

2016 Legislative Study Committees on “Regional Transit Solutions”

House Study Committee

Christian Coomer, Chair (R-Cartersville) – House Transportation Chair, detail-oriented and studious

Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) – original sponsor of resolution creating study committee

John Carson (R-Cobb) – has interest in transit issues, detail-oriented

Chuck Efstration (R-Gwinnett) – relatively new, attorney, not much background in transit

Mike Glanton (D-Clayton Co.) – longtime member, backer of MARTA in Clayton

Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus) – dean of the House, close to Speaker

Tom Taylor (R-Dunwoody) – MARTOC Chair, knowledgeable on transit

Senate Study Committee

Steve Gooch, Chair (R-Dahlonega) – Majority Whip, former Transportation Committee Chair

Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) – sponsor of SB 369, transit supporter

Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta) – sponsor of successful bill to require referendum for fixed guideway transit

Fran Millar (R-Dunwoody) – supporter of transit

P.K. Martin (R-Lawrenceville) – relatively new, spoke in opposition to MARTA bill in 2016

Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta) – longtime supporter of transit

Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale) – longtime supporter of transit, particularly in Clayton Co.

Georgia Transportation Alliance Statewide Transit Task Force

(Verbiage from Exec. Dir. Seth Millican, announcing task force):

The purpose of this task force will be to undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the responsible growth and development of public transportation systems all across the state of Georgia and make specific legislative recommendations for consideration during the next 6-10 years. This group will begin to look for a solid, long term policy to stabilize Georgia’s current intra-city transit programs, while laying the groundwork for a future conversation about inter-city public transportation programs. The immediate term challenge is to address the issue of governance while also seeking a unique, long term funding source for Georgia’s 128 public transportation systems.

We anticipate the task force will meet 4-6 times for the remainder of 2016 and produce draft recommendations by the end of the year. We acknowledge the work that will be done by the transit study committees in the House and Senate, respectively, and as the opportunity presents itself, will work closely with them as much as possible. However, we also are cognizant of the fact that having the input and creativity of a business-oriented working group can be invaluable.

As such, this group will meet and work privately – no additional members will be added unless approved by the task force as a whole, and neither the general public nor the media will be involved unless requested / approved by the task force.

Task Force Members

1. Board Members, Georgia Transportation Alliance
2. Chris Tomlinson, SRTA / GRTA
3. Rhonda Briggins, MARTA
4. Scott Haggard, ARC
5. Jay Roberts / Josh Waller, GDOT
6. Brian Anderson, Columbus Chamber / State Workforce Investment Board
7. Clint Mueller, ACCG
8. Dave Williams, Metro Atlanta Chamber
9. Mark Middleton, Georgia Railroad Association
10. Robert Hiett, Georgia Transit Association
11. Lauren Fralick, Regional Business Coalition
12. Tim Lee, Cobb County
13. Charlotte Nash, Gwinnett County
14. Mike Vaquer, Chatham Area Transit
15. Butch McDuffie, Athens Clark County Transit
16. Brian Gist, Southern Environmental Law Center