



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2017

Mr. Keith Parker
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

Mr. Chris Tomlinson
Executive Director
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

Dear Mr. Parker and Mr. Tomlinson,

The events of last week's collapse of the I-85 Bridge at Piedmont Road have placed an unprecedented strain on metro Atlanta's transportation network that will continue for the foreseeable future until repairs can be completed to both the north and southbound lanes of the interstate. I want to thank you and your organizations for your partnership with state and federal authorities in responding rapidly to the crisis to minimize the disruption on the lives of our metro Atlanta citizens.

As we continue to manage this crisis, MARTA, GRTA, Gwinnett County Transit and Cobb County Transit will be absolutely integral in maintaining an efficient and effective transportation network in and out of the city, as evidenced by the dramatic increase in ridership in the few days since the closure of I-85. I fully recognize the additional strain that this increased ridership has placed on your organizations, and I, along with the rest of metro Atlanta, appreciate the additional routes, trains, and resources you have committed to meeting rider demand. I want to assure you that the state is committed to partnering with you to ensure that you have the resources necessary to meet these additional demands until the interstate can be reopened. While we have received some guarantees of federal participation in meeting additional financial costs, the state is committed to providing additional funds not covered by our federal partners for fuel, capital repairs, and personnel costs related to increasing route capacity in the affected areas.

My Office of Planning and Budget will work closely with you to determine the scope of those financial costs over the course of the summer as we begin to see the day to day impact of managing our citizens' transportation needs until I-85 can be reopened. I have already been contacted by Speaker David Ralston pledging his and the House's support to work with my office to ensure funding is appropriated within the FY 18 amended budget. I expect to include any appropriate funding needs in my proposed Amended FY 2018 budget recommendation to the General Assembly.



Again, I commend you and your authorities for their quick response to mitigate the impact the interstate closure will have on our commuters and the vibrant economy of Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Nathan Deal

Nathan Deal
Governor

cc: Teresa MacCartney, Chief Financial Officer
Russell McMurry, Commissioner