

## 2016 MARTA Expansion Bill Summary

### Section 1-1

- Allows the city of Atlanta to levy a new retail sales and use tax of up to .50%. This tax is in addition to any tax that is currently authorized under the MARTA Act.
- The City of Atlanta may hold a referendum to authorize the new tax in either 2016 or 2017.
- This additional sales and use tax shall not count towards any local sales tax limitation.
- Any tax imposed at a rate less than .50% must be in increments of .05%
- Any additional sales tax authorized will run concurrently in duration to the existing 1% MARTA tax.
- No later than May 31 of the year of the referendum, MARTA must submit a preliminary list of projects within or serving the geographic area of Atlanta to be funded (in whole or in part) by the new tax.
- A final list of these projects is due no later than July 31 of the year of the referendum.
- Before the new tax becomes valid, it must be approved by a majority of voters. The referendum is to be advertised once per week for 4 weeks immediately preceding the week of the referendum.
- The working of the referendum must be worded as follows:

(Y)\_\_\_            Shall an additional sales tax of (insert percentage) percent be collected in the City of Atlanta for the purpose of significantly expanding and enhancing MARTA transit service in Atlanta?  
(N)\_\_\_

- If the referendum is approved, the new levy and the final list of projects shall be incorporated into contract between MARTA and the city.
- Any tax collected in excess of the project costs should be spent solely within and for the benefit of the City of Atlanta.
- The tax authorized by this act and any TSPLOST authorized by the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 cannot exceed 1%.
- If a majority of voters oppose the tax in a referendum in 2016, the city may elect to resubmit the referendum to voters in 2017.
- Any additional levy issued pursuant to this legislation runs concurrently to the existing MARTA tax.
- Conforming amendments

### Section 2-1

- Creates 2 new parts of TFA known special districts known as a “metropolitan county special district” (Fulton County) and a “metropolitan municipality special district” (Atlanta). This amendment allows the City of Atlanta to extract itself from the rest of Fulton County.

- Amends TFA to allow all areas of a metropolitan county special district (Fulton County), that are not a metropolitan municipality special district (Atlanta) to levy a local TPLOST for transportation purposes.
  - The project list for the municipalities or unincorporated areas of a metropolitan county special district must be approved by municipalities or incorporated areas of the county representing at 60% of the population.
  - **The governing authority of the county may veto the call for a referendum with a majority plus one.**
  - Reduces the total possible TSPLOST levy for metropolitan county special districts to .75% in increments of .05% (note: The TFA reduced the maximum levy of any local TSPLOTS to .75% unless every municipality entered into an intergovernmental agreement on the list of projects. Therefore, this reduction comports with similar language in the TFA since North Fulton and the City of Atlanta were at odds over MARTA expansion)
  - Any increase in the MARTA tax over 1% and a local TSPLOST may not exceed 1%
  - A local TSPLOST may not exceed 5 years.
- Amends TFA to allow a metropolitan municipality special district (Atlanta) to levy a local TPLOST for transportation purposes.
  - The project list for the metropolitan municipality special district must be approved by a majority of the governing authority of that municipality (Atlanta City Council).
  - **The governing authority of the county may veto the call for a referendum with a majority plus one.**
  - Reduces the total possible TSPLOST levy for metropolitan municipality special districts to .75% in increments of .05% (note: The TFA reduced the maximum levy of any local TSPLOTS to .75% unless every municipality entered into an intergovernmental agreement on the list of projects. Therefore, this reduction comports with similar language in the TFA since North Fulton and the City of Atlanta were at odds over MARTA expansion)
  - Any increase in the MARTA tax over 1% and a local TSPLOST may not exceed 1%
  - A local TSPLOST may not exceed 5 years.

### Section 3-1

- Act takes effect upon the signature of the Governor.

### Section 3-2

- Repeals any laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act.