**Letter in Support of the Living Transit Fund**

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| **Send to:** |  |  |
| Mayor Kasim ReedCity of Atlanta, Office of the Mayor55 Trinity AvenueAtlanta, Georgia 30303 | and | Keith T. Parker, AICPMARTA GM/CEO2424 Piedmont Rd. NEAtlanta, Georgia 30324 |
| and/or |  | and/or |
| (mkreed@atlantaga.gov) |  | ktparker@itsmarta.com |

**RE: MOU between the City of Atlanta and MARTA governing MARTA Transit Sales Tax**

Atlanta’s overwhelming support for MARTA expansion presents an unprecedented opportunity to shape the city’s mobility and affordability future in a more inclusive and equitable fashion that can’t be achieved by market forces alone.

The use of the estimated $2.5 billion in tax revenue from the recently approved City of Atlanta MARTA Transit Sales Tax will uniquely shape Atlanta’s long term future. I urge your support for a set-aside of projected sales tax revenue for a “Living Transit Fund” to provide strategic investment in projects to increase MARTA ridership and revenue while helping to achieve the agency’s 20 percent affordable housing goal.

A five (5) percent set-aside will generate approximately $125 million for the Transit Oriented Development of approximately 2,500 affordable homes near MARTA transit stations and high-frequency service areas on MARTA-owned properties. This would better enable the City of Atlanta and MARTA to realize Transit Oriented Development and affordability policies that would build on the Mayor’s progressive, equitable urban development legacy.

Failure to capture this unique opportunity to support the transformation of Atlanta into a truly world-class 21st century metropolis, where transit and affordable housing are connected to facilitate improved access to schools, hospitals, and employment centers, will drive gentrification and displacement, exacerbate income inequality and increase the disjunction between housing, jobs and transit-dependent residents.

I urge you to include a Living Trust Fund set-aside in the Memorandum of Understanding between the city of Atlanta and MARTA setting forth priorities for transit sales tax investments.

CC: Atlanta City Council (email to khall@atlantaga.gov, ccmitchell@atlantaga.gov, adickens@atlantaga.gov, csmith@atlantaga.gov, ilyoung@atlantaga.gov, cwinslow@atlantaga.gov, narchibong@atlantaga.gov, awan@atlantaga.gov, hshook@atlantaga.gov, yadrean@atlantaga.gov, fmoore@atlantaga.gov, cmartin@atlantaga.gov, kbottoms@atlantaga.gov, jmsheperd@atlantaga.gov, mbond@atlantaga.gov, mnorwood@atlantaga.gov )

MARTA Board (for distribution email to rtaylor@itsmarta.com)