



TOP QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MARTA TRANSIT SALES TAX

Q WHAT IS THE MARTA SALES TAX?

A In addition to fare collections, MARTA is funded by a 1 percent sales tax in Fulton (including City of Atlanta), Clayton, and DeKalb counties along with federal money. The recently passed Senate Bill 369 authorizes the City of Atlanta to levy up to an additional ½ percent MARTA sales tax.

Q WHEN CAN THE TAX BE IMPLEMENTED?

A Following authorization of a referendum by the Atlanta City Council and approval by the voters in November 2106, anticipated collection will begin in 2017.

Q IS THERE A MAXIMUM TAX RATE?

A Under SB 369, the City can raise its local sales tax no higher than 9 percent.

Q HOW LONG WILL THE ADDITIONAL MARTA SALES TAX LAST?

A The additional tax will last the lifespan of the current 1 percent MARTA sales tax, which is currently set to expire in 2057.

Q HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE RAISED WITH AN ADDITIONAL HALF PENNY?

A Assuming the maximum rate of ½ percent is leveraged for the life of the current MARTA sales tax, the City of Atlanta could generate approximately \$2.5 to \$3.5 Billion, not including possible federal matching dollars. The Georgia Department of Revenue and Georgia State University Fiscal Research Center are reviewing exemptions and refining projections.

Q HOW DID A REFERENDUM GET CALLED?

A The City Council adopted a resolution or ordinance calling for a referendum (vote) on the collection of the additional ½ percent sales tax before June 30, 2016. All laws governing the holding of elections by the City shall apply.

Q HOW CAN THE MONEY BE SPENT?

A The funds can be spent on rapid transit projects, as already defined (and not changed) by the MARTA Act of 1965:

Rapid Transit System and Project. A transportation system the primary function of which is to provide a mass transportation service principally by the use of high speed vehicles traveling on the rights of way fully protected from other vehicular and pedestrian traffic, a secondary function of which is to provide a feeder-type mass transportation service therefore, and an incidental function of which is to provide facilities for the comfort, safety, and convenience of its passengers. A rapid transit project is any transportation project which may contribute to the development or operation of a rapid transit system.

Q DOES THE LAW ADDRESS THE PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS?

A Yes, MARTA supplied a preliminary list of projects to the City of Atlanta before May 31, 2016. That preliminary list was presented on May 19, 2016. The legislation required that MARTA provide a final list no later than July 31, 2016. Agreement on a final list took place at the June MARTA Board meeting and at the June 20, 2016 Full City Council meeting. The final project list will be incorporated into the current rapid transit contract that exists under the MARTA Act.

Q IS MARTA PLANNING ON OPERATING ALL OF THE STREETCARS AND LIGHT RAIL BUILT USING FUNDING FROM THE PASSED TAX? WHAT ROLE WILL MARTA BE TAKING ON WITH CONCERNS TO THE ATLANTA STREETCAR?

A Per the legislation (S.B. 369) that passed which authorized the referendum approved by voters in November, MARTA must own and operate any high capacity transit options built with the new tax money. Currently, MARTA serves in a support capacity to the Atlanta Streetcar for a limited time per agreement with the City. When that arrangement ends, the City will be solely responsible for the Streetcar. We do not own or operate the Streetcar. There are currently no plans to do so.



Contact Us

- **Email:** MOREMARTA@itsmarta.com
- **Telephone:** 404-848-6546
- **Website:** itsmarta.com/moremarta