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Help Marta Now!



Did you know that Metro Atlanta is ranked with one of the longest and most expensive commutes in the country with sprawl spreading 60 miles north and south of city limits? Atlanta is the only city of its size with no state funding for public transportation. The time is here to push for changes and the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club with our Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) campaign supports the in town transit opportunities such as the BeltLine, along with the creation of a commuter rail line from Macon to Athens through Atlanta and expanded statewide support for transit including operating funds in addition to capital funds.

The Atlanta region faces a major transit crisis beginning this summer. Because of the recession, the sales tax revenues that provide most of MARTA's funding have nosedived. As a result, MARTA faces a \$100 million operating deficit starting July 1st. Unless Governor Perdue and the Georgia legislature take action, the result will be severe cutbacks in MARTA bus and train service. Half of MARTA's bus routes could disappear. There would be longer waits in between trains and buses on surviving routes. The situation is even worse in Clayton County, where C-TRAN bus service is scheduled to shut down March 31st.

The Georgia General Assembly is currently in session, here's what it could to do prevent a catastrophic meltdown of the Atlanta area's transit system:

- Remove an outmoded rule requiring MARTA to spend 50% of its tax revenue on capital projects, so that MARTA can spend more of its money on operating service.
- Give MARTA (and C-TRAN) a portion of the revenue from the state's four-cent gasoline sales tax.
- Pass Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax legislation that would allow the Atlanta area to establish a one-cent sales tax to fund transportation.



Here's what you can do:

- **Contact Gov. Perdue, your [state senator](#) and your [state representative](#).** Tell them MARTA service cutbacks will devastate Georgia's economy, make impossible for many people to get to their jobs and make Georgia much less attractive to potential employers. Please click on the respective link above to find contact information.
- **Join the Sierra Club RAIL Committee.** Our next month meeting will be Monday, Feb. 22 at 6:45p.m. at the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter Office, 743 E. College Ave., Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030.

Quick Link

New Georgia Chapter Calendar! Our efforts to improve our Georgia Chapter



communications with our members and volunteers continue. We have improved our Georgia Chapter calendar with a new interface and easier to use design. The calendar now includes all Chapter events, committee meetings, group meetings, and more. To learn what is happening at the Georgia Chapter please [visit here](#).

Sierra Club Meetings

RAIL Committee Meeting, Monday, February 22nd, 6:45p.m., Jim Dexter – Chair, call 678-313-2407, jimdex@aol.com

Inner City Outings Meeting, Tuesday, February 23rd, 7p.m., Allison Williams, call 404-664-4199, adwilliams8@ahoo.com

Smart Energy Team Meeting, Monday, March 1st, 6:30p.m refreshments, 7p.m. start, Colleen Kiernan - Chair, colleenkiernan@mindspring.com

Fundraising Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 9th, 7p.m., Sandy Stewart & Erin Wetty - Co-Chairs, call 404-607-1262 x 225

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 16th, 7p.m., Phil Zinsmeister - Chair, pzinsmeister@oglethorpe.edu

Executive Committee Meeting, Saturday, March 20th, 11-5p.m., call Genie Strickland 404-607-1262 x 221, genie.strickland@sierraclub.org

Environmental Events

Marta Pub Crawl

Saturday, February 20th, 8:30p.m. – 12:30a.m.

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

In honor of the legislative session and transit lobby day on February 18th, hop on MARTA for a transit pub crawl Saturday, February 20th. Plan on at least four stops (\$10 on your Breeze card if you don't have a monthly pass) and loads of fun. We'll meet at the Sierra Club office. For more information or questions, contact Ashley Robbins at ashley.robbins@georgia.sierraclub.org. Don't forget your Breeze card!



LEED 100: Introduction to the Green & Intelligent Building Movement

Tuesday, February 23rd, 8a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center

Green building is part of everyday conversation in development and construction, and a basic awareness of the origin and principles of the movement is essential to navigating the future of the industry. Learn about the fundamentals and evolution of sustainability, important information behind the LEED Rating System and news trends in the industry. For more information or to register please [click here](#).

LaGrange Group Meeting

Thursday, March 4th, 6:30p.m.

207 North Greenwood Street - St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall
Join the LaGrange Group for regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month in the Parish Hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 207 North Greenwood St., LaGrange, GA. Refreshments will be served at 6:30p.m. and at 7:00p.m. Chapter Chair Mark Woodall will give an update on the Georgia Legislature. For more information please [click here](#).



Centennial Group Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 4th, 7p.m.

1269 Barclay Circle SE Marietta, GA 30060 – Life University

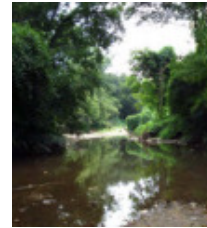
The Centennial Group of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club was organized in 1992 with members from Cobb, Cherokee and North Fulton counties. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at Life University. Joe Cook will join us to talk about the 2010 Paddle Georgia, an 82 mile, 7 day trip that benefits the Georgia River Network. Several Sierrans have participated in this exciting trip and we hope that you can join us this year! For more information please [click here](#).

Adopt-A-Stream - Peachtree Creek

Saturday, March 6th, 10a.m.

South Fork of Peachtree Creek

There will be biologic monitoring at the Metro Atlanta Group's site on South Fork of Peachtree Creek Saturday at 10a.m. Biologic monitoring requires lots of eyes to find the macro invertebrates - bugs big enough to be seen without a microscope. For more information, please call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172 or [click here](#).

**Metro Atlanta Group Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, March 9th, 7p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

The Atlanta Group comprises the largest Sierra Club membership in Georgia.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Church of the

Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE in Atlanta. Lee Biola, the president

of Citizens for Progressive Transit, will speak about transit plans in Georgia. Shortly after its founding, the group developed a regional transit map for metro Atlanta. The map includes commuter rail, heavy rail, light rail, express buses and streetcars. For more information please [click here](#).

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