



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor & City Council

DATE: August 26, 2014

FROM: John McDonough, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Proposed MARTA Rail Extension

MEETING DATE: For Submission onto the August 19, 2014, City Council Work Session Agenda

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (Attach additional pages if necessary)

See attached:

2013 Draft Resolution

APPROVAL BY CITY MANAGER: jam APPROVED

PLACED ON AGENDA FOR: 09/02/2014

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL REQUIRED: () YES () NO

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: _____

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY
(MARTA) EXTENSION OF HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT IN THE GA 400 CORRIDOR AND CONSIDERATION
OF SITING A FUTURE NORTHRIDGE TRANSIT STATION WEST OF GA 400**

WHEREAS, Sandy Springs Citizens in Fulton County, Georgia contribute one-cent of sales tax proceeds to MARTA for capital and operating funding,

WHEREAS, Sandy Springs is served by three heavy rail stations on the MARTA north Red Line, Medical Center, Sandy Springs, and North Springs that provide transit access to the Perimeter market with more than 123,000 employees, an estimated 18 million visitors per year to Perimeter mall and surrounding area retail, and thousands of patient visitors to the medical centers facilities,

WHEREAS, MARTA initiated the Connect 400 Transit Initiative in 2011 to examine alternatives and feasibility to provide high capacity transit in the Georgia 400 corridor,

WHEREAS, adopted Sandy Springs plans support regional transportation initiatives to provide cost-effective transportation alternatives through expansion of transit service to serve Sandy Springs and the Perimeter area and support continued economic development and reduce air pollutants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA

That it supports the expansion of MARTA high capacity transit service to North Fulton.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED Sandy Springs supports continued efforts by MARTA to continue the federal project development process to be eligible for Federal Transit Administration New Starts funding,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Sandy Springs supports a seamless connection to continue the MARTA heavy rail line to North Fulton through the utilization of heavy rail transit which results in the highest estimated ridership, greater travel time benefits, greatest reduction in vehicle miles traveled and air pollutants, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Sandy Springs supports a future rail station in the vicinity of Northridge Drive on the west side of GA 400 that would provide access to land use Node 14: Northeast Corner of the Roswell Road and Dunwoody Place Intersection which envisions future mixed use development comprising of residential, commercial and office uses.

RESOLVED this the 3rd day of December, 2013.

Approved:

Eva Galambos, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Casey, City Clerk

(Seal)



December 18, 2013

Mr. Keith Parker
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
MARTA
2424 Piedmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30324-3311

RE: Connect 400 Transit Initiative

Dear Mr. Parker:

The City of Sandy Springs extends a thank you to MARTA for briefing Council on October 1, 2013 regarding the Connect 400 Transit Initiative status. The City recognizes that MARTA has initiated Early Scoping through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts program and is seeking input on the proposed transit alternatives and station locations.

Sandy Springs citizens have been funding MARTA through the one-cent sales tax since the early 1970's. Although the City is well-served by the MARTA north Red line through three heavy rail stations, the current alignment does not extend to North Fulton County. Sandy Springs supports extension of the Red line to the north across the Chattahoochee River but is sensitive to the siting of future rail stations. Should a future station to serve the extension be located in the vicinity of Northridge Road, this station should complement the City's existing and future land use plan and be sited on the west side of GA 400 which would complement an identified redevelopment node. This is consistent with the City's adopted *2027 Comprehensive Plan* which provides for mixed-used development west of GA 400 but only low-density residential uses (zero to one units per acre) designated as a "Protected Neighborhood" area east of GA 400.

Sandy Springs appreciates your consideration of its input and requests ongoing involvement and coordination for the Connect 400 Transit Initiative through active participation by staff, periodic briefings to Council as well as providing opportunities for general public input.

Sincerely,

Eva Galambos
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: John McDonough, City Manager
Bryant Poole, Assistant City Manager
Garrin Coleman, Public Works Director
Janide Sidifall, Project Manager, MARTA