

MARTA's Plan B



MARTA's hopes of securing a half-penny sales tax to fund an \$8 billion expansion seemed dismal after Georgia State Senators from North Fulton County and the mayors of John's Creek and Alpharetta worked to prevent SB 330 from getting a full hearing and vote by the Senate. Their proposal would expand the system northward to Alpharetta, eastward to Stonecrest, and to Emory University, and relies on state legislation before it can be put on the ballot for voters to approve in a November referendum.

Fortunately, MARTA's team is [pursing a Plan B](#) in the form of HB 1131 , a bill that authorizes the Atlanta City Council to ask voters to approve the half-penny sales tax increase, specifically for improvements to MARTA inside city limits. A second local bill is expected for DeKalb County as well, effectively putting MARTA's plans to pursue the Connect 400 project on hold while the agency delivers projects to areas that support transit expansion most.

Still, the bill has to pass through both the House and the Senate before the end of the legislative session. Specifically, MARTOC Committee Chairman Tom Taylor and Senator David Shafer, Senate President Tempore have the power to carry the bills to successful passage. In the past, these legislators have insisted that roads will solve our transportation problems--and we know that no amount of road building will provide the relief that will come when we invest in transportation choices like walking, biking, and public transit. Now, with just a few short weeks left, it is critical that they hear from you!

Please send a message to Senator Shafer and Representative Taylor in

support of expanding transit! Ask them to let the voters decide on funding MARTA at the ballot box.

Take Action!

Gwinnett Wants to Hear From You



Gwinnett County will be holding SIX public meetings to hear from everyday citizens like you about Gwinnett's long range transportation vision. As the county determines its "[Destination 2040](#)," one thing is clear: No amount of road building will ever solve Gwinnett's transportation problems.

Gwinnett County needs to make investments in transportation alternatives like expanded transit, biking, and walking to position itself for the future. **Now is your chance to share what you would like to see in Gwinnett's future, please attend one of the meetings below:**

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road NE, Buford, GA 30519

Saturday, March 19, 2016 - 10:00am to 12:00pm

Shorty Howell Activity Building
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096

Monday, March 21, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Lucky Shoals Park Community Room
4651 Britt Road, Norcross, GA 30093

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Snellville City Hall Community Room
2342 Oak Road SW, Snellville, GA 30078

Monday, April 18, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Dacula Park Activity Building
2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula, GA 30019

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
One Justice Square
Gwinnett County Planning & Development Conference Room
Second Floor
446 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

For a fact sheet, please [click here](#).

Take Action!

Sierra Club Meetings

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Contact [William Tomlin](#)

RAIL Committee, Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Contact [Brionté McCorkle](#)

Smart Energy Solutions Committee, Monday, April 4, 7 p.m.
Contact [Ian Karra](#)

Membership Committee, Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Contact [Lindsay Crumpton](#)

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

Upcoming Events



March 16th - Save the Date! Introduction to Activism Training - Every other month, Sierra Club and Beer provides a space and great beer for meeting like-minded people, while learning a little something new. This March, Neill Herring (Georgia Chapter lobbyist) and Mark Woodall (Chair of Georgia Chapter Legislative Committee) will tell all about the action at the Georgia State Capitol. Find out how our environment may be affected by the current session and and what you can do about it! [Click here to register >>](#)



March 19th - Bocce Ball Fundraiser for Atlanta Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) - Come celebrate Earth Month at BRIO Tuscan Grille and play a few games of Bocce Ball and Snookball (combination of pool and soccer). We will have live music and will offer appetizer and entrée specials. All proceeds go to support ICO outings, the Sierra Club's youth outings program. [Register on Meetup >>](#)



March 24th - Plastics Reduction Atlanta! Film Celebration and Awards - In recognition of Plastic Reduction Day Atlanta, a group of researchers and artists in the Atlanta area have created a pledge drive to reduce the use of single use plastics in businesses throughout the city! To celebrate this movement towards plastic reduction across Atlanta, a film screening of Longobardi + Cohen's films, award ceremony, and public launch of a city-wide business online plastic reduction map will be held at Landmark Midtown Cinema. [Click here to register >>](#)



March 26th - *Rescheduled* Introduction to Activism Training - There are two sources of power in the political process: money and people. Since we will never be able to match the financial resources of our opponents, the Sierra Club must garner its power through recruiting, training, and empowering citizens. Join us for a workshop led by Sierra Club organizers! [Click here to learn more and register >>](#)



April, all month long! - John Muir Outing Series - Every year, on the weekends in April, we celebrate our founder's birthday with the John Muir Outings Series. Join us as we explore and enjoy Georgia's beautiful wild places, and share how you can be a part of protecting them for generations to come. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS)! Founded in 1916 on August 25, the Sierra Club is celebrating the NPS Centennial throughout the year. Check out our two National Parks themed outings! [Click here for more information and to register >>](#)

Looking for more? Check out our [Meetup Group](#) for even more events! Did you miss an issue of Footnotes? You can view past issues in our online archive by [clicking here](#).

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