Interstate 85 corridor, create an estimated \$65 million annually
10 in time savings for remaining road users, and avoid spending of roughly \$748 million on road
11 construction; and

12 WHEREAS, lack of adequate funding and problems with acquisition of rights of way have
13 been major stumbling blocks for the establishment of an Athens to Atlanta Rail Line; and

14 WHEREAS, providing a new transportation option for commuters between Atlanta and
15 Athens would enhance mobility, help improve air quality, save energy, and reduce
16 congestion in metropolitan Atlanta; and

17 WHEREAS, many enhancements in technology have occurred since 2006, and what was
18 once thought to be impossible is a reality; and

19 WHEREAS, the development of autonomous vehicle technology and other innovative and
20 high-tech transportation advancements have opened doors to new possibilities for mobility
21 in this state; and

22 WHEREAS, study is needed of the 2006 Atlanta to Athens Rail Link program and other
23 transportation innovations now available to develop new transportation options for
24 connecting Atlanta and Athens.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

26 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
27 on an Athens-Atlanta Transportation Link.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
29 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
31 of the committee.

32 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
33 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
34 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

35 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
38 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

39 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the
40 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of
41 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
42 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
43 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
44 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

45 (6) **Report.**

46 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
47 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
48 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
49 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

50 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
51 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
52 of this paragraph.

53 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
54 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
55 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
56 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

57 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
58 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
59 thereof.

60 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.