

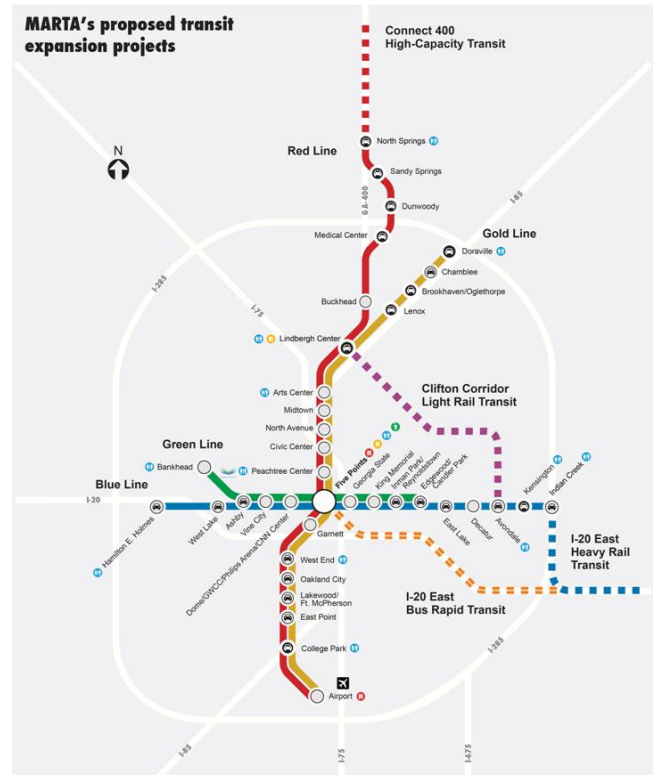
MARTA Vision Needs Your Support

Transportation is the biggest problem facing the metro Atlanta region according to a [poll conducted by the Atlanta Regional Commission](#) and announced at the 2015 State of the Region Breakfast. For the second-straight year, residents have named the issue as their top concern, and over 91 percent of respondents said that improving public transit is important to metro Atlanta's future. With such a strong show of support for transit, it is evident that residents are ready for a substantive investment in a truly regional transit system that gives people a real alternative to sitting in their cars on congested roads.

Unfortunately, state and local leaders have not always been on board. In the past, when discussing solutions for our transportation problems, our leaders have focused on investing heavily in roads while underfunding transit infrastructure. As recently as this year, lawmakers [passed a transportation bill](#), HB 170, which raises nearly \$1 billion for roads each year, while providing only a one-time allocation of \$75 million for transit throughout the state. This consistent lack of funding for transit infrastructure and overemphasis on road building has led to disconnected, sprawling development which perpetuates a dependence on cars.

[Help put an end to this road by letting our elected officials know you support transit!](#)

MARTA has unveiled a [vision that would expand the system](#) northward to Alpharetta, eastward to Stonecrest, and to Emory University. Their \$8 billion proposal would be funded by an optional transportation sales tax provided in HB 170, and requires legislative approval before it can proceed. While this development is promising, the plan has already met with friction. Fulton County's mayors and commissioners [recently met to discuss pursuit of a transportation sales tax referendum](#) that would likely be invested primarily in road projects, and the City of John's Creek dealt another blow to MARTA's plan when its council [passed a resolution last week opposing any referendum vote](#) or legislation that would provide



for increase in taxes for MARTA.

While not much is certain at this point, one thing is clear: building more roads is not the way forward. Any further investment in transportation should go towards building out our regional transit system, and with a tri-county service area, MARTA is best positioned to do just that. Under CEO Keith Parker's leadership, MARTA is both increasing and improving quality of service, as well as demonstrating fiscal responsibility. And the emergence of groups like the [MARTA Army](#), which aims to improve ridership experience, and [Advance Atlanta](#), a citizen-driven advocacy coalition dedicated to building support for greater regional transit access, bolsters MARTA's efforts. Now, as our decision makers consider the various transportation funding options before them, it is critical that they hear from you.

[Please send a message to your county and city leaders telling them you support MARTA's vision!](#)

Take Action!

Celebrate at the Georgia Chapter Holiday Party

The poster features a background image of snow-covered branches with red berries. In the center, the Sierra Club logo (a stylized tree and mountain) is positioned to the left of the text "SIERRA CLUB". Below this, the event title "Georgia Chapter Holiday Open House" is written in a cursive font. The date and time "Thursday, December 10, 2015 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm" are listed next. The address "Sierra Club Georgia Chapter Office 743 East College Avenue, Suite B Decatur, GA 30030" follows. At the bottom, the RSVP information "RSVP: http://goo.gl/eQmHuk or via email at georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org" is provided.

 **SIERRA CLUB**

*Georgia Chapter
Holiday Open House*

**Thursday, December 10, 2015
4:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Sierra Club Georgia Chapter Office
743 East College Avenue, Suite B
Decatur, GA 30030**

**RSVP: <http://goo.gl/eQmHuk>
or via email at georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org**

Come help us celebrate a great year at the Georgia Chapter! We cordially invite you

to our Fourth Annual Holiday Open House next week on Thursday, December 10th, from 4:30 - 8:30 pm at our Georgia Chapter Office. You'll have the chance to meet and mingle with fellow Sierra Club members, supporters, and coalition partners, as well as celebrate highlights of our year and enjoy some delicious refreshments.

Our Georgia Chapter Office is located at 743 East College Ave, Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030, right across the street from Avondale MARTA Station. We encourage you take public transportation or bike to the office. If you are carpooling or driving, there is ample street parking on Sams Street. Please RSVP below or via email to georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org. We hope to see you there!

RSVP >>

Sierra Club Meetings

Smart Energy Solutions Committee, Monday, December 7, 7 p.m.

Contact [Cecilia Harris](#)

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Contact [William Tomlin](#)

RAIL Committee, Monday, January 25, 7 p.m.

Contact [Brionté McCorkle](#)

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

Other Events

December 5 through 24 - Atlanta ICO Giftwrapping

Fundraiser - It's that time of the year again! Come out and wrap presents for shoppers at Patagonia to help Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO), the Sierra Club youth outings group, raise cash to take some cool kids outdoors. Each year volunteers have helped to make this our most successful fundraiser, and we use the money raised to purchase gear, pay for transportation, and cover fees. Thanks to the funds we raise, kids are able to go camping, hiking, backpacking, and participate in many other fun outdoor activities. No skills necessary to help giftwrap! Just show up for a short shift to help wrap presents, and we will show you how it is done. [Click here to sign up.](#)



December 11 - A Year in Green 2015 - Atlanta Green Drinks



is hosting December's event (ayearingreen.org)-a huge holiday bash including free drinks, food, live music, film, art, green carpet photos, games & giveaways-in partnership with some of our very favorite local organizations. Come celebrate the best of Atlanta's green industry, environmental achievements & community supporters on Friday, December 11th at Ambient+ Studio, a beautiful 10,000 sq ft converted warehouse space in SWATL. Free entry, optional raffle with 30+ green prizes to win. [Click here for more information.](#)

December 12 - Cooper Creek Forest Issue Hike -

Join Sierra Club Outings Leader Lee Graham and Jim Walker from Georgia ForestWatch for a moderate to difficult hike through the Cooper Creek Scenic area. This is a great opportunity to learn more about one of the forest issues the Sierra Club is working on. The open 30 Day Comment Period for the proposed logging plan is expected to start soon. The hike will be a 3-4



hour moderate to difficult hike (some off-trail, but flat) in the Chattahoochee National Forest north of Suches, GA. We will begin on the Duncan Ridge Trail at Mulkey Gap and hike a large triangular route, and end back at Mulkey Gap. Jim Walker will point out the stands that are planned to be cut in the current proposal. [Contact Lee to sign up.](#)

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



Interested in reading more? If you have missed an issue of *Footnotes Online* you can view them in our archive by [clicking here](#).



This email was sent to: brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Georgia Chapter](#)

743 E. College Ave, Suite C Decatur, GA 30030

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