



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** More than 2 million jobs support the economy of metropolitan Atlanta, which is a driving force in the prosperity of the State of Georgia, and an additional 2.8 million people are projected to live and work in the region in the during the next three decades; and

**WHEREAS:** The Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan indicates that Georgia's job growth and economic prosperity are linked to the state's ability to significantly increase the number of reliable commute options to major job centers at the lowest costs possible; and

**WHEREAS:** One of the most effective ways of accomplishing these outcomes is the provision and management of efficient regional transit services that meet the travel demands of Georgians, regardless of the county boundaries that are crossed during the transit trip; and

**WHEREAS:** Currently, the metropolitan Atlanta region has multiple transit entities operating essentially independently, which leads to an uncoordinated system that is confusing to transit users, falls short of achieving economies of scale and cost efficiencies, does not provide a definitive picture of return-on-investment to taxpayers, and produces a disjointed message about the region's transit priorities; and

**WHEREAS:** A regional transit governance model focused on coordination and accountability would create a mechanism for driving needed improvement of metro Atlanta's existing and future transit services by improving the effectiveness of commute alternatives, increasing cost efficiencies and enabling the region and the state to speak with a unified voice regarding the transit priorities of metropolitan Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS:** An effective transit governance model should recognize the need of transit operators to be able to freely allocate their revenues in a way that ensures maximum effectiveness toward reaching regional transit goals and objectives; and

**WHEREAS:** The Transit Governance Study Commission was charged with conducting a thorough examination of metro Atlanta's current transportation system and developing a concept for a regional transit governance authority in Georgia; and

**WHEREAS:** The Commission issued its final report on August 1, 2011, and found that commuters, transit stakeholders and the general public would benefit from oversight, streamlining and coordination of the individual transit systems in the metro Atlanta region; and

**WHEREAS:** The Commission further found that the state should be charged with this oversight and that such oversight should include meaningful participation by local government officials' and their representatives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**RESOLVED:** That, there shall be formed a Transit Governance Task Force, which shall be co-chaired by Representative Donna Sheldon and Senator Jeff Mullis and shall consist of the following members: Senator Ron Ramsey, Senator Butch Miller, Representative Edward Lindsey, Representative Billy Mitchell, Representative Mike Jacobs (Chair of the MARTA Oversight Committee), the Mayors of the City of Atlanta, the City of Johns Creek, and the City of Riverdale; and the Commission Chairs of Gwinnett, Douglas, and Rockdale Counties.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That the Transit Governance Task Force shall take the executive findings of the Transit Governance Study Commission and use them as a basis for developing a legislative proposal to be introduced in the 2012 session of the General Assembly.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That developed by the Task Force shall meet, at a minimum, the following requirements:

- o Establishes clearly-articulated regional transit goals, vision and mission in order to define the purpose of the governance reform efforts and to drive its implementation toward results for Georgia's taxpayers.
- o Creates a decision-making structure that includes representatives from the state and from local governments.

- Designates a state agency or authority with the responsibilities of oversight and coordination of transit services in the metro Atlanta region.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That the Task Force shall coordinate with the Governor's Office in the development of legislation.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That the work of the Task Force shall commence no later than October 1, 2011 and the final draft of any legislation shall be submitted to the Governor no later than January 23, 2012.

This 7 day of September, 2011.

*Nathan Deal*

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GOVERNOR