

# ***Why Transit? Why Now?***

Georgia House of Representatives

Transit Study Committee

August 15, 2016

# What is Transit?

## Transit (noun):

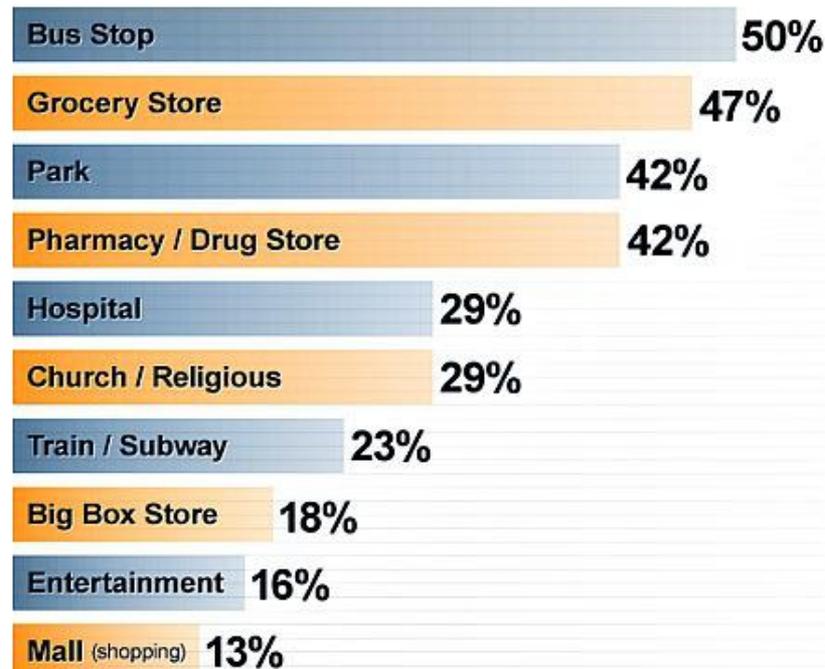
- the act of moving people or things from one place to another
  - *Source: Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*
- the activity or process of moving someone or something from one place to another
  - *Source: MacMillan Dictionary*
- a facility consisting of the means and equipment necessary for the movement of passengers or goods
  - *Source: Vocabulary.com*

# Demographics Support Transit

## What Community Amenities Do Older Adults Want Close to Home?

We asked older adults what amenities they want close to home. Access to transportation, food, and green space top the list. These are among the many community indicators that we are measuring as part of the Livability Index project. Find out more about our livability research and the development of our index here: [www.aarp.org/ppi/liv-com/](http://www.aarp.org/ppi/liv-com/)

% endorsed within 1 mile or less



Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

GRAPHIC: AARP Digital Design



**Americans under 30  
are 2.3 times more  
likely to ride public  
transit than  
Americans age 30-60**

*- Source: Who's On Board 2014  
Mobility Survey, 11,842 respondents  
in 46 U.S. regions*



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

# Region Supports Transit

## METRO ATLANTA 2015 SPEAKS Survey

44%

... of those asked believe that expanding public transit is the best long-term solution to the region's traffic problems



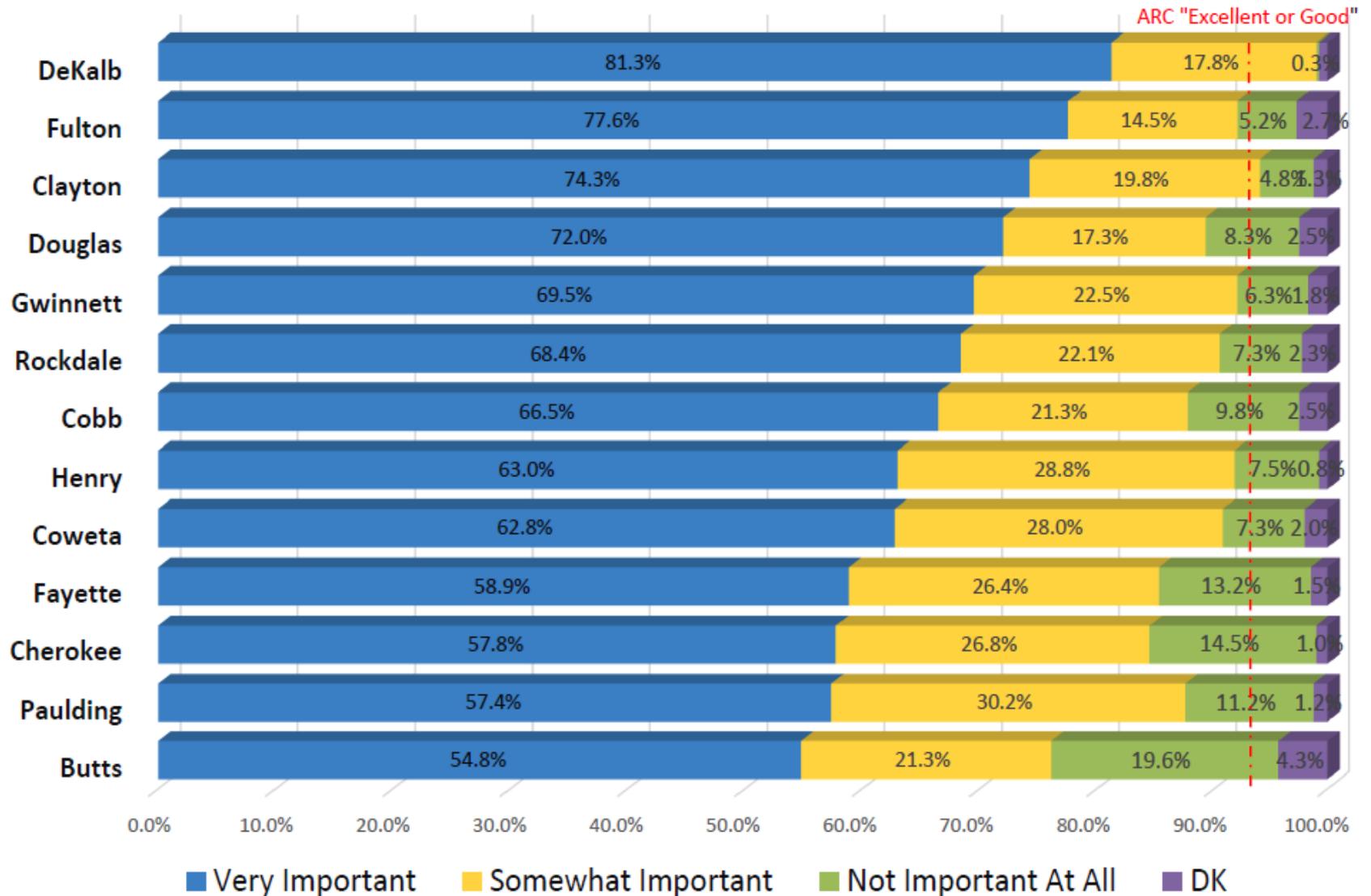
91%

... of those surveyed said improving public transit is very important or somewhat important to metro Atlanta's future



\* Survey conducted by Kennesaw State University; 5,200 residents in 13 counties, with results significant down to the county-level.

# Importance of Public Transit to the Region: MAS 2015



local relevance

+

regional impact

# Long History of Transit Planning & Service in Atlanta Region

## *Early efforts focused on system start-up & expansion*

- **1950s** – recognition of public transportation, including new rail system, importance to growth of region
- **1960s** – focus on proposals for rapid transit systems
- **1970s** – legislative activity and voter referendum
- **1980s & 1990s** – rail & bus expansions beyond MARTA service area
- **Early 2000s** – further regional bus service expansions



# By 2005, the Region Started Wondering...

*Who would build, operate and maintain a fixed guideway (rail) line from Cumberland to Doraville?*



- The resulting study confirmed these challenges:
  - Limited service coordination
  - Separate fare and funding structures
  - General lack of funding from all levels of government

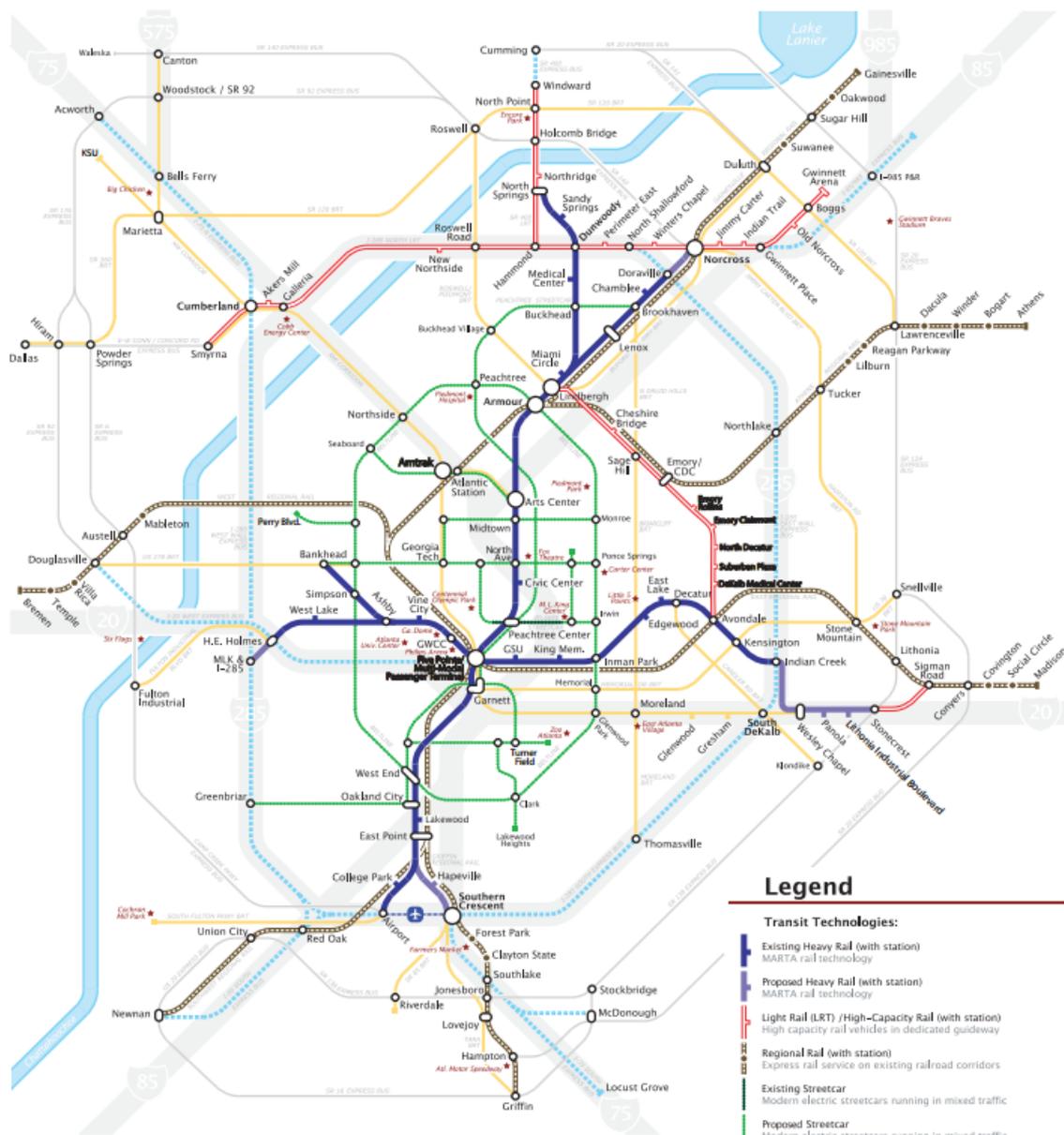


# Early Stages of Regional Transit Planning & Service Coordination

Iteration	Dates	Products
RTIA	2004-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TPB Work Program</li></ul>
Transit Planning Board (TPB)	2006-2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Transit Map</li><li>• Unified Regional Governance Framework Statement</li><li>• Service Coordination (CCT 10/MARTA 12 &amp; joint bus stops)</li><li>• Regional Transit Vision (<b>Concept 3</b>)</li></ul>

# Concept 3

## The Atlanta Region's Long-Range Transit Vision



# Later Stages of Regional Transit Planning & Service Coordination

Iteration	Dates	Products
<b>Transit Implementation Board (TIB)</b>	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Governance Statement</li> <li>• RTC</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Transit Committee (RTC)</b>	2010-present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Transit Data Warehouse &amp; Open Transit Data</li> <li>• Regional Fare Study &amp; Breeze Coordination</li> <li>• Unified Bus Stop Signage Design</li> <li>• Regional Fleet &amp; Facilities Inventory</li> <li>• Updated Regional Transit Map</li> <li>• Concept Regional Transit Governance Legislation</li> <li>• Updated Regional Transit Vision</li> <li>• ATLtransit.org</li> </ul>

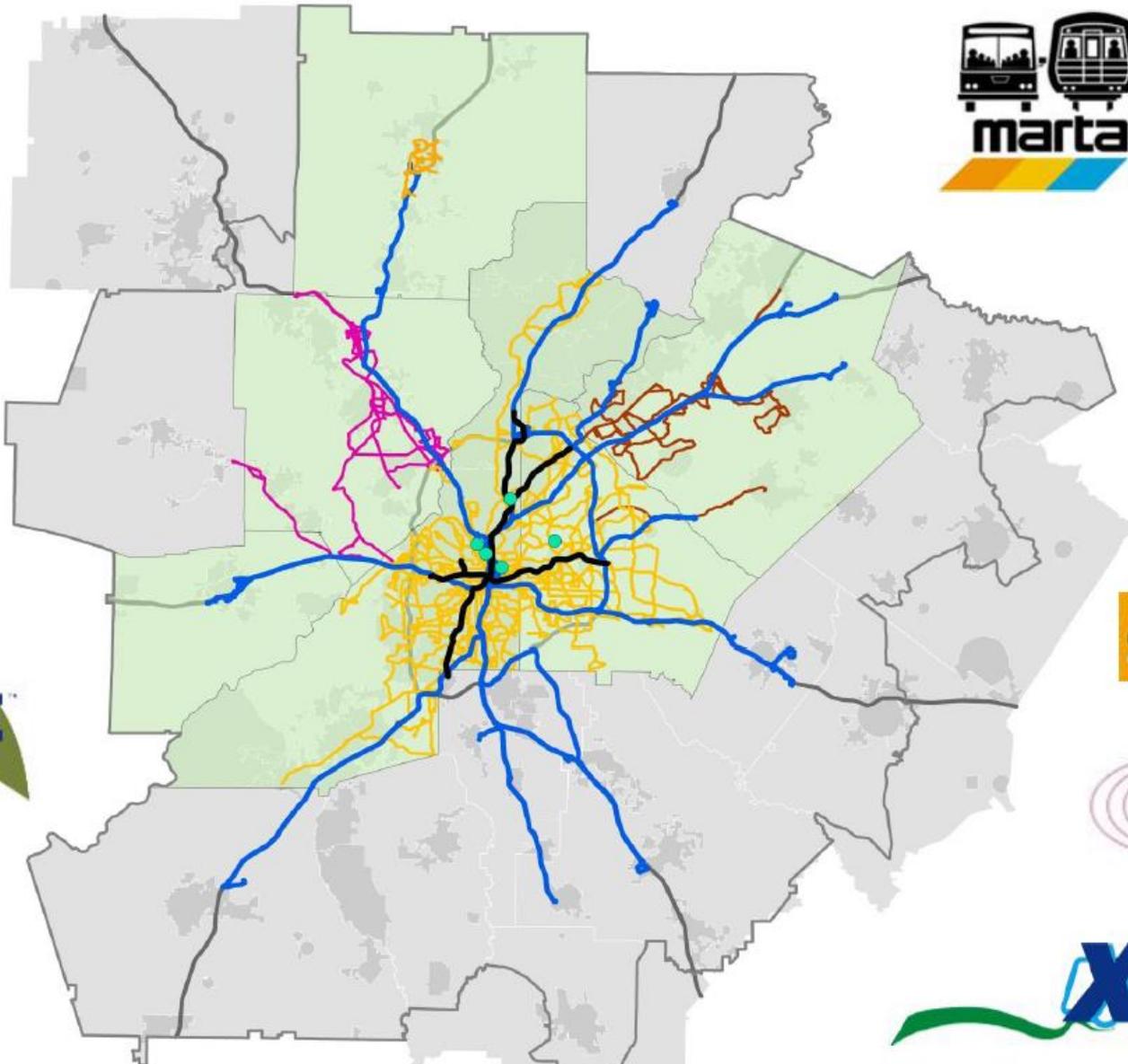
# Previous Efforts at “Regional Transit Solutions”

- **2008-2009** – Transit Planning/Implementation Board statement on regional governance
- **2010-2011** – *“Joint Transit Governance Study Commission”* created by TIA (HB 277), Rep. Donna Sheldon chaired
- **2010-2012** – RTC development of transit governance legislation, introduced 2012
- **2012** – *“Transit Governance Task Force”* created by Gov. Deal, Rep. Donna Sheldon and Sen. Jeff Mullis co-chaired, legislation introduced

# Transit in Atlanta Today



FREE RIDE



regional impact + local relevance

# Regional Transit Entities

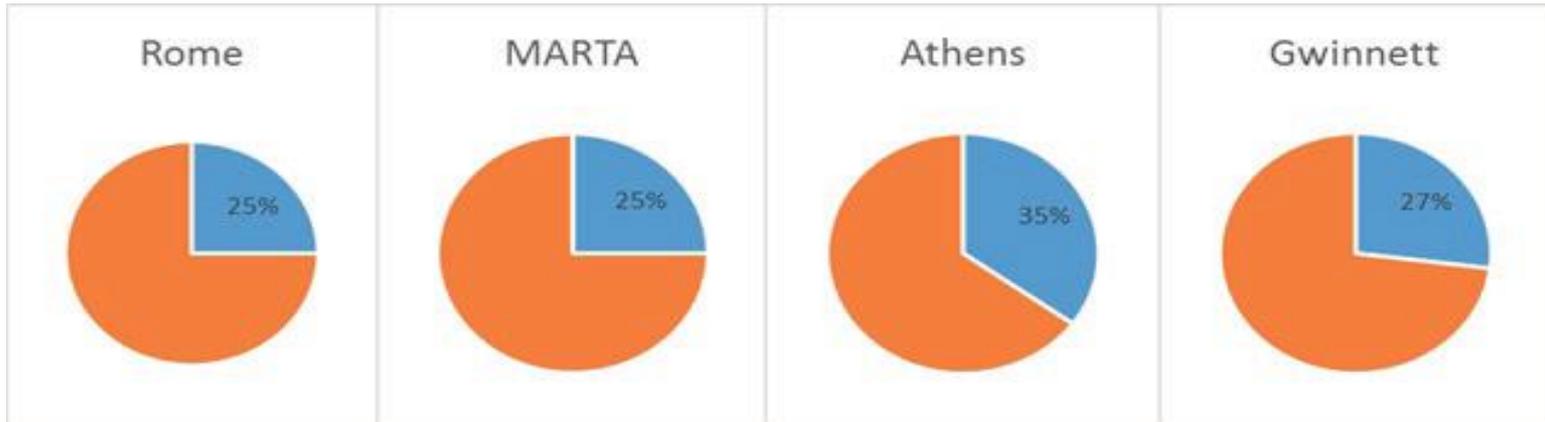
Agency/Entity	Role
<b>GDOT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan (SSTP)</li> <li>Intermodal Division: oversight of federal FTA grants and rural transit</li> </ul>
<b>GRTA/SRTA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Express bus service &amp; vanpools to/from 13 metro counties</li> <li>Approval of transportation funds allocation through TIP</li> <li>Distribution of GO! Transit Capital Funds in 2016</li> </ul>
<b>Georgia DCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation</li> </ul>
<b>Georgia DHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of Transportation for Low-income, Disabled, &amp; Seniors</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Transit Committee (RTC) of ARC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Transit Data Warehouse &amp; Open Transit Data</li> <li>Regional Fare Coordination/Fleet Inventory/Map &amp; Vision</li> <li>Unified Bus Stop Signage Design <a href="http://ATLtransit.org">ATLtransit.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>MARTA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus and Rail Service in Fulton/DeKalb/Clayton</li> <li>Designated Recipient of Federal Funds</li> </ul>
<b>Cobb County (CCT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Service within and to/from Cobb County</li> </ul>
<b>Gwinnett County (GCT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Service within and to/from Gwinnett County</li> </ul>
<b>City of Atlanta</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation and Administration of Atlanta Streetcar</li> </ul>
<b>Others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Douglas, Cherokee, Paulding, Henry, Coweta, GA Tech, Three Rivers RC, TMA Shuttles, Private Operators (i.e. Buford Hwy.)</li> </ul>

local relevance

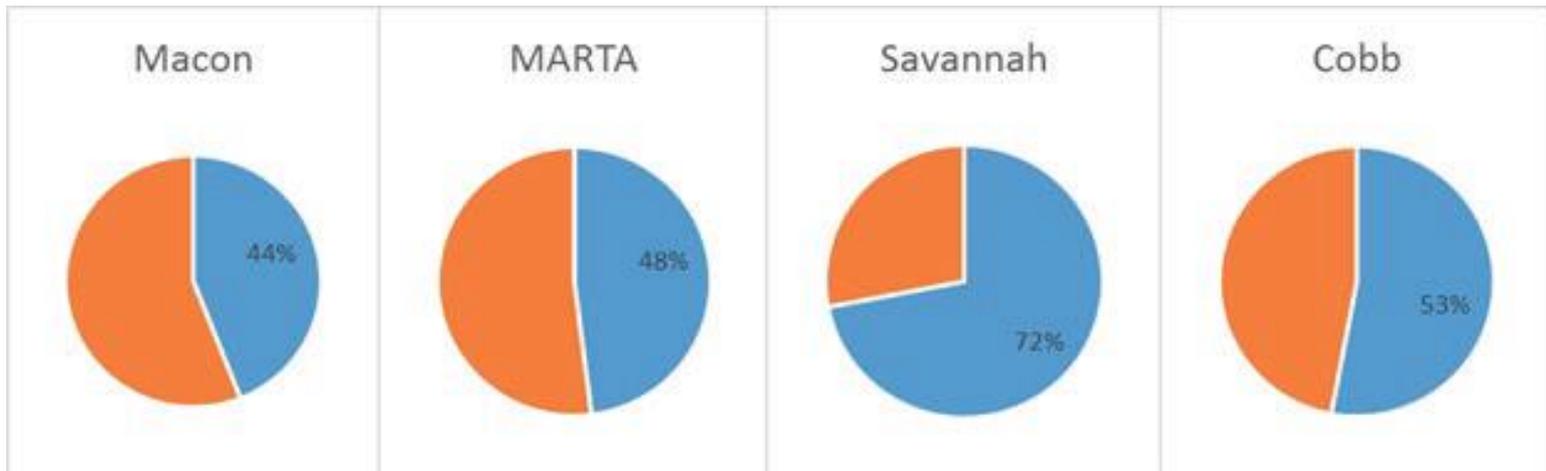
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regional impact

# Funding Examples



**% of Revenue Derived from Farebox**



**% of Revenue Derived from Local Funds**

# Current Status

## Regional Focus:

- Maintain Regional Transit Trip Planner
- Implement Unified Bus Stop Signage
- Regional Transit Fare System Upgrades
- Expand Regional Transit Marketing Efforts
- Update Regional Transit Vision

## State Developments:

- GO! Transit Capital Grants (\$75M) in 2015-16
- Local T-SPLOST Opportunities for Transit

⚠️ [Click to view recent status updates.](#)

Plan trip Next arrival Stop ID

Enter starting address...

Enter destination...

🕒 Leave now ▾

Plan with: ATLtransit Google Transit

**DRIVING STRESSING YOU OUT?**

Plan your next commute with transit.

Find a Park 'n' Ride near you:

Acworth

FEATURED CONTENT

**✂ Ride MARTA to the airport.**

**Pre-load fare on your Breeze Card.**

**Find real-time arrivals for trains and buses.**

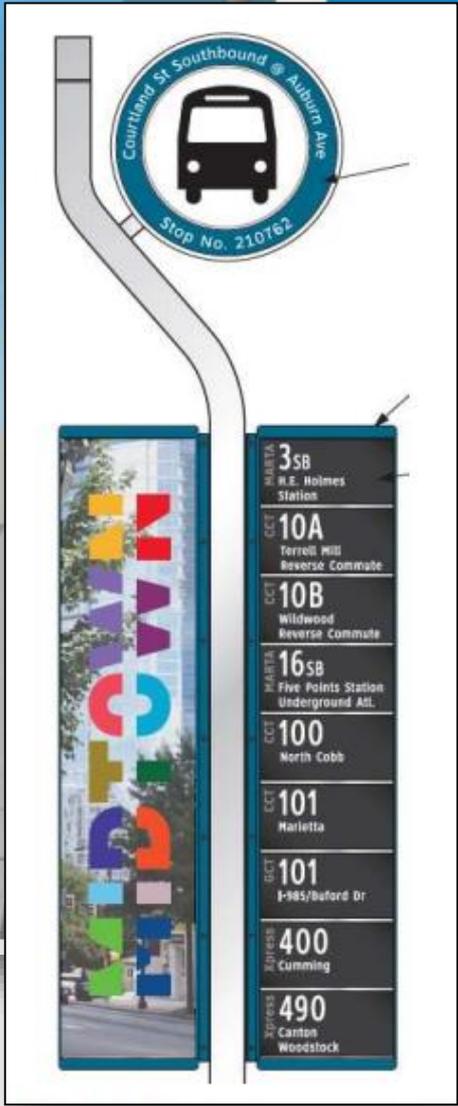
**Not sure how to transfer?**

**Is transit in Atlanta regional?**

How can a transit system with more than 4 agencies work in harmony? Find out how these agencies are stitching transit together.

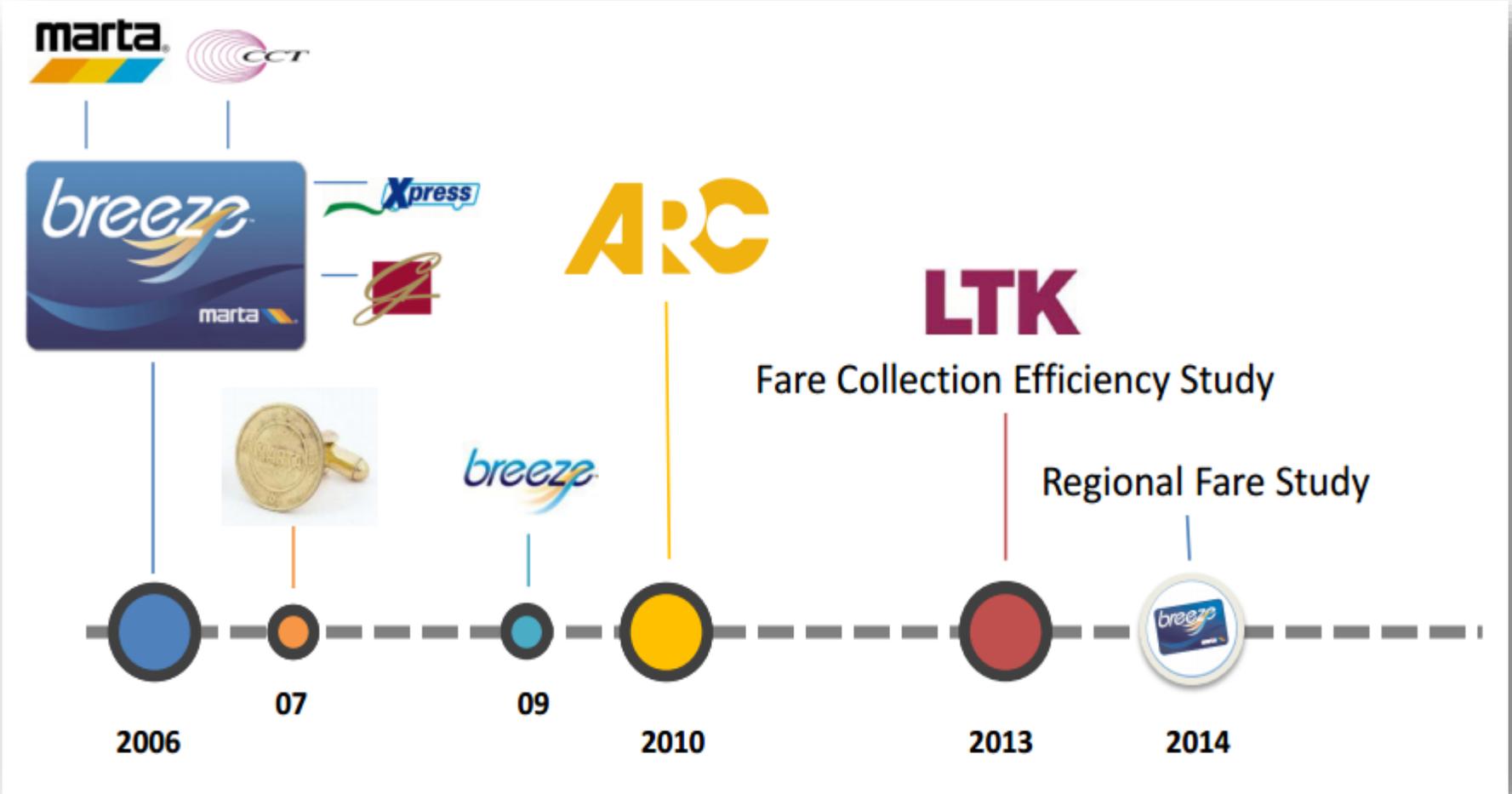
**What is ATLtransit?**

ATLtransit is *the* regional transit information hub. Whether you're looking for tools or tips, you've come to the right place.



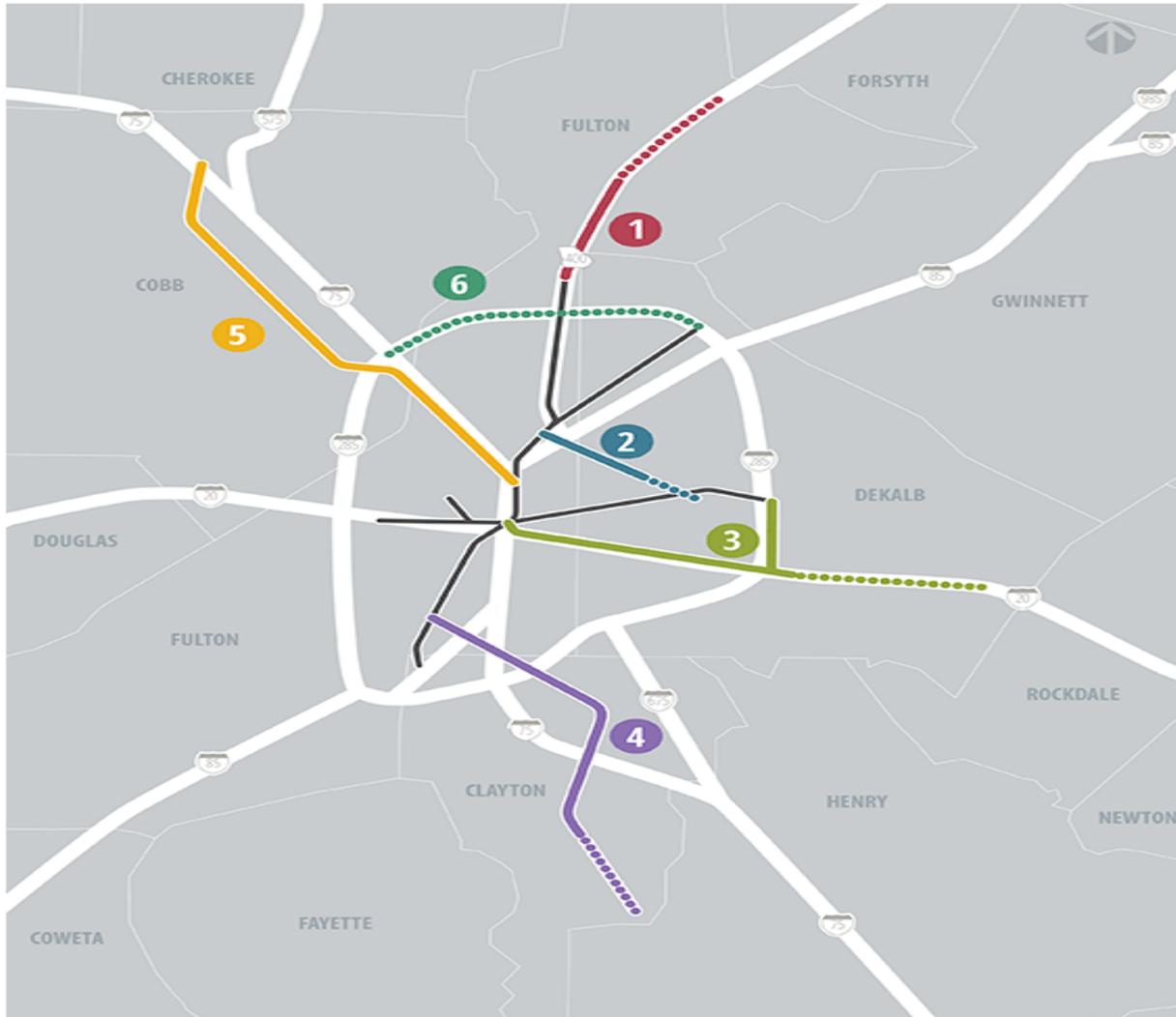
# Complex Nature of Fare Collection and Revenue Sharing

local relevance + regional impact



# Atlanta Region's Plan (adopted 2016)

local relevance + regional impact



## Potential Transit Projects Through 2040

- 1 Connect 400:** MARTA Red Line Extension to Holcomb Bridge Road.  
— **Phase 1 Cost:** \$1.29 billion  
⋯ **Phase 2 Cost:** \$1.09 billion

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- 2 Clifton Corridor:** Light rail service connecting Lindbergh and Avondale MARTA stations.  
— **Phase 1 Cost:** \$1.73 billion  
⋯ **Phase 2 Cost:** \$656 million

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- 3 I-20 East:** MARTA Blue Line extension from Indian Creek along I-285 and I-20 to Stonecrest Mall; bus rapid transit from Five Points to Stonecrest Mall.  
— **Phase 1 Cost:** \$1.46 billion  
⋯ **Phase 2 Cost:** 1.09 billion

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- 4 Clayton County High Capacity Transit:** High-frequency commuter rail service from East Point MARTA station to Jonesboro. Concept is preliminary.  
— **Phase 1 Cost:** 415 million  
⋯ **Phase 2 Cost:** \$100 million

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- 5 Connect Cobb:** Bus rapid transit service connecting Town Center, Cumberland and Midtown Atlanta via dedicated busway on US-41 corridor \*.  
**Cost:** \$491 million

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- 6 I-285 High Capacity Transit**

— Existing Transit  
 \* Requires approval of Cobb Commission and a voter referendum

# The Need for Solutions is Urgent

“The major issues facing the transit sector in Georgia are focused around the availability of **funding** and **coordination** to cover the needs. With the restriction on the use of state motor fuel tax funds for transit, **future increases in demand will become more and more difficult to address.**”

- *2015 Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan (SSTP), Technical Memorandum 3, p. 3-21*

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“**It is critical that the state increase its commitment** to the development of responsible, well-funded and coordinated public transportation in metropolitan areas. Funding is needed annually for investment in transit systems around the state and to assist in coordination of services between transit systems in metro regions. **It is in the State of Georgia’s and numerous transit systems’ best interests to establish a separate, permanent funding stream.**”

- *Final Report of the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding, December 30, 2014*

# Questions Needing Answers

***THE BIG ONE: How are we going to move people around in metro Atlanta and the state in 20 years?***

- What is our statewide vision for transit?
- What is the permanent funding source for transit?
- How can the state better facilitate service coordination?
- How can we best connect economic centers statewide and regionally?
- What changes are necessary in governance structures?
- How can we preserve local decision-making and empower local funding innovation?

# More Information?

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