

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ALPHARETTA
REGARDING MARTA EXPANSION AND
REQUEST THAT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS BE KEPT AND/OR ADDED TO SB 330

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council applaud the efforts of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and Governor Nathan Deal for their vision in creating new transportation plans and opportunities to focus on traffic relief as a top tier priority across Metro-Atlanta and the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, reducing traffic congestion in the Georgia 400 corridor should be a top priority of the City of Alpharetta, Fulton County, and state leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council acknowledge that public transit has a role to play in the overall transportation strategy of the Metro-Atlanta and North Fulton region; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 330 seeks to fund the expansion of MARTA at a cost of more than \$8 Billion, or \$200,000,000.00 per mile, which is to include 3 stations in the City of Alpharetta; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council firmly believe that the voters of Alpharetta and Fulton County should not be forced to decide on a tax increase on all their purchases for the next 40+ years to fund the expansion of MARTA without the benefit of all the information necessary to make an informed decision; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council specifically desire that the Citizens of Alpharetta be able to weigh the increased traffic from 3 additional MARTA stations in Alpharetta with the potential north/south commute time improvements, if any, as the result of expanded mass transit so as to make an informed decision prior to any vote; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council acknowledge that multiple versions of SB 330 have and will be drafted, but desire that SB 330, if passed, contain specific provisions as set out below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council hereby express their desire that the following be determined before allowing the issue of an increased MARTA tax come to a ballot:

Independent research from a recognized engineering firm for the purpose of assessing the following:

- (1) The impact on Alpharetta's surface roads as the result of 3 new transit stations within the City attracting commuters presently using north/south corridors other than Georgia 400; and

- (2) The expected improvement, if any, along Georgia 400 expressed in terms of decreased average drive times from each public transit alternative, such as heavy rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and managed lanes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council urge any final version of SB 330 contain the following provisions:

1. Local Zoning Authority: That transit oriented developments, whether on property owned by MARTA or otherwise, are fully subject to the local zoning laws, zoning authority, and design standards of the applicable municipality; and
2. Ballot Language: That the ballot language reflect the same neutral language required of the T-SPLOST ballot language, which does not presume the unproven benefits of traffic relief and economic development; and
3. Federal Funding: That no tax be incurred or collected absent a guaranteed commitment of the federal matching funds necessary to complete the agreed upon project list; and
4. Maximum Tax: That Fulton County, excepting Atlanta, not be subject to a tax greater than 1/4 of a penny of sales tax for the entire 40+ year span of the proposed tax; and
5. Project List: That full disclosure is made to the public of the proposed project list at least 60 days prior to appearing on a ballot, and that approval be obtained from each applicable municipality of the transit project list; and
6. Tax Limit: That the taxes collected will not exceed the costs to complete the projects listed on the project list presented to the public and that no taxes will be spent on projects not listed on the project list at the time of the public vote; and
7. Timing: That the MARTA expansion question not be allowed to preempt the timing of the T-SPLOST ballot question.

SO RESOLVED this 22nd Day of February, 2016

CITY OF ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA

By: _____
David Belle Isle, Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS

