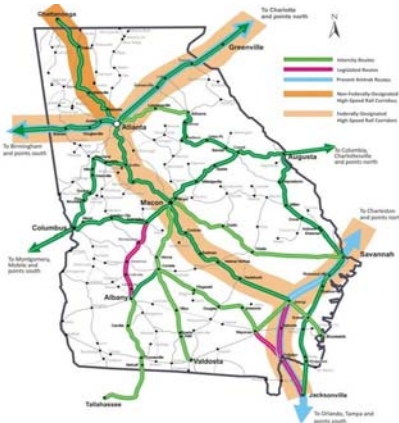




Georgia Chapter

Footnotes Issue #106: Spetember 18, 2015

Transit Moving Forward All Over Georgia



[Macon Mayor Robert Reichert sees the opportunity that Clayton County joining MARTA presents for his city](#) and others along the much studied Atlanta to Macon rail line. Having funding for the initial segment to Lovejoy in place will finally get Norfolk Southern to address passenger rail.

Columbus is moving forward with new hubs to their Metra transit service, funded by the 10-year transportation tax approved by the region in 2012, which will result in an additional \$22 million, allowing expanded routes and service. An additional \$260 million can be used at the discretion of the Columbus City Council, and they are looking at supplementing a \$200,000 grant from the Knight Foundation to plan and begin to implement 27 miles of more multi-use trail, starting with a connection between the Fall Line

Trace and the Riverwalk. For more details, check out the [Columbus Ledger Enquirer](#).

[Chatham Area Transit leaders attended the annual American Public Transportation Association conference](#) in Denver in July and are now hard at work educating and mobilizing improvement and expansion of service.

Gwinnett County just finished the [Gr8 Exchange, a community-wide conversation about transportation](#), led by Gwinnett Village CID, which generated 4,000 responses to a survey. [Most respondents supported having options when it comes to transportation, including trains, buses, walking, biking and cars.](#) This follows the release of a poll by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce that showed that 63% of Gwinnetians supported joining MARTA. And while County Commission Chair Charlotte Nash is supportive of restoring Gwinnett County Transit service to 2007 levels, she remains steadfastly opposed to bringing a MARTA referendum to voters.

Cobb County continues to explore expanding transit. Accommodating the Braves transit service may put Cobb in the business of adding Sunday service to all CCT routes.

The Atlanta Regional Commission has begun work on the update to the [Regional Transportation Plan](#), which lays out the 2040 constrained vision for how transit might be expanded in the Metro Atlanta Region.

Sabal Trail Draft EIS Approved



Despite public outcry in Southwest Georgia and denial of a Certificate of Need by Georgia DOT for the Palmetto Pipeline in Southeast Georgia, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ignored all comments, from the public, from geological experts and US EPA and [approved the Sabal Trail Pipeline](#) which will carry natural gas from Mobile Bay to central Florida. As the [Albany Herald reported](#), other communities around the country have faced similar dismissal, and are fasting in front of FERC headquarters in

Washington, DC. Another public hearing will be held September 29, 2015 in Albany. Click [here](#) for more information and [click here to take action](#).

Sierra Club Meetings

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.
Contact William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com

RAIL Committee, Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.
Contact Colleen Kiernan, colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

Smart Energy Solutions, October 5, 7:00 p.m. Contact Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com

Don't live in Atlanta? Check out our [Local Groups](#).

Other Events

September 19-20 - Georgia River Network

Weekend for Rivers - [Weekend for Rivers](#) is GRN's Annual Conference and River Celebration event that gives us all a chance to celebrate Georgia's unique, beautiful rivers through presentations, partying and paddling! Join us September 19th for a day of inspiration, education and connections with folks who love Georgia's rivers as much as you! The day will include river-lovers of all kinds expressing their passion for rivers with inspiring presentations and interactive forums that will paint a broad picture of the state of Georgia's rivers and the people who protect, enjoy and honor them. Three tracks will explore Georgia's rivers from different angles.



September 20 - Waves in the Woods - The [Volta Laboratory Social Club](#) is hosting a fundraising hike for the Sierra Club - Georgia Chapter at Sweetwater Creek State Park. This event takes the idea of a silent disco and combines it with a hike! Musicians from the Atlanta area have composed songs specifically for the event with the idea of them being heard on a nature walk. [Click here for more information and to purchase tickets](#).

September 26 - TransportationCamp South - TransportationCamp is an "unconference" – where sessions are proposed and led by attendees – bringing together thinkers and doers in the fields of transportation and technology for a day of learning, debating, connecting, and creating. Created by [OpenPlans](#) in 2011, this will be the 3rd TransportationCamp South (others have been held in New York, Washington, San Francisco, Montreal, and Boston), following on the success of previous events in 2013 and 2014. For coverage of past year's events, see the [writeup in Creative Loafing](#) ("TransportationCamp South a Wonk's Heaven") and the [photo gallery on Facebook](#).



September 27 - Cooper Creek Hike Join Sierra Club Outings Leader Loretta



English, leaders from our Wildlands Committee and Jim Walker from Georgia ForestWatch for an easy hike through the Cooper Creek area. This is a great opportunity to get outside and learn more about one of the forest issues we are working on, which is a proposed 3,500 acre cut in Union County. For more information on the issue, click [here](#), to register for the hike, click [here](#).

September 27 - Cooper Creek Hike The School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech and Climate@Emory at Emory University invite you to attend a Town Hall meeting to discuss Georgia's Options for Implementing the Clean Power Plan.

This discussion will gather participants from diverse viewpoints to explore the options for Georgia's Clean Power Plan. The café-style conversations will discuss several key areas including: (1) Innovation, Economic Development and Jobs, (2) Environmental Benefits and Co-Benefits, (3) Equity and Environmental Justice, (4) Design of a Market Based System, and (5) Multi-State Approaches. [RSVP here](#).

Looking for more? Check out our [Meetup Group](#) for even more events!



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