



APPENDIX A

Agency Correspondence



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Rodney Barry, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Georgia Division
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 17T100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

RE: Invitation to become a *cooperating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Barry:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that has special expertise that is relevant to the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **cooperating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **cooperating** agency, we will request your comments on the alternatives to be assessed in the EA, the criteria and methodology for evaluating the alternatives, the scope of issues to be addressed as well as any other issues you identify as important. We expect your agency's involvement to entail only those areas under its jurisdiction. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **cooperating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If you do not accept this invitation, your agency may become a **participating agency** as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d). Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

cc: Katy Allen, Environmental Team Leader, Program Development, Georgia Division

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Phillip A. Shannin, Permits Section Chief
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Savannah District
Piedmont Branch Office
1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200
Morrow, Georgia 30260

RE: Invitation to become a *cooperating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Shannin:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that has special expertise that is relevant to the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **cooperating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **cooperating** agency, we will request your comments on the alternatives to be assessed in the EA, the criteria and methodology for evaluating the alternatives, the scope of issues to be addressed as well as any other issues you identify as important. We expect your agency's involvement to entail only those areas under its jurisdiction. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **cooperating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If you do not accept this invitation, your agency may become a **participating** agency as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d). Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

cc: Edward B. Johnson, Jr., Branch Chief

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Jami Hammond, Regional Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW, Building 1924
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *cooperating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Hammond:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*; which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that has special expertise that is relevant to the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **cooperating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **cooperating** agency, we will request your comments on the alternatives to be assessed in the EA, the criteria and methodology for evaluating the alternatives, the scope of issues to be addressed as well as any other issues you identify as important. We expect your agency's involvement to entail only those areas under its jurisdiction. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **cooperating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If you do not accept this invitation, your agency may become a **participating** agency as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d). Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

cc: David Vela, Regional Director, Planning & Compliance Division

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

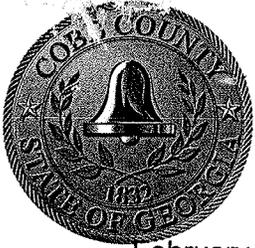
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Keith Golden, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

RE: Invitation to become a *cooperating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Golden:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that has special expertise that is relevant to the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **cooperating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **cooperating** agency, we will request your comments on the alternatives to be assessed in the EA, the criteria and methodology for evaluating the alternatives, the scope of issues to be addressed as well as any other issues you identify as important. We expect your agency's involvement to entail only those areas under its jurisdiction. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **cooperating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If you do not accept this invitation, your agency may become a **participating** agency as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d). Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

cc: Carol Comer, Intermodal Division Director
Darryl VanMeter, State Innovative Program Delivery Engineer

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. Vikas Kapil, Chief Medical Officer
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Kapil:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Page 2
February 8, 2013

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(3), federal agencies electing to decline this invitation must also inform the lead agency in writing (in the space provided on the response form) that your agency either has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and does not intend to submit comments on the project. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Charles Green, Health Communications Specialist

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, Commander of the 94th Airlift Wing
U.S. Department of Defense, Dobbins Air Reserve Base
1430 First Street
Marietta, Georgia 30069-5009

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Col. Tarchick,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Page 2
February 8, 2013

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(3), federal agencies electing to decline this invitation must also inform the lead agency in writing (in the space provided on the response form) that your agency either has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and does not intend to submit comments on the project. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Brian Hendry, Community Planner

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Heinz Mueller, Regional NEPA Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Mueller,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Page 2
February 8, 2013

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(3), federal agencies electing to decline this invitation must also inform the lead agency in writing (in the space provided on the response form) that your agency either has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and does not intend to submit comments on the project. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

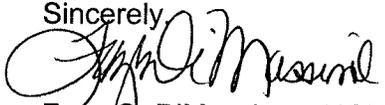
Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Regional 4 Regional Administrator

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Office of the Commissioner
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
East Tower, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments:

Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

cc: Amanda Schraner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Gena L. Evans, Executive Director/Board Secretary
State Road & Tollway Authority
47 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Evans:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Jannine Miller, Executive Director
Georgia Regional Transit Authority
245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE, Suite 800
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Roger Henze, Senior Project Manager

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Jane Hayse, Division Chief
Atlanta Regional Commission
Transportation Planning
40 Courtland St. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Hayse:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Regan Hammond, Principal Transit & TDM Planner

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

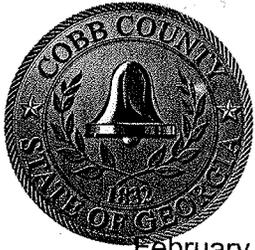
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Cheryl L. King, Assistant General Manager, Planning
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
2424 Piedmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30324-3311

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. King:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Don Williams, Senior Director of Transit Systems Planning

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

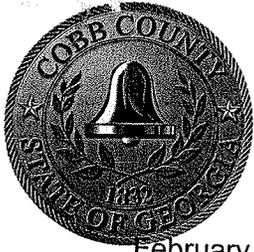
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Tommy Allegood, Mayor
City of Acworth
4415 Senator Russell Avenue
Acworth, Georgia 30101

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Allegood:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Brian Bulthuis, City Manager

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Joseph L. Jerkins, Mayor
City of Austell
5000 Austell-Powder Springs Road, Suite 137
Austell, Georgia 30106

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Jerkins:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Jimmy Graham, Community Affairs Department Director

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Mark Mathews, Mayor
City of Kennesaw
2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Mathews:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

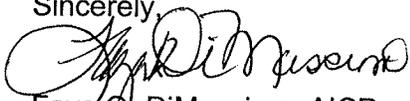
Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Steve Kennedy, City Manager

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Steve Tumlin, Mayor
City of Marietta
P.O. Box 609
Marietta, Georgia 30061

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Tumlin:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: William F. Bruton, Jr., City Manager

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

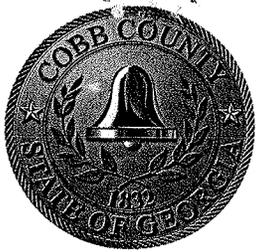
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Patricia Vaughn, Mayor
City of Powder Springs
4484 Marietta Street
Powder Springs, Georgia 30127

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Vaughn:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Brad Hulse, City Manager

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. A. Max Bacon, Mayor
City of Smyrna
2800 King Street
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Bacon:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Eric Taylor, City Administrator

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Malaika Rivers, Director
Cumberland Community Improvement District
P.O. Box 671868
Marietta, GA 30006

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Rivers:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

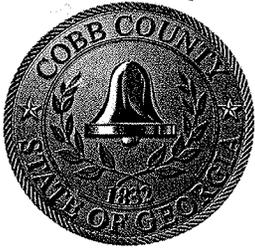
Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Lanie Shipp, Executive Director
Town Center Area Community Improvement District
245 TownPark Drive, Suite 440
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Ms. Shipp:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Hon. Kasim Reed, Mayor
City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 2500
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mayor Reed:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Tom Weyandt, Senior Policy Advisor for Transportation
Joshuah Mello, Assistant Director, Transportation Planning, Office of Planning

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

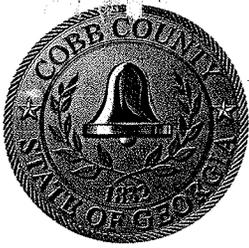
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Nate Conable, Director of Transit and Transportation
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
86 Pryor Street, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Conable:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

“Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well.”

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project’s potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Kevin Green, President/CEO
Midtown Alliance
999 Peachtree Street, Suite 730
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Mr. Green:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. Daniel S. Papp, President
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road, #0101
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Papp:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye G. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: John Anderson, Assistant Vice President for Facilities

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, President
Southern Polytechnic State University
1100 South Marietta Parkway, Building B, Suite 110
Marietta, Georgia 30060

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Rossbacher:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Steve Kitchen, Senior Director of Facilities Operations

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

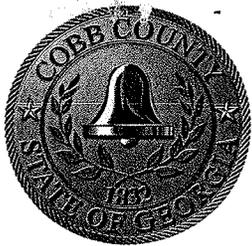
Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. Guy F. Riekeman, President
Life University
1269 Barclay Circle
Marietta, Georgia 30060

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Riekeman:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis* (AA) completed in December 2012. Please find attached the AA *Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye G. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: Greg Harris, Vice President for University Advancement

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

_____ Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

_____ Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

_____ Do not intend to submit comments on the project

_____ Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP

Planner III

Cobb County Department of Transportation

1890 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. G.P. Peterson, President
Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of the President
North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Peterson:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Cc: David Williamson, Associate Dir. Of Transportation, Parking & Transportation Services

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601



COBB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
(770) 528-1600 • fax: (770) 528-1601

February 8, 2013

Dr. Mark P. Becker, President
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 3999
Atlanta, Georgia 30302-3999

RE: Invitation to become a *participating* agency in the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment process

Dear Dr. Becker:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor (Connect Cobb). The proposed project is for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus service primarily along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta/Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

The combination BRT and Express Bus service was identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) based on the *Northwest Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)* completed in December 2012. Please find attached the *AA Executive Summary* and *Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet*, which provide a project description and map of the LPA. The purpose of Connect Cobb, as stated in the *purpose and need* of the AA, reads as follows:

"Transit improvements are needed to serve existing and future mobility needs both effectively and efficiently, encourage sustainable land use patterns, complement the local economy, and improvement the quality of life of citizens, visitors, and employees. Cobb County workforce and Atlanta commuters will have an attractive and convenient transit option. People traveling within Cobb County and from the City of Atlanta to destinations along Cobb Parkway (U.S. 41) will have a convenient and competitive transit option as well."

The EA will be prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 23 U.S.C. 139(d), lead agencies may identify **cooperating** and **participating** agencies and invite their involvement in the NEPA process. A **cooperating** agency, as defined by 40 C.F.R. 1508.5, is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A **participating** agency, as defined by 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2), is any federal, state or local agency or Native American tribe that has an interest in the project. **Cooperating** and **participating** agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impact that could

Page 2
February 8, 2013

substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend to your agency an invitation to become a **participating** agency in the development of this EA. As a **participating** agency, your agency will be given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the purpose and need and the alternatives under review. In addition we ask you to:

- Provide input on the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Provide timely review and comment (within 30 days) on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please sign in the appropriate location on the attached response form accepting this invitation to become a **participating** agency prior to March 8, 2013. If your agency should decline, please state your reason for declining. Please return the response form via mail, email, or fax to:

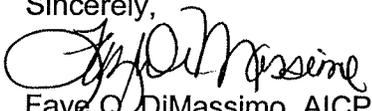
Mail: Marty Sewell, Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org
Fax: (770) 528-1601

Additional information, including a scoping document, will be forthcoming during the scoping process, notification of which will be provided prior to the agency scoping meetings. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail or your agency's role and responsibilities, please contact me at (770) 528-1664.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director

Attachments: Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis Executive Summary
Connect Cobb EA Fact Sheet

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Jennifer L. Giersch Environmental Coordinator

Print or Type Name

Title

Jennifer L. Giersch

4-3-13

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

FHWA

Sewell, Marty

From: Wright, Steven [steven_m_wright@nps.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Sewell, Marty
Subject: NW Atlanta Transit Corridor EA - Cooperating Agency Request

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
GA-13/0001)

Marty Sewell
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

Dear Mr. Sewell:

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed your request for our participation as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of the Northwest Transit Corridor Alternative Environmental Assessment.

Based on the limited information provided with your request, the NPS declines your invitation to become a Cooperating Agency at this time.

If during the course of your environmental analysis of the subject project you become aware of potential impacts to units of the NPS, please contact me at 404-507-5710.

Sincerely,

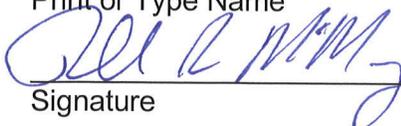
//signed//

Steven M. Wright
Planning and Compliance Division
Southeast Region

NPS

Cooperating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *cooperating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Russell McMurry	Chief Engineer
Print or Type Name	Title
	2/27/13
Signature	Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

GDOT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

February 27, 2013

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014

SUBJ: Participating Agency Request for the Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor.

Dear Mr. Sewell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your letter on February 12, 2013, offering this Agency an opportunity to be a participating agency for the subject EA. In addition, a Connect Cobb Fact Sheet for January 2013 and an Alternative Analysis Study Executive Summary for the project was developed and provided to us for consideration.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation, is developing an environmental assessment (EA) on the Northwest transit project. The purpose of the project is to expand mobility along the 25-mile Northwest Transit Corridor and link northern Cobb County to Midtown Atlanta. The summary report of the alternatives analysis identifies a locally preferred alternative that includes Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Express Bus Service along U.S. 41 and I-75 connecting the Marta Art Center Station in Fulton County to Kennesaw State University in north Cobb County.

EPA accepts Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) in cooperation with the Cobb County Department of Transportation's offer to act as a participating agency. EPA can provide NEPA scoping comments, preliminary draft and preliminary final EA comments, and we can also participate in teleconferences or meetings with stakeholders to discuss important milestones and methods, as appropriate subject to any resource constraint. EPA is also interested in exploring the opportunity for innovative and integrated strategies, enhanced interagency collaboration while streamlining the proposed project.

It should also be noted that our status as a participating agency has no effect on our review responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our being a participating agency should not imply that EPA will necessarily concur with all aspects of the EA .

EPA *pl*

We appreciate your coordination with us. Please let us know when you want to discuss further. The NEPA contact will be Ntale Kajumba (404/562-9620) of my staff in the NEPA Program Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office

cc: Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Dale Youngkin

EPA p2

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR In our agency's role as a *participating agency*, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

TIMOTHY E. TARCHICK, Colonel, USAFR
Commander

Print or Type Name

Title

*94th Army Air Support Group
Dobbins AFB, GA*

Signature

Date

[Handwritten Signature]

22 Feb 13

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

DOBBINS ARB

Sewell, Marty

From: Green, Charles (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH) [clg8@cdc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 11:47 AM
To: Sewell, Marty
Cc: Kapil, Vikas (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)
Subject: RE: NW Atlanta Transit Corridor EA - Participating Agency Invite

Thank you for following up, Marty.

Due to lack of staff/expertise within our current CDC Healthy Community Design Initiative staff, will not be able to participate. Thanks.

Charles

Charles L. Green, MA, MFA, CNU-A
Health Communication Specialist
Healthy Community Design Initiative
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces

Ph: 770.488.0626

Address: 4770 Buford Hwy, MS-F58/Atlanta, GA 30341/USA

From: Sewell, Marty [mailto:Marty.Sewell@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 11:43 AM
To: Kapil, Vikas (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Green, Charles (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)
Subject: NW Atlanta Transit Corridor EA - Participating Agency Invite

Dr. Kapil and Mr. Green:

On February 8, Cobb County DOT sent (via US Mail) you the attached Participating Agency invitation for the **Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment**. The invitation also included the attached Alternatives Analysis Executive Summary and Fact Sheet.

As of this morning, April 1, 2013, **we have not received a reply from your agency**. Please let me know if you would like to participate as soon as possible by completing and returning the **Participating Agency Response Form** found on page 3 of the attached invitation.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this matter.

Marty

Marty Sewell, AICP
Cobb County DOT | Planning Division
1890 County Services Pkwy. | Marietta, GA 30008-4014
Phone: (770) 528-1664 | **Fax:** (770) 528-1601
Email: marty.sewell@cobbcounty.org | **Website:** <http://dot.cobbcountyga.gov/>

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Elizabeth Shiric Title Environmental Review Coordinator
 Print or Type Name Historic Preservation Division / GA DNR
Elizabeth Shiric Date 4/1/13
 Signature

I DECLINE for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
 Marty Sewell, AICP
 Planner III
 Cobb County Department of Transportation
 1890 County Services Parkway
 Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
 (770) 528-1601

GA DNR

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Gana L. Evans
Print or Type Name

Executive Director
Title

Gana L. Evans
Signature

2/14/2013
Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project

Have no expertise or information relevant to the project

Do not intend to submit comments on the project

Other _____

Print or Type Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

SRTA

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Kirk F. Lopez Deputy Director
Print or Type Name Title

[Signature] 4-25-13
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mall:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

GRTA

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Jane D. Hayse Chief, Transportation Access +
Print or Type Name Title Mobility
Jane D. Hayse 2/19/13 Division
Signature Date Atlanta
Regional
Commission

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

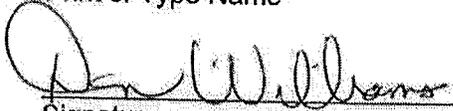
(770) 528-1601

ARC

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Don Williams SR. Director Transit System Planning
Print or Type Name Title

 4/8/2013
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

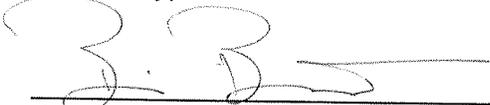
Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

MARTA

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Brian M. Butthuis City Manager
Print or Type Name Title
 3-6-13
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

CITY OF ACWORTH

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

<u>Mark Mathews</u>	<u>Mayor</u>
Print or Type Name	Title
	<u>4/1/13</u>
Signature	Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

_____	_____
Print or Type Name	Title
_____	_____
Signature	Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

CITY OF KENNESAW

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Jim Wilgus City Engineer
Print or Type Name Title

[Signature] 4/2/13
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Kyetha Clark Senior Urban Planner
Print or Type Name Title

[Signature] 4/2/13
Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

CITY OF MARIETTA

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

BRODA HULSEY _____ CITY MANAGER, CITY OF POWDER SPRINGS
Print or Type Name Title

[Signature] _____ 4/1/2013
Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

CITY OF POWDER SPRINGS

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Print or Type Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

PATRICIA C. VAUGHN MAYOR, CITY OF POWDER SPRINGS
Print or Type Name _____ Title _____

Patricia C. Vaughn, April 1, 2013
Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mall:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

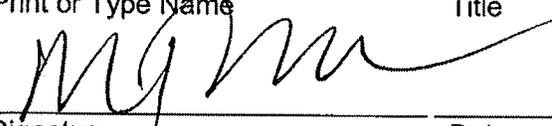
(770) 528-1601

CITY OF POWDER SPRINGS

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Malanka Rivers Executive Director
Print or Type Name Title

 2/21/13
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

(770) 528-1601

CUMBERLAND CID

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Lennie Shipp Executive Dir.
Print or Type Name Title

Lennie Shipp 3-5-2013
Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

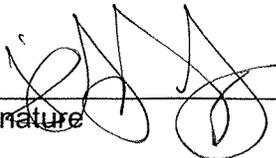
(770) 528-1601

TOWN CENTER AREA CID

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Joshuah Mello Asst Dir of Planning - Transportation
Print or Type Name Title

 02/21/13
Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

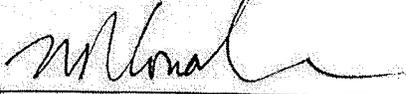
(770) 528-1601

CITY OF ATLANTA

Participating Agency Response Form

I **CONCUR** in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Nathan Conable Director of Transit & Transportation
Print or Type Name Title

 April 29, 2013
Signature Date

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:

Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:

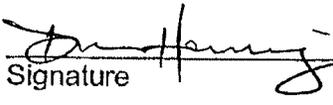
(770) 528-1601

ATLANTA BELTLINE, INC

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

<u>Dan Hourigan</u>	<u>Director of Transportation & Sustainability</u>
Print or Type Name	Title
	Midtown Alliance
	dan@midtownatl.com

<u></u>	<u>4/1/13</u>
Signature	Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

_____	_____
Print or Type Name	Title

_____	_____
Signature	Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

MIDTOWN ALLIANCE

orig: Marty Sewell
fwd 02/13/13

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

DANIEL S. PAPP PRESIDENT
Print or Type Name Title

Daniel S. Papp 2-13-13
Signature Date

NOTE: John Anderson will serve as KSU's representative

I **DECLINE** for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

KENNESAW ST. UNIV.

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a participating agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

Lisa A. Rossbacher President
Print or Type Name Title

Lisa A. Rossbacher 2.12.13
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (check all that are appropriate):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
- Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
- Do not intend to submit comments on the project
- Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mall:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

SPSU

Participating Agency Response Form

I CONCUR in our agency's role as a *participating* agency, under 23 U.S.C 139, on the Connect Cobb Northwest Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment:

William D. Jarr ERP-Finance
Print or Type Name Title

[Signature] 4/1/2013
Signature Date

I DECLINE for the following reasons (*check all that are appropriate*):

- Have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project
 Have no expertise or information relevant to the project
 Do not intend to submit comments on the project
 Other _____

Print or Type Name Title

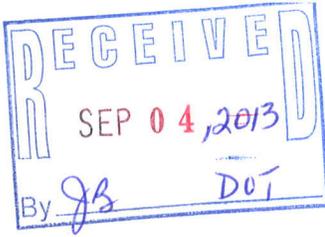
Signature Date

Please mail or fax response by March 8, 2013 to:

Mail:
Marty Sewell, AICP
Planner III
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4014

Fax:
(770) 528-1601

LIFE UNIV.



Eric

M. KASIM REED
MAYOR

CITY OF ATLANTA
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W. SUITE 3350 – ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
404-330-6145 – FAX: 404-658-7491
<http://www.atlantaga.gov/Government/Planning.aspx>

JAMES E. SHELBY
COMMISSIONER

CHARLETTA WILSON JACKS
DIRECTOR
Office of Planning

August 29, 2013

Faye Dimassimo, Director of Transportation
Cobb County
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008

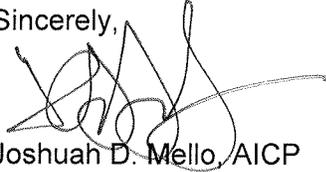
Dear Ms. Dimassimo:

I am writing to recap the discussion from our July 24, 2013 meeting at Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. regarding the Connect Cobb project, which is conducting planning work for a proposed bus rapid transit line between MARTA Arts Center Station in the City of Atlanta and Cobb County.

- We believe that the alternatives using any portion of Peachtree Street are the least preferred, as they will have negative impacts to the pedestrian environment along Peachtree Street.
- We request that Cobb County study an alternative that runs south on Spring Street to Peachtree Place, east on Peachtree Place or 8th Street to West Peachtree Street and north on West Peachtree Street, with stops adjacent to both MARTA Midtown Station and MARTA Arts Center Station.
- We request that Cobb County study an alternative that with the routing along an extension of 15th Street or 16th Street between Spring Street and West Peachtree Street.
- We request that Cobb County study an alternative that includes a separate bus rapid transit terminal west of West Peachtree Street between 15th Street and 16th Street.
- We request that the proposed Atlanta BeltLine transfer station be located on Northside Drive at Bellemeade Avenue.
- We do not support any alternatives that bypass Northside Drive and 17th Street through Atlantic Station.
- We believe that the on-street station option at MARTA Arts Center Station would have negative impacts to the pedestrian environment.
- We request that compressed natural gas buses and any other technology being considered be added to the decibel chart, and that the noise impacts be thoroughly examined.
- We request that any station/stop constructed within the City of Atlanta include protection from the rain and sun (including the stop at MARTA Arts Center Station).
- We request that Cobb County provide bus turning template schematics for all intersections along the selected alternative within the City of Atlanta, and clearly document any geometric changes required within the rights-of-way.
- We request that Cobb County consider special event operations during the planning phase.

- We request that phase one of the project include infrastructure investments within the City of Atlanta, including the construction of several stops along 17th Street serving Atlanta Station and passenger amenities at MARTA Arts Center Station and/or MARTA Midtown Station (depending on alternative selected).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mello', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshuah D. Mello, AICP
Assistant Director of Planning - Transportation

CC: Commissioner James Shelby
Charletta Wilson Jacks, Director of Planning
Tom Weyandt, Office of the Mayor
Kevin Green, Midtown Alliance

City of Atlanta Comment/Responses

Project Name: Northwest Atlanta Corridor – Connect Cobb

County: Cobb County

Document: 8/29/2013 Letter from City of Atlanta (Joshuah D. Mello, AICP) to Faye DiMassimo, Cobb County

Date: October 28, 2013

Prepared By: Ed Ellis, P.E., Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (on behalf of the Connect Cobb Environmental Assessment team)

Specific comments addressed below.

- Comment 1– We believe that the alternatives using any portion of Peachtree Street are the least preferred, as they will have negative impacts to the pedestrian environment along Peachtree Street.

Response: We are not proposing any routing that will have any bus rapid transit vehicles on Peachtree Street.

- Comment 2 – We request that Cobb County study an alternative that runs south on Spring Street to Peachtree Place, east on Peachtree Place or 8th Street to West Peachtree Street and north on West Peachtree Street, with stops adjacent to both MARTA Midtown Station and MARTA Arts Center Station.

Response: In our recently completed ridership modeling update, we included an alternative southern route to include the MARTA Midtown station. That modeling showed that system boarding, in that alternative would increase by 2,000 on an average weekday. We believe this extension should be studied further in Phase II. Since this extension is beyond the scope of the current EA contract, and has several issues that could be relatively complex, we will only address environmental issues to the potential 15th Street extension access to the Arts Center station.

- Comment 3 – We request that Cobb County study an alternative that with the routing along an extension of 15th Street or 16th Street between Spring Street and West Peachtree Street.

Response: We believe that routing on the potential 15th Street extension would improve system performance over the 14th Street option, but we have been assured by our ridership modeling team member that the model is not sensitive enough to recognize the differences. 14th Street will be used, if necessary, until the potential 15th Street Extension project is constructed.

- Comment 4 – We request that Cobb County study an alternative that includes a separate bus rapid transit terminal west of West Peachtree Street between 15th Street and 16th Street.

Response: Consideration was given to use of the GDOT property West of Spring Street, but no specific proposals have been developed at this time. We believe the parcel between Spring

Street and West Peachtree Street will be developed in the future and consideration could be given then to incorporating a station into the development.

- Comment 5 – We request that the proposed Atlanta Beltline transfer station be located on Northside Drive at Bellemeade Avenue.

Response: The BeltLine station has been moved to the intersection of Northside Drive at Bellemeade Avenue.

- Comment 6 – We do not support any alternatives that bypass Northside Drive and 17th Street through Atlantic Station.

Response: The alternatives being analyzed in the EA are on a common alignment on Northside Drive and 17th Street to Spring Street. No alternatives bypass Northside Drive and 17th Street through Atlantic Station.

- Comment 7 – We believe that the on-street station option at MARTA Arts Center Station would have negative impacts to the pedestrian environment.

Response: We agree and that is why we are proposing modifications to the Arts Center Station which will allow the BRT vehicles to operate inside the station.

- Comment 8 – We request that compressed natural gas buses and any other technology being considered be added to the decibel chart, and that the noise impacts be thoroughly examined.

Response: See attached noise level “thermometer.” Per discussion with the noise study consultant, bus fuel type (i.e. CNG vs. Diesel-Electric Hybrid) has little effect on noise.

- Comment 9 – We request that any station/stop constructed within the City of Atlanta include protection from the rain and sun (including the stop at MARTA Arts Center Station).

Response: All of the BRT stations are proposed to have protection from rain and sun on at least two sides as well as a roof. Stations within the jurisdiction of the City, as the City of Atlanta’s assets, are anticipated to be completed on your determined schedule under Phase 2 construction. MARTA Arts Center improvements were addressed in Comment 7.

- Comment 10 – We request that Cobb County provide bus turning template schematics for all intersections along the selected alternative within the City of Atlanta, and clearly document any geometric changes required within the rights-of-way.

Response: We are using routing that currently serves buses. If you know of any specific locations with problems relating to bus turns, please forward them to us. Specific design details are not anticipated as part of the Environmental Documentation process.

- Comment 11 – We request that Cobb County consider special event operations during the planning phase.

Response: CCT operating hours will apply to Connect Cobb. The operating hours are: Monday-Thursday- 5 AM-1 AM, Friday-5 AM-3 AM, Saturday – 6 AM-3 AM, Sunday – 6 AM-10 PM, and Holidays 6:30 AM-9:30 PM.

- Comment 12 – We request that phase one of the project include infrastructure investments within the City of Atlanta, including the construction of several stops along 17th Street serving Atlanta Station and passenger amenities at MARTA Arts Center Station and/or MARTA Midtown Station (depending on alternative selected).

Response: These improvements properly will be considered in the Phase 2 construction phase. Improvements to the MARTA Arts Center Station are being considered as a standalone improvement with potential partnerships and funding collaboration from MARTA and Midtown Alliance per previous discussions. Additional discussions will be scheduled in the near future to further detail the improvements and implementation strategy.

Attachments:

1. Plan sheet with revised BeltLine station location
2. Noise Level “Thermometer”

Typical Environments

**Ldn
dBA**

Bus Transit Sources

Ambient close to
Urban Freeways or Major
Airport



85



Freight Rail with Horn at 20 mph
2 Loco + 50 Cars
15 Day, 9 Night

80

75

Urban Ambient



70



Freight Rail at 20 mph
2 Loco + 50 Cars
15 Day, 9 Night

65



Accelerating Diesel Bus
180 Day, 24 Night

Suburban Ambient



60



Diesel/Hybrid/CNG Bus at 50 mph
180 Day, 24 Night

55



Electric Bus at 50 mph
180 Day, 24 Night

50



Diesel/Hybrid Bus at 20 mph
180 Day, 24 Night

Rural Ambient



45

40

Wilderness Ambient



35





CITY OF ATLANTA

KASIM REED
MAYOR

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300
TEL (404) 330-6100

August 15, 2014

Faye Q. DiMassimo
Director
Cobb County Dept. of Transportation
1890 County Services Pkwy.
Marietta, Ga. 30008-4014

Dear Faye,

The City of Atlanta appreciates the continuing collaboration with Cobb County in the environmental process supporting the development of *Connect Cobb*, a proposed bus rapid transit project from the Kennesaw State University area in north Cobb to the MARTA Arts Center Station. Two alternatives are being considered at the MARTA Arts Center location as part of the NEPA process. One option considers changes in the existing bus facility within the station and the other contemplates use of Arts Center Way for new bus bays.

I also understand that MARTA anticipates Transit Oriented Development proposals later this year. The results of these proposals will likely inform future considerations at the Arts Center station. The high level of pedestrian activity in the area as well as community scale and design goals suggest that continuing to carry multiple alternatives at the Arts Center Station through the conclusion of the environmental process will best serve the continued dialogue among all the partners and ultimately the design and future implementation of the Connect Cobb project.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Weyandt Jr.
Deputy Chief Operating Officer

COPY

marta 
2424 Piedmont Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30324-3330
404-848-5000

August 21, 2014

Faye Q. DiMassimo, Director
Cobb County DOT
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008

Subject: Connect Cobb Project

Dear Ms. DiMassimo:

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority ("MARTA") appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with Cobb County in the environmental process supporting the continued development of Connect Cobb, a proposed bus rapid transit project from the Kennesaw State University area in north Cobb to the MARTA Arts Center Station.

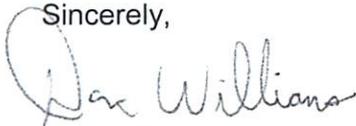
We understand that two alternatives are being considered for the connection at the Arts Center Station as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, one in the existing bus intermodal and the other along Arts Center Way.

MARTA plans on issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest ("RFEI") for the development of air rights above this station, among others. The proposals received in response to this solicitation will help determine the feasibility of transit oriented development at this station and will ultimately impact how Connect Cobb can potentially interface with the station.

Additionally, the high level of pedestrian activity along Arts Center Way suggest that carrying multiple alternatives at the Arts Center Station through the conclusion of the environmental process will best serve the continued dialogue between all partners and ultimately the design and implementation of the Connect Cobb project.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Cobb County DOT to bring this project to fruition. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (404) 848-4422 or drwilliams@itsmarta.com.

Sincerely,



Don Williams
Acting Assistant General Manager of Planning

cc: Amanda Rhein
Senior Director of Transit Oriented Development

9/10/2014

Faye DiMassimo
Cobb County DOT
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008

Re: Connect Cobb – MARTA Arts Center Station

Dear Faye:

Midtown Alliance appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with Cobb County in the environmental process supporting the continued development of Connect Cobb – a proposed bus rapid transit project running from the Kennesaw State University area in north Cobb to the MARTA Arts Center Station in Midtown, Atlanta. This letter is in response to recent discussions around the alternatives being considered at and around the MARTA Arts Center Station in the NEPA process.

As we have discussed, the station's adjacency to the Woodruff Arts Center, the high level of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area and the substantial amount of new development proposed in this area are important factors that must be considered and will require design decisions that are sensitive to these conditions. As you know, MARTA is also currently in the process of exploring the feasibility of an air rights development over the Arts Center Station through a Request for Expressions of Interest. A future development on this site will likely impact the way buses interact with the station. Additionally, Midtown Alliance is pursuing the extension of 15th Street between West Peachtree Street and Williams Street. When built, this extension would provide BRT vehicles with more direct access to and from the Arts Center Station.

Given these factors, Midtown Alliance encourages the project team to continue to carry multiple alternatives at Arts Center Station. We believe that doing so will allow for continued and productive dialogue between all of the partners and ultimately result in a design solution that will contribute to the success of the Connect Cobb project for all concerned.

We look forward to continued collaboration as we move forward.

Sincerely,



Kevin Green
President & CEO

cc: Tom Weyandt, City of Atlanta
Amanda Rhein, MARTA
Don Williams, MARTA