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September 27, 2018

The Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor, City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Bottoms:

After almost two years of public engagement, the MARTA Board of Directors will vote on the More MARTA Atlanta program of interrelated transit projects on October 4, 2018. In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Atlanta and MARTA, please find attached the project list that the three Atlanta board members will recommend for full Board consideration.

The More MARTA Atlanta program will support the city's population growth and vibrant economy by increasing accessibility, mobility, and connectivity within the City of Atlanta and the regional transportation network. In alignment with Atlanta City Design and the Atlanta Transportation Plan, this program consists of a prioritized system of mobility projects generated by a thorough analysis of technical data, performance measurements, and public and stakeholder input in accordance with the program's guiding principles. More than just a list of projects, this investment will produce a layered, integrated transportation network with a renewed focus on equity, customer service, and the City of Atlanta's community development goals.

Your commitment to One Atlanta requires that equity concerns are squarely addressed in any investment of public dollars and we've taken great care to ensure your commitments are reflected in this More MARTA program. Economic opportunity requires access to affordable housing, education, and good jobs. Our recommended program prioritizes transit projects that link the city's educational and economic activity centers, enhances mobility options especially for seniors and individuals with disabilities, and dramatically improves the overall customer experience. The numbers below represent conceptual costs of local dollars for capital and the FTA-required operations and maintenance for twenty years. In summary, the program delivers:

- More than \$600 million for high capacity transit projects in southwest and southeast Atlanta, including accelerating light rail investment on Campbellton Road and bus rapid transit linking Summerhill to downtown;
- \$570 million for the Atlanta BeltLine corridor; including all high capacity transit modes, the More MARTA Atlanta program builds out 61% of the City Council adopted-Atlanta BeltLine Streetcar System Plan;

- \$553 million to build a light rail line that will directly connect the Atlanta University Center with downtown, MARTA's heavy rail system, Georgia State University, and the BeltLine, while leveraging and revitalizing the City's legacy investment in the downtown Streetcar;
- \$250 million for the Clifton Corridor line, with another \$100 million contingent upon securing full local funding for the project;
- \$238 million for improvements to the current bus system, including new buses, more shelters, more service and new circulator routes;
- \$200 million to improve existing rail stations, including better pedestrian access, ADA enhancements and amenities inside the stations, with priority given to Five Points, Bankhead, CNN/GWCC, Oakland City, Ashby, West End, Inman Park and Vine City stations.

Importantly, the recommendations for the BeltLine Corridor and the Clifton Corridor represent a shift in our approach to generating local funds. The scale of investment that will be needed to complete the 22-mile BeltLine and the entire Streetcar System Plan requires that we explore funding strategies beyond sales tax revenue. MARTA intends to engage expertise in transit public-private partnerships to help us design a path forward for complete build out of the BeltLine corridor. We will work in partnership with Atlanta BeltLine Inc. with the goal of having an actionable plan to leverage BeltLine and MARTA development assets to access private funding and financing. This approach will prioritize joint development of transit and affordable housing along the corridor.

For the Clifton Corridor line, MARTA has begun working with stakeholders, including Emory Healthcare and Emory University, on a strategy for the Clifton line that will accelerate development and best leverage additional sources of funding to meet the Federal Transit Administration's requirements for the local funding match. We are excited about the opportunity for new investment and net new transit dollars these strategic partnerships could unlock.

While the full More MARTA Atlanta program will take 40 years to realize, we will make near-term investments on projects to significantly improve connectivity and the customer experience which, in turn, will generate continued public support as we build out the full program. Further, we recognize that programming the entire amount of the projected sales tax revenue has built-in limitations, including uncertainty around federal funding and conceptual project cost and revenue estimates subject to future economic conditions. Factoring those constraints, MARTA will push to identify and capture additional local, state and federal funds to support expansions of the program.

MARTA shares your Administration's vision of a cohesive transit system that increases access and mobility for the entire city, improves the customer experience and supports economic development and opportunity for all Atlantans. We are confident the recommended program delivers a multitude of benefits for Atlanta and reinforces MARTA's existing role as the strong foundation of the regional transit network.

While it is important to recognize that this program is an important milestone in Atlanta's history, it is not the finish line. As the past months and years of public outreach have clearly demonstrated, there is an incredible appetite for more transit in and around Atlanta. The More MARTA Atlanta program will go a long way towards addressing the pent-up demand, particularly for the core of the system, but there are other quality transit projects that will require additional funding in the years to come. We look forward to working with you in pursuit of those opportunities as well.

Thank you for your support and leadership.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Parker
General Manager/CEO



Robert Ashe
Chairman of the Board
Atlanta Appointee



Ryan Glover
Atlanta Appointee



Roderick Edmond
Atlanta Appointee

Attachments: Recommended Project List
Recommended Project Map

cc: Honorable Felicia Moore, President, Atlanta City Council
Atlanta City Council Members
MARTA Board of Directors
Dr. Yvette G. Taylor, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region IV