



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WORK SESSION

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

via WebEx

MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present
Robert Ashe III	Jeffrey Parker
Stacy Blakley	Collie Greenwood
William Floyd	Rhonda Allen
Roderick Frierson	Luz Borrero
Freda Hardage	Ralph McKinney
Al Pond	Elizabeth O'Neill
Kathryn Powers	Larry Prescott
Rita Scott, Chair	Raj Srinath
Reginald Snyder	
W. Thomas Worthy	

Also, in attendance: MARTA Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; other MARTA staff members: Heather Alhadeff, Marsha Anderson Bomar, LaShanda Dawkins, Tyrene Huff, Patricia Lucek, Heather Luyk, Gena Major, Paula Nash, Santiago Osorio, Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov, and George Wright.

Report from the Chair

Approval of April 8, 2021 Work Session Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Rita Scott called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion to approve was made by Board Member Freda Hardage and seconded by Board Member Rod Frierson. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 10 to 0 with 10 members present.

Report from the General Manager/CEO

COVID-19 Vaccination Update [Presentation attached]

Chief Administrative Officer Luz Borrero updated the Authority's efforts to increase vaccine education and expand vaccinations for employees.

Board Member Robert Ashe expressed his strong desire to see MARTA's employee vaccination rate significantly increase.

Board Chair Scott asked on what dates will the on-site employee vaccination clinics occur. CAO Borrero stated the dates have not been finalized but will be shared with the Board as soon as they are set.

Board Chair Scott asked if employees are hesitant to take time off work to receive the vaccine or are they able to be excused for the time it takes to get the vaccination. CAO Borrero stated that employees could use their leave time to get the vaccine. It is expected that bringing the vaccination to employees through the mobile clinics will help to address that concern.

Transit Expansion Funding Follow-up [Presentation attached]

General Manager Jeffrey Parker and Chief Financial Officer Raj Srinath provided an update on future expansion funding and discussed the viability of several identified funding opportunities.

Board Member Stacy Blakley asked when will meetings be scheduled with Board members to review the budget proposal. GM Parker stated that meetings would begin to be scheduled next week.

Board Member Rod Frierson thanked GM Parker and CFO Srinath for the presentation and expressed his satisfaction with the proposed transit expansion funding plan.

Board Member William Floyd stated that it is important to keep in mind that the plan is not just about transit but also economic and community development, for example, in South DeKalb. GM Parker expressed his agreement with Board Member Floyd's comment.

ATL Discussion Follow-up

General Manager Jeffrey Parker provided an update regarding discussions between MARTA and ATL as they apply to federal relief funding and regional priorities.

Board Member Ashe concurred with GM Parker that the meeting with ATL Board members and staff was positive but that more work remains to be done.

Other Matters

None.

Adjournment

The Work Session adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyrene L. Huff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tyrene L. Huff
Assistant Secretary to the Board

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/2FW8GQ46Rq4>



COVID-19 Vaccination Update

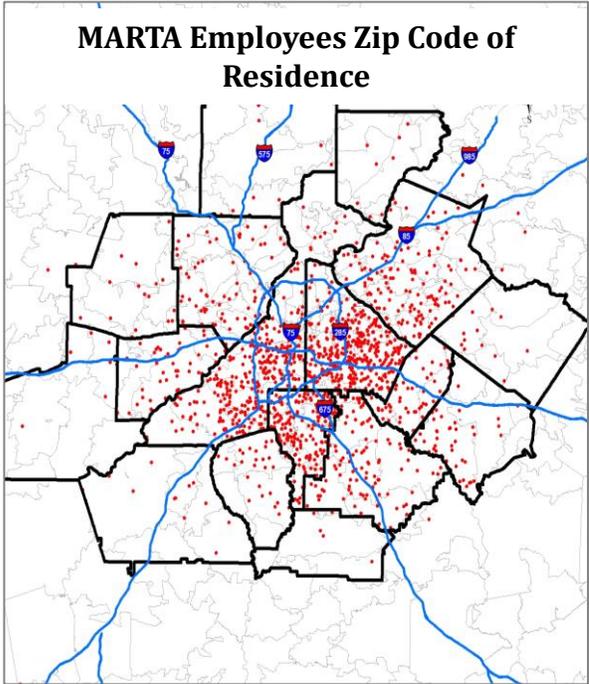
May 13, 2021

**Luz Borrero
Chief Administrative Officer**

Geographic Analysis of COVID-19 Cases for Top 10 Counties Where MARTA Employees Reside

The distribution of MARTA COVID-19 cases by county of residence is consistent with the distribution of counties where employees live.

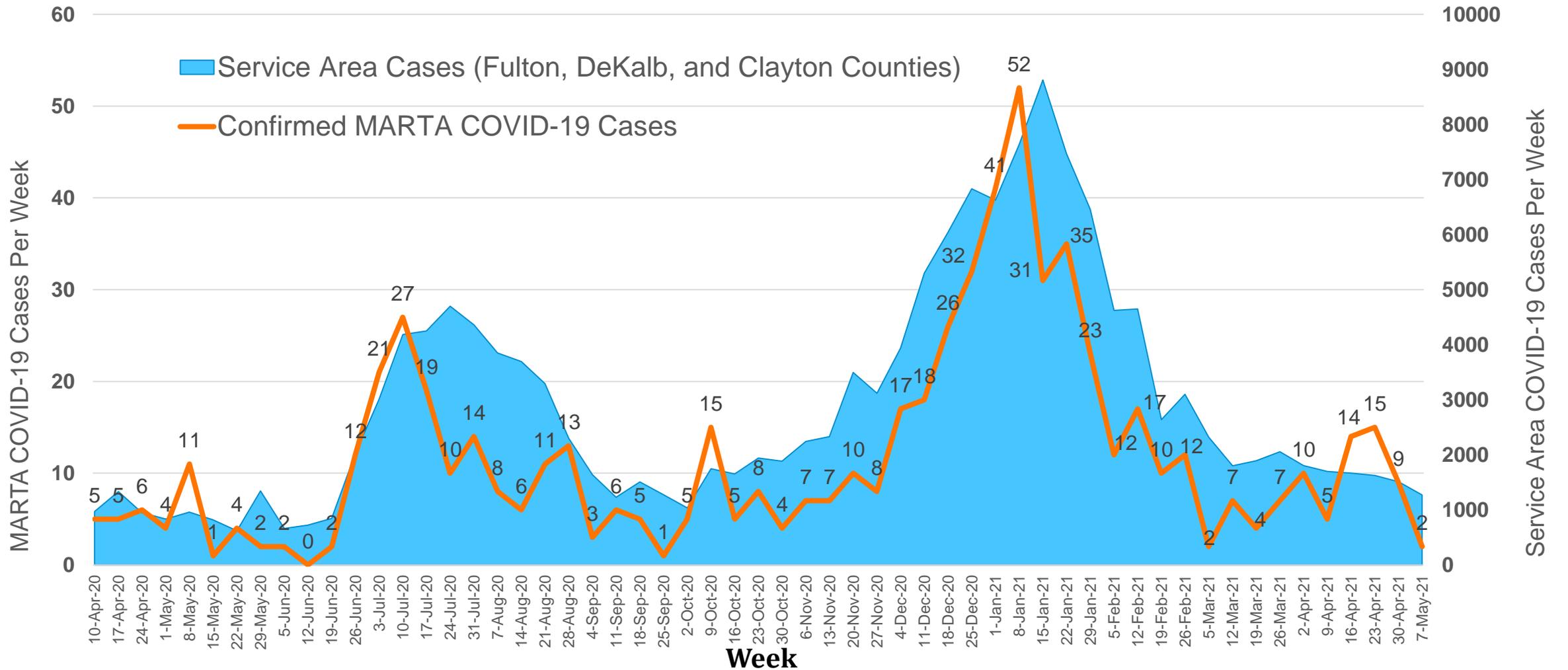
County	% of MARTA Employees by County	% MARTA Positive COVID-19 Cases by County
DeKalb	24.5%	22.5%
Fulton	21.7%	22.8%
Clayton	13.8%	16.6%
Gwinnett	9.7%	8.0%
Henry	7.6%	8.9%
Cobb	6.0%	5.0%
Newton	2.7%	2.7%
Douglas	3.2%	2.2%
Rockdale	3.0%	1.9%
Fayette	1.8%	1.6%
Other	2.8%	7.8%



Total confirmed COVID-19 cases as of May 7th:

- MARTA Employees: 680 cases out of workforce population of 4,366 employees and 400 contractors
- Service Area: 164,185 cases out of total adult population of 1,632,507

Counts of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Week: MARTA Workforce Compared To Service Area

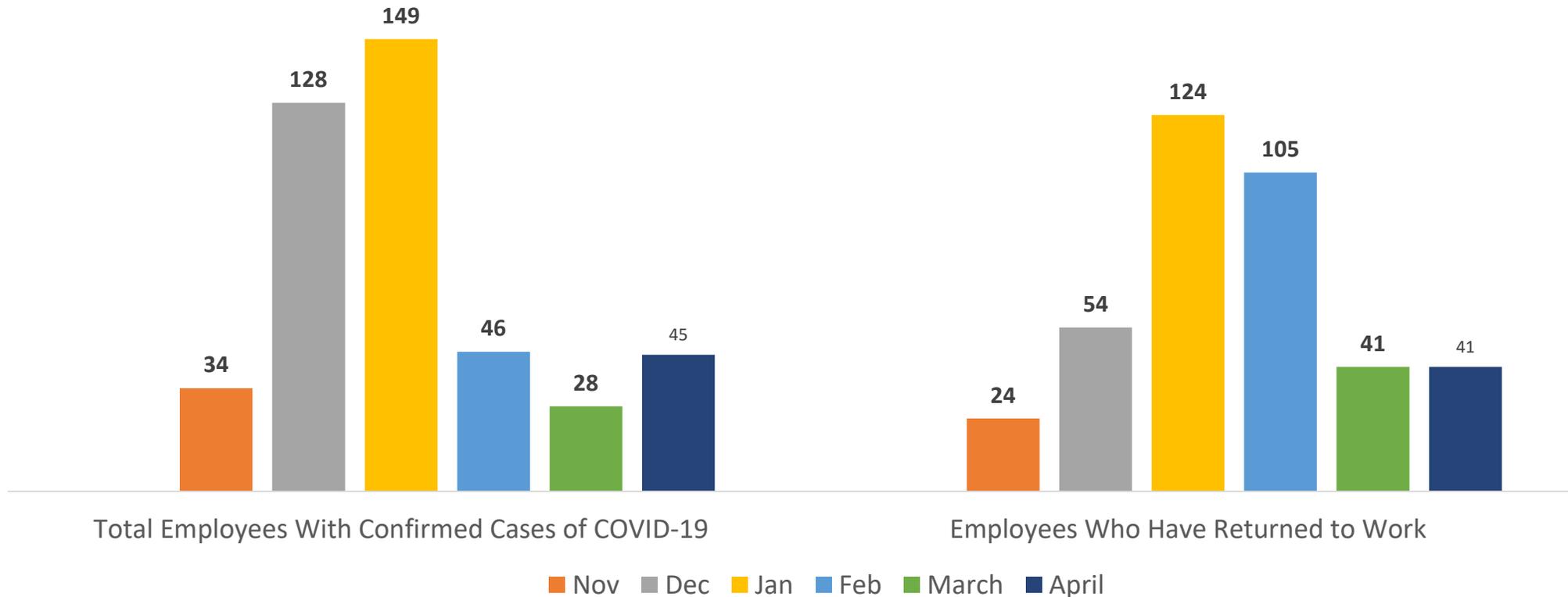


Note: Cases are reported for the dates when intake forms are received, not when positive test results are reported.

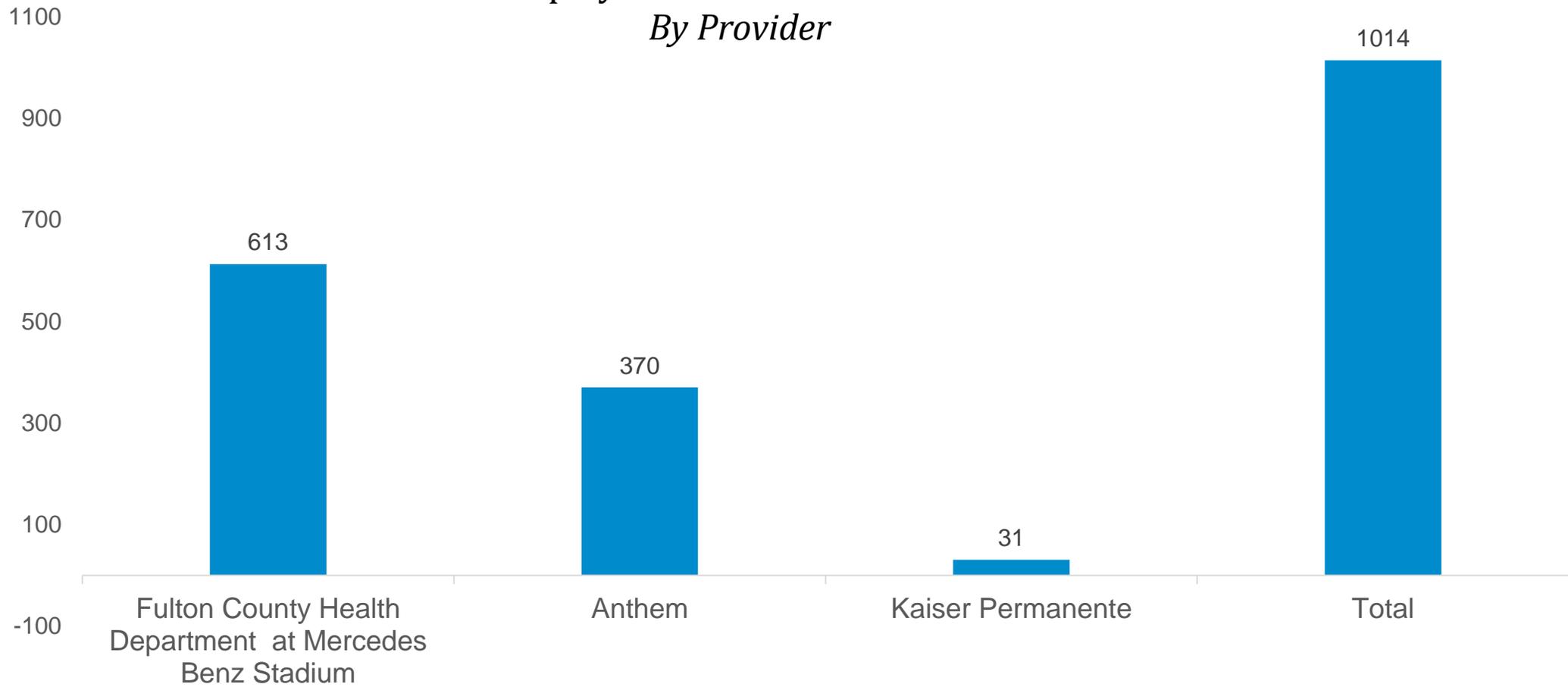
Most MARTA Employees Impacted by Covid-19 Have Successfully Returned to Work

From November 2020 through April 2021:

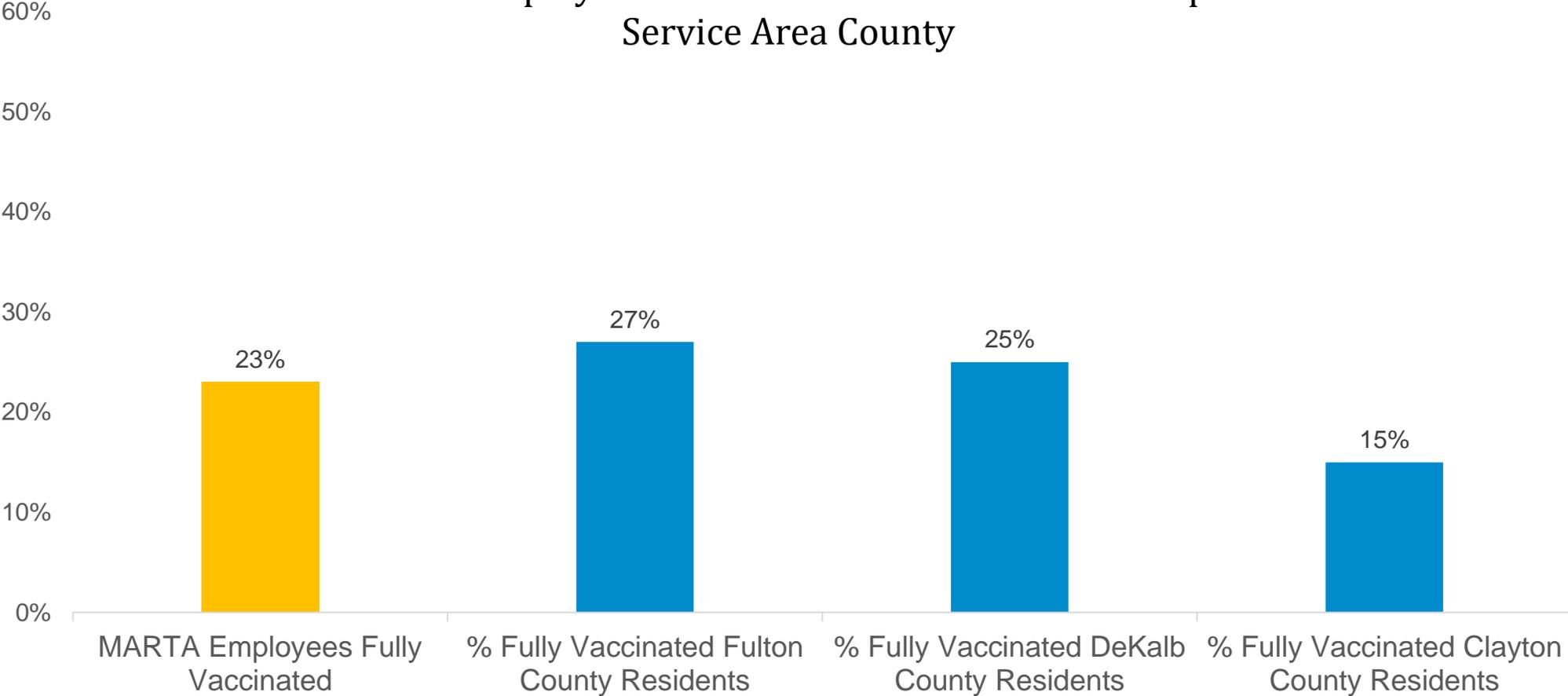
- 430 employees tested positive for COVID-19
- 389 employees recovered and returned to work



MARTA Employees Who Have Been Vaccinated *By Provider*



Percent of MARTA Employees Who Have Been Vaccinated Compared to Each Service Area County



Note: The % of MARTA employees fully vaccinated is an estimate based upon reporting from AFCEMA combined with vaccination appointments scheduled through MARTA and through health benefits providers.

Our Partnerships

- Since Monday, March 15, MARTA has been providing free round-trip shuttle service from our College Park Station to the mass vaccination site located at Delta’s Flight Museum. Shuttles run every 15 minutes, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The service will continue until May 21 when the State plans to close all mass vaccination sites.



- MARTA has been partnering with DeKalb County Government and DeKalb County Board of Health to deliver vaccines at the Doraville Station since February 1. The site is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. On May 3, the site began offering walk-up vaccinations with no appointment necessary.

- In April, Anthem began implementing vaccine information distribution events at five MARTA stations, including East Point, Five Points, H.E. Holmes, Oakland City, and West End. The information tables are located inside faregates on the concourse level. To date, 32 events have occurred. Thirty-four more are scheduled through the end of June.



Vaccine Equity Community Clinics

- In partnership with the Urban League of Greater Atlanta and CVS, MARTA is facilitating Vaccine Equity Community Clinics.
- This initiative is funded by a grant from the National Urban League.
- As part of the initiative, vaccination outreach and education efforts will address vaccine hesitancy.
- Plans are being finalized for six clinics.
 - Three employee clinics, with two at Laredo Garage.
 - Three general public clinics, station locations to be decided.
- Clinics will begin in June.





Thank You



FUTURE EXPANSION FUNDING OPTIONS

Board Work Session - May 13, 2021



Future Expansion Funding Options

Optimal Operating Reserve Level for MARTA

Background

- The MARTA Act requires funding and maintaining an operating budget reserve of ten percent (10%) of the prior year operating budget revenues, approximately \$55 million at present.
- The Government Finance Officers Association’s best practice recommendation for local governments and for entities like MARTA, is maintaining a reserve balance of what it will need to meet its average cash flow needs for about 60 days or 16.7% of operating expenditures. For MARTA, this translates to a reserve balance of approximately \$95 million.
- Some non-profit organizations suggest maintaining reserves as high as 90 days or 25% of annual operating expenses. This would mean a reserve balance of approximately \$140 million for MARTA based on the proposed FY 22 Budget.

Discussion - Optimal Reserve Level for MARTA

- Determining the adequate or the optimal operating reserve depends on several factors such as the reliability of operating revenues, impact of changes in economic conditions, impact of natural disasters, strategic goals, and state of good repair needs.
- During periods of hardship, not having adequate operating reserves can spell the difference between reduction in service and/or furloughs and maintaining safe and reliable transit service in the region. At the same time, maintaining a very high level of operating reserve is not a very efficient “use” or “investment” of MARTA’s resources.

MARTA Act Requirement	\$55M
Fare Revenue Mitigation	\$50M
Sales Tax Stabilization	\$20M
Optimal Reserve Level:	\$125M

Operating Sales Tax Funds Available for Capital Program

FY 21 Year End Forecasted Reserve	\$355M
Less Reserves Used for FY 22 Capital	(\$80M)
Less Suggested Reserve Level	(\$125M)
Reserve Funds Available for Expansion	\$150M
Bonding Capacity on \$20M/year Operating Sales Tax	\$360M
Total Local Sales Tax Funds Available for Capital Program	\$510M

All New Sources of Potential Funding for Capital Program

ARP Funds	\$200M
CRSSA Funds	\$33.5M
Local Sales Tax Funds	\$510M
State Transit Trust Funds	\$100M
Local SSD/TOD	\$250M
Sub Total New Sources of Available Funding	\$1,093.5M
FTA Matching Funds	\$500M to \$725M
Total New Sources of Available Funding	\$1,593.5 to \$1,818.5M
With ~ \$1.6 to \$1.8 Billion in potential new funding, Regional High Priority Capital Projects can be advanced	

Future Expansion Funding

New Capital Funding: Potential Allocation	Jurisdiction	Project Name	15th Amendment Project	Currently Available		Req. State Approp	Req. Local Action	Available Federal Funding		New Federal Funding	Total New Funding	Currently Available
				New Funds: MARTA Sales Tax	New Funds: MARTA TOD Rev Bonds	New Funds: State Transit Trust Fund	Local SSD or Sales Tax	CRRSAA - 5307	ARP - 5307	FTA CIG		Existing MARTA Funding
	Atlanta	More MARTA COA	Yes	\$200.0M	\$50.0M	\$50.0M				\$300.0M	\$600.0M	\$1000.0M
	Atlanta	Bus Service Operational Improvements	Yes					\$20.0M			\$20.0M	
	Clayton	Clayton BRT	Yes					\$100.0M			\$100.0M	\$200.0M
	Clayton	Transit Center - Justice Center	Yes					\$5.7M			\$5.7M	\$15.0M
	Fulton	GA 400 ELT	Yes				\$100.0M			\$100.0M	\$200.0M	\$195.0M
	Fulton	South Fulton/Roosv. Highway BRT/ART	Yes	\$140.0M						\$70.0M	\$210.0M	\$202.5M
	Fulton	Bus Service Operational Improvements	Yes					\$10.0M			\$10.0M	
	DeKalb	I-20 East ELT (DeKalb) to Stonecrest	No	\$10.0M							\$10.0M	
	DeKalb	Bus Service Operational Improvements	Yes					\$20.0M			\$20.0M	
	DeKalb	Transit Center – S. DeKalb/ Stonecrest	Yes					\$16.0M			\$16.0M	\$35.0M
	Fulton/DeKalb	I-285 ELT (Fulton/DeKalb)	No	\$100.0M		\$50.0M	\$100.0M			\$250.0M	\$500.0M	
	Clayton/Fulton	Airport CID PRT Study	No	\$10.0M							\$10.0M	
	Atlanta/Fulton/DeKalb	MARTA Station Rehab	Yes	\$50.0M				\$50.0M			\$100.0M	\$371.0M
	All	Traction Power Substations	Yes					\$17.5M			\$17.5M	\$119.5M
		Total Distribution by funding source		\$510.0M	\$50.0M	\$100.0M	\$200.0M	\$33.5M	\$205.7M	\$720.0M	\$1819.2M	



Discussion