

## House Resolution 1951

By: Representatives Tran of the 80<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Roberts of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, and Crawford of the 89<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on MARTA Governance, Financial Accountability,  
2 and Regional Transit Oversight; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) is a joint public  
4 instrumentality of DeKalb County, Fulton County, Clayton County, and the City of Atlanta  
5 and is the exclusive provider of heavy rail in the metropolitan Atlanta region; and

6 WHEREAS, local governments and MARTA are committed to collaboratively planning,  
7 building, and operating public transportation services that improve accessibility and mobility,  
8 drive economic development, and enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, and play  
9 in metropolitan Atlanta; and

10 WHEREAS, MARTA has requested an extension on the collection of the its penny sales and  
11 use tax from 2057 to 2067 and continues to face declining ridership at between 50 to 60  
12 percent of pre-pandemic levels; and

13 WHEREAS, it is prudent to undertake a thorough review of MARTA operations to ensure  
14 the financial management, oversight, and operational structure of MARTA aligns with all

15 parties and their shared interest in the successful operation and funding of transit service in  
16 metropolitan Atlanta; and

17 WHEREAS, it is imperative that MARTA moves forward with complete transparency,  
18 including clarity of terms, accounting, and mission, and further study is needed to define the  
19 roles, responsibilities, and financial commitments of MARTA and its participating  
20 jurisdictions relative to use of funds, annual reporting, and external audits; and

21 WHEREAS, study is needed to ensure best practices in the use of funds, annual reporting,  
22 and external audits for transit providers in the 13 county region within the jurisdiction of the  
23 Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority; and

24 WHEREAS, examination is required of issues related to the governance, financial  
25 management, and regional oversight of MARTA and all transit operations in the metropolitan  
26 Atlanta region, including:

- 27 (1) Measures to strengthen transparency and accountability in transit governance;
- 28 (2) Requirements for quarterly financial reporting and public disclosure of financial  
29 statements;
- 30 (3) A comprehensive review and through analysis of the MARTA Act and its governance  
31 framework;
- 32 (4) Strategies for addressing and restructuring existing MARTA debt obligations;
- 33 (5) The allocation and oversight of regional transit sales tax revenues;
- 34 (6) The feasibility of enhanced financial oversight by an agency to be recommended,  
35 including potential authority for regional review of MARTA financial planning and  
36 budgeting;
- 37 (7) Independent annual external audits, including audits of executive salaries, consulting  
38 contracts, and procurement practices;

- 39 (8) Review of current financial structures of major capital projects and system expansion,  
40 with recommendations to ensure the on-time delivery of capital and transit oriented  
41 development projects;
- 42 (9) Strategies for securing stable federal funding for transit infrastructure and operations;
- 43 (10) Opportunities to leverage transit oriented development and real estate assets to  
44 support operating revenues and increase ridership;
- 45 (11) Policies and practices that ensure MARTA operates as a financially sustainable and  
46 economically solvent transit system with long-term viability; and
- 47 (12) Governance reforms necessary to strengthen regional coordination of transit system  
48 delivery with a strategic framework to achieve tangible outcomes.

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

- 50 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
51 on MARTA Governance, Financial Accountability, and Regional Transit Oversight.
- 52 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following  
53 members:
- 54 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:
- 55 (i) Five members of the House of Representatives as members of the committee. The  
56 Speaker shall also designate one of such members as chairperson; and
- 57 (ii) Four citizens comprising one resident from DeKalb County, Fulton County,  
58 Clayton County, and the City of Atlanta;
- 59 (B) The Executive Director of the Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority, or his  
60 or her designee;
- 61 (C) The General Manager/CEO of MARTA, or his or her designee; and
- 62 (D) The Executive Director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, or his or her  
63 designee.

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

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

71 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

72 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
73 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

74 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
75 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the  
76 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
77 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they  
78 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

79 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
80 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
81 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
82 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
83 employees.

84 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
85 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
86 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
87 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
88 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
89 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
90 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

91 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

106 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.