

## **2016 MARTA Expansion Bill Overview**

### **Special Districts**

- Senate Bill 369 creates two “special” districts:
  - The City of Atlanta (including the portion in DeKalb County)
  - Fulton County (outside of Atlanta)

### **City of Atlanta – “Metropolitan Municipality Special District”**

- The City of Atlanta may levy up to a .50 sales tax for transit purposes, if voters approve the levy through a referendum. This tax would run concurrent with the existing 1% MARTA tax through June 30, 2057.
- The City of Atlanta retains its ability to levy up to a .75 sales tax for roads, as spelled out in the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA). This tax may not exceed 5 years and may be renewed following the same process.
- The COA combined MARTA and road taxes cannot exceed 1%, as stipulated in the TFA.
- A 40 year COA sales tax of .50 for MARTA is projected to generate \$2.5 billion which could be used to improve bus service, to expand light or heavy rail within the city limits.

### **Fulton County – “Metropolitan County Special District”**

- Fulton County may levy up to a .75 sales tax for road improvements, if voters approve the levy through a referendum. This tax may not exceed 5 years and may be renewed following the same process.
- Fulton County may pursue up to a .25 sales tax in the future for transit purposes. Again, the County’s combined road and possible transit levy cannot exceed 1%, as stipulated in the TFA.
- A five year Fulton County sales tax of .75 is projected to generate approximately \$500-\$600 million (April 2017 through May 2022).

### **Referenda Requirements**

- The referendum may be called in November 2016 or 2017. If the voters do not approve the referendum in 2016, each district may put the question to voters again in a 2017.

- MARTA must submit a proposed list of projects to the Atlanta City Council by May 31 in the year of the referendum. A final list must be approved by July 31 in the year the referendum is held.
- The Fulton County project list must be approved by municipalities or incorporated parts of the county representing 60% of the population. The final project master list will be included in an intergovernmental agreement.
- The governing authority of the county (the Fulton County Commission) may veto the call for a referendum by either district with a majority plus one.

### **Ballot Questions**

*Shall an additional \_\_\_\_\_ percent sales tax be collected in part of Fulton County outside the City of Atlanta for \_\_\_\_\_ years for the purpose of transportation improvements and congestion reduction?*

*Shall an additional \_\_\_\_\_ sales tax be collected in the City of Atlanta for \_\_\_\_\_ years for the purpose of transportation improvements and congestion reduction?*

### **DeKalb County**

- DeKalb County, which was included in the original transit bill (SB 330), will have to address transit expansion during the 2017 session. This will be necessary to expand the MARTA rail line to the Clifton Corridor.