

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Committee Vice Chair Valencia Williamson called the meeting to order at 12:22 P.M.

Board Members Roderick Frierson

Present: Thomas Worthy Valencia Williamson

valencia vviillamsor

Jennifer Ide

Jacob Tzegaegbe Elizabeth Bolton-Harris

Shavna Pollock

Board Members Al Pond

Absent: Freda Hardage

Jim Durrett Kathryn Powers Rita Scott

Russell McMurry Jannine Miller Sagirah Jones

Staff Members Present: Collie Greenwood

Steven Parker Jonathan Hunt Ralph McKinney Rhonda Allen George Wright Kevin Hurley Also in Attendance: Justice Leah Ward Sears, Phyllis Bryant, Kenya Hammond, Tyrene

Huff, Amanda Jackson, Payson Schwin, and Toni Thornton

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from March 27, 2025, External Relations Committee meeting

Approval of the Minutes from the March 27, 2025, External Relations Committee meeting. On a motion by Board Member Tzegaegbe, seconded by Board Member Ide, the motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with 7 members present.

3. BRIEFING

Results of Public Hearings for FY26 Operating and Capital Budgets and Final NextGen Bus Network Service Modifications

Toni Thornton, Acting Senior Director Public Engagement, provided the Board Committee with an overview and results of public engagement and hearings for FY26 Operating and Capital Budgets and Final NextGen Bus Network Service Modifications.

Rider Stories: The Power of User - Generated Content in Transit

Amanda Jackson, Social Media Specialist, provided an introductory overview of how MARTA has transformed its social media platforms to amplify the voices and stories of its diverse ridership.

4. OTHER MATTERS

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:48 P.M.

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/live/Kdp-foj5l8E?si=MWBWgnuBFpX7mCKh

Public Hearing Results for FY26 Operating and Capital Budget and Final NextGen Bus Network Service Modifications

External Relations Committee, May 22



Public Hearing Results for Proposed NextGen Bus Network Service Modifications

Public Engagement Overview

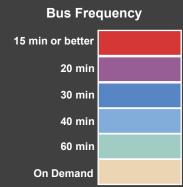
marta 🔨

External Affairs and Planning collaborated to present MARTA's NextGen Bus Network changes to our stakeholders and customers.

Various outreach tactics were used to ensure awareness of the proposed service modifications.

Refined NextGen Network

- 81 fixed bus routes
- Frequent service on 17 corridors
- 20-minute service on 11 routes
- 12 On-demand zones
- Daily service systemwide
- Flatter frequencies, no peak only service







PUBLIC HEARINGS MAY 12-17

Join us to shape the **Future of MARTA!**



Scan the QR code or visit itsmarta.com for meeting dates and project information.



MARTA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

MAY 12 - 17, 2025

See dates, times, & locations below



PROPOSED CHANGES: ALL ROUTES EXCEPT ROUTES 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, AND 800 - Effective December 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Monday, May 12 o In-Person

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

112 Smith Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236

10:30 AM: Community Exchange 12 PM: PUBLIC HEARING

Riding MARTA: Bus Route 193 (Smith Street).

SOUTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER

5600 Stonewall Tell Rd. College Park, GA 30349

5:30 PM: Community Exchange 7 PM: PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 14 👂 In-Person or 🏶 Virtual

NORTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER

O In-Porson & - Wrtus! MARTA HO

An overview of the proposed bus service modifications, routing and maps will be available for

Copies of the proposed bus service modifications, routing and maps will also be available for public viewing at:

2424 Pledmont Road, N.E.

durina reaular business hours. Mon-Frl, 8:30 AM - 5 PM

Comments may be submitted no later than May 20, 2025, vta:

Call: 404-848-5299



METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority will hold public hearings for the purpose of considering the

Proposed Changes: All MARTA Bus Routes, Except Routes: 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, and 800 - Effective December 2025

Monday, May 12 ♥ In-Person

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Ridina MARTA: Bus Route 180.

Wednesday, May 14

Q In-Person only NORTH FILLTON SERVICE CENTER In-Person and Virtual MARTA HEADOLIARTERS





Dal 49 al 47

NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDENCIAS PÚBLICAS DE MARTA



Public Engagement Title VI:



NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDENCIAS PÚBLICAS DE MARTA





Consulta fechas, horarios y lugares a continuación



CAMBIOS PROPUESTOS: TODAS LAS RUTAS EXCEPTO LAS RUTAS 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198 Y 800 - Vigentes a partir del diciembre de 2025

AUDIENCIAS PÚBLICAS:

lunes, mayo 12 Sitio Presencial

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

112 Smith Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236 10:30 AM- Infercambio Comunifacio 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Usa la ruta de MARTA 193 (Smith Street).

SOUTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER

5600 Stonewall Tell Rd. College Pk. GA 30349

5:30 PM: Intercambio Comunitario 7 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Usa la ruta de MARTA 180.

miércoles, mayo 14 • Sitio Presencial o • Virtual

Sittle Presencial NORTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER

7741 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

10:30 AM: Intercambio Comunitario 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Usa la arta de MARTA RE

jueves, mayo 15

Sitio Presencial

THE EXCHANGE REC CENTER

2771 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30034

10:30 AM: Intercambio Comunitario 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Usa la ruta de MARTA 114.

Marta. NextGen Bus Network

O Sitio Presencial y 👄 Virtual MARTA HEADQUARTERS

2424 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

5:30 PM- Intercamble Comunitario 7 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Viaje en MARTA: Linea Roja/Dorada hasta la estación Lindbergh, salida norte. Usa las rutas de MARTA 5, 6, 30, 39, 809.

sábado, mayo 17

Sitio Presencial

CHAMBLEE CITY HALL

3518 Broad Street, Chamblee, GA 30341

10:30 AM: Intercambio Comunitario 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Usa la ruta de MARTA 132.

63 REVISIÓN POR LA COMUNIDAD

Una descripción de la propuesta del nuevo servicio. la rutas y los mapas estarán disponible para

Copias de las modificaciones propuestas al servicio de bus, las rutas y mapas también estarán para el público en el:

MARTA Headquarters

2424 Pledmont Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30324

lun-vie 8:30 AM - 5 PM

- Llama: 404-848-5299
- Correo: 2424 Pledmont Road, N.E. Attanta, GA 30324-3330

((·)) EN VIVO EN POUTube

Conoce más 404-848-5000

Itsmarta.com

Para solicitar esta información en otro idioma ó en un formato accesible, llama al 404-848-4037 ó 404-848-5665 (TTY).

revisión en Itsmarta.com del 5-20 de mayo.

En horarlo regular de oficina

COMENTARIOS

Comentarios pueden ser sometidos antes del 20 de mayo del 2025, por vía:

- MARTA's Office of External Affairs
- Correo Electrónico: publichearinginfo@itsmarta.com

Únase virtualmente en: itsmarta.com en mayo 14 a 7PM

2771 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30034 10:30 AM: Intoreamble Comunitario 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA



191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198 y 800 Vigentes a partir del diciembre de 2025

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM

112 Smith Street, Jonesboro, 6A 30236 10:30 AM: Intorcambio Comunitario 12 PM- AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

5600 Stonewall Tell Rd. College Pk, GA 30349 5:30 PM: Intoreambio Comunitario 7 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

SOUTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER

Sitio Prosoncial

7741 Roswell Rd NE.

Sandy Springs, GA 30350

10:30 AM: Intorcambio Comunitado

12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

jue, mayo 15

Sitio Prosoncial

THE EXCHANGE REC CENTER

NORTH FULTON SERVICE CENTER MARTA HEADQUARTERS

2424 Pladmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 5:30 PM: Intoreamble Comunitario 7 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

O Sitio Presencial y B Virtual

sáb, mavo 17

Sitio Presencia

CHAMBLEF CITY HALL

3518 Broad Street, Chambles, GA, 30341 10:30 AM: Inforcemble Comunitario 12 PM: AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

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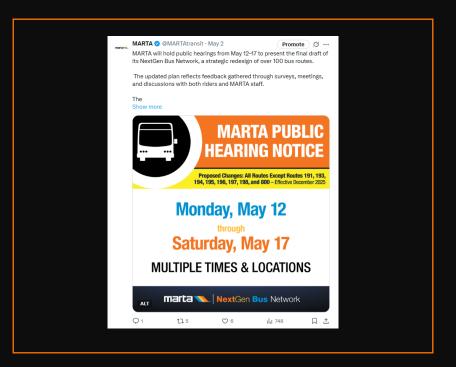
Digital Outreach

YouTube Video garnered 356 views

24 posts across all platforms

32,910 impressions

103 clicks





Public Hearings

- Number of Meeting Attendees: 76
 - Clayton County: 4
 - South Fulton: 7
 - North Fulton: 11
 - City of Atlanta Hybrid/ Live Streamed: 26
 - South DeKalb: 14
 - North Dekalb: 14
- Number of Public Comments: 38
- Emails: 23
- Phone Comment Line: 9





Public Hearing Comments - Themes



Route Alignment and Connectivity Concerns

- Grove Park route should extend to West End.
- Delay changes to Routes 49 and 55 until Rapid A-Line is ready.
- Elimination of Route 155 harms
 Peoplestown's east-west access



Suggestions for Better Resource Allocation

- Redundancy: Routes 125 and 127 seen as duplicative.
- Reallocation Proposal: Shift service to Lavista Road to serve underserved areas and key destinations.



Support for Frequency Improvements

- Route 26: Reduced wait times appreciated.
- Route 11: New connections praised; request for 10-minute frequency via smart scheduling.



Public Hearing Comments - Themes



Infrastructure Requests

 Physical Improvements: Add shelters to high ridership bus stop locations.



General Rider Needs/Concerns

- Focus on elderly and dependent users.
- Ensure access to rail stations and shopping.
- Address terrain and poorly placed transfer stops.
- Rising unemployment may increase transit reliance.



Route Suggestions - examples

- **Route 1:** Reroute via Midtown West for safety and efficiency.
- Route 11: Extend to Lindbergh Station; use smaller buses.
- Route 23: Extend to Civic Center Station for better connectivity.
- Route 49: Reroute through Grant Park to restore access to Zoo and Publix.
- Route 141: Keep the 141 which provides service to North Fulton



Samples From Comments

We are grateful to see the proposed Route 26 service frequency would go down from 45 minutes to 30 minutes. In addition to quicker frequency, we are hopeful a bus shelter and bench will be added to our bus stop located at W Marietta Street NW & Rockdale Street NW. This will provide much needed shelter & seating for all of us waiting on the bus each day.

I ride the 49 bus every day from Hill St SE to Forsyth St SW. I understand that rerouting the 49 and 55 in conjunction with the Rapid A-Line will improve the network overall, but I am asking for changes to these routes NOT to be implemented until after the completion of the Rapid A-Line so that my neighbors and I are not cut off from access to Five Points for months.

141 is being cancelled and the 143 won't be Express. I take the 141 (Hwy 9, Library, Haynes Br, North Point Parkway, 400, North Springs Station) and the 143 (Express Windward, North Springs Station). On top of that MARTA tends to cancel several of these routes on a given day. If you combine these two issues, it will be very difficult for me to use MARTA. We only have one car.

Route 185 is a local route and due to its ride duration, it is not practical to take it to North Springs Station. 1 hour!

Most of Haynes Bridge will be without service. As you know there are many new developments going up, and at the intersection of Haynes/Old Milton. Please keep route 141.

Route 68 - Benjamin Mays Dr. (66 - Brownlee/Harbin, 67 -Peyton Place)
Restore service to Holmes Station. Reroute along Lynhurst Dr.
Eliminate Proposed EOL loop on Boulevard Granada at Essex Av.

Please consider changing the northern end of NextGen route 49 back to the original proposal of running southbound on Courtland St beginning at Ponce De Leon Ave and running northbound on Piedmont Ave all the way to Ponce De Leon Ave. The newly proposed change of running along Peachtree St between Ponce De Leon Ave and Ralph McGill Blvd introduces likelihood of delays due to heavy traffic on Peachtree St often between Ponce De Leon Ave and North Ave, and again in front of Emory Midtown Hospital. Additionally, I would be surprised if buses are able to turn right from Ponce De Leon Ave to Peachtree St without full clearance on Peachtree St -- that is a tight intersection and another possible bottleneck causing delays

Thank you for your hard work on this excellent reimagined bus map. I have been following this major project since 2021, and congratulations on releasing the final network. I especially appreciate the thoughtful routing for buses 11, 12, and 14. It's fantastic how Bus 11 now connects Collier/Defoor (high density area) to the Beltline Eastside and the CDC.

smarter, faster, better.



Questions?



Public Hearing Results for Fiscal Year 2026 Operating and Capital Funds Budget

Public Engagement Overview





MARTA's External Affairs worked collaboratively with the Finance Department to share information about the proposed FY26 Operating and Capital Budget.



Two public hearings (one in-person and one hybrid) on May 13 and May 15th to inform MARTA customers of the FY26 Operating and Capital Budget and gather feedback.



Customers, area residents and stakeholders were engaged in various ways to ensure the public was adequately notified of the FY26 Operating and Capital Budget.





MARTA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



Proposed FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets, Effective July 1, 2025

Two Hearing Dates:

Tuesday, May 13 - Hybrid COMMUNITY EXCHANGE, 6 PM PUBLIC HEARING, 7 PM

In-Person Location:

MARTA HEADOUARTERS

2424 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

Riding MARTA: Lindbergh Rail Station – North Exit

Bus Routes 5, 6, 30, 39, 809

To Join the Hearing Virtually (5/13 only):

Go to itsmarta.com

Thursday, May 15

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE, 6 PM PUBLIC HEARING, 7 PM

In-Person Location:

RIVERDALE TOWN CENTER

7210 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274

Riding MARTA: Bus Routes 89 (Riverdale), 197, & 198

68 COMMUNITY REVIEW

An overview and video of the proposed FY26 Capital and Operating Budget will be available for review at itsmarta.com starting May 14, 2025.

COMMENTS

Comments may be submitted no later than **May 20, 2025**, via:

- Voice Message: 404-848-5299
- Mail:

MARTA's Office of External Affairs 2424 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324-3330

@ Email:

publichearinginfo@itsmarta.com

Use QR Code or URL:

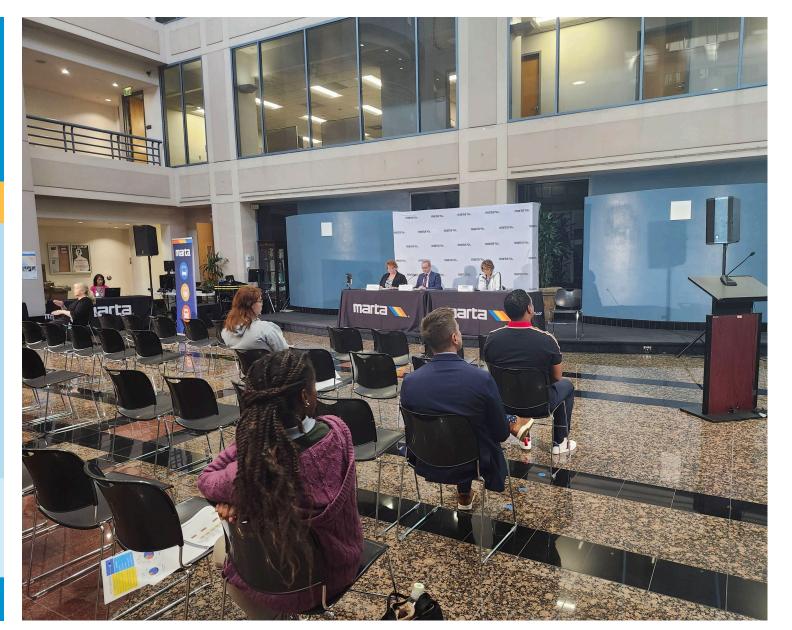


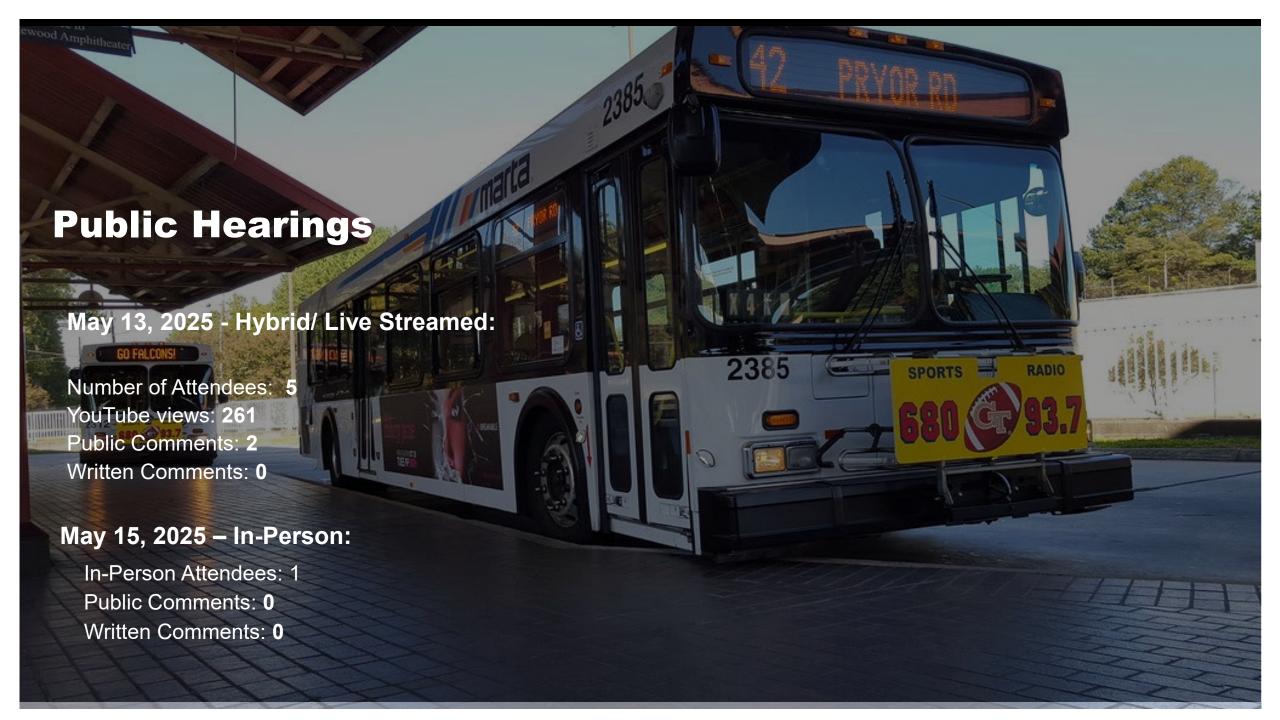
itsmarta.com/public-hearings-meetings.aspx

To request this information in another language or in an accessible format, call 404-848-4037 or 404-848-5665 (TTY).











Summary of Public Comments



Operating Budget - concerned that Deputy General Managers budget increased by massive amount



Safety Concerns – If safety is MARTA's north star why are they cutting police positions?



Budget documents need to show on MARTA website as advertised



Proposed CIP – refreshing to see new projects, would like to see more.

FY26 Operating and Capital Budget Timeline

Public Hearings



May 13 & 15

Board Approval



June 12, 2025

FY 26 Budget Effective



July 1, 2025

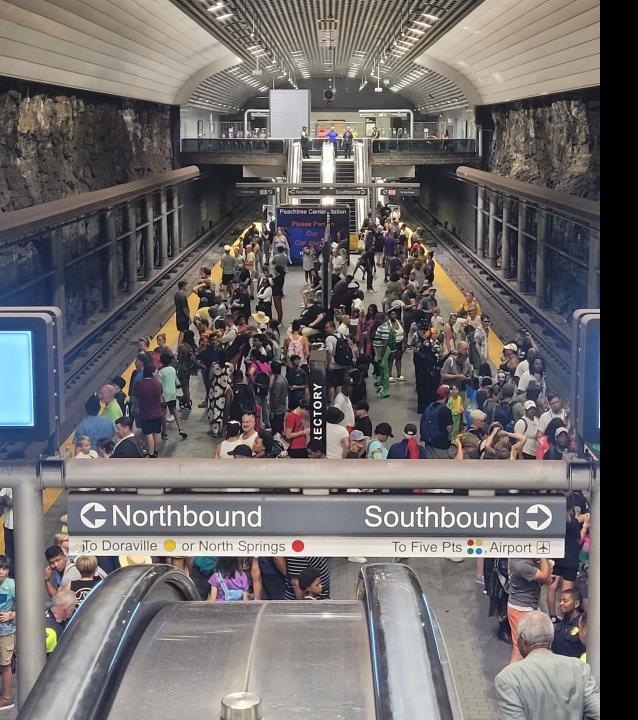


Questions?





Thank You



Rider Stories: The Power of **User Generated** Content in Transit

An introductory overview of how MARTA has transformed its social media platforms to amplify the voices and stories of its diverse ridership.

Defining UGC & Influencers

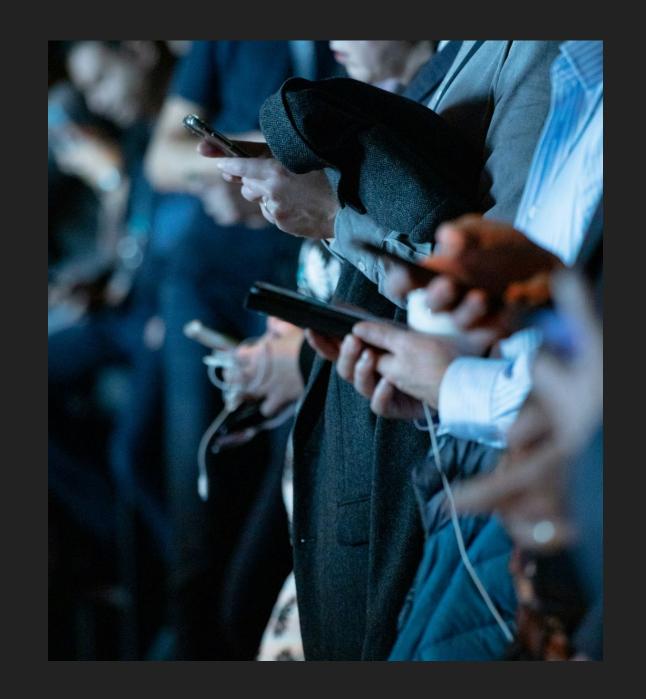
User-Generated Content (UGC): Content like images, videos, text, and reviews created by individuals, not businesses.

Micro-Influencers: Creators in niche markets with 10K–100K, highly engaged followers.

Nano-Influencers: Smaller creators with 1K–10K followers, often having strong personal connections.

Our Influencer Requirements:

- Authentic Rider Experience
- Strong Community Engagement
- Positive Representation and Aligned Messaging



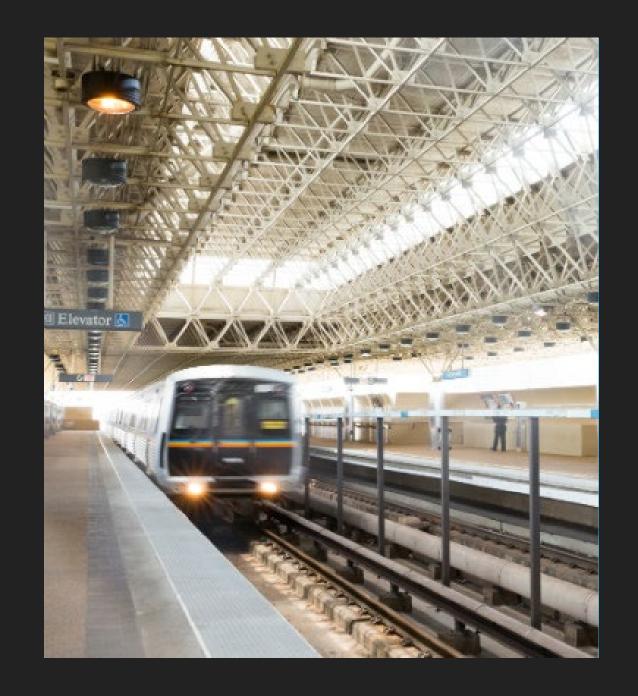
Impact of UGC

Influence: 84% of consumers say UGC influences their decisions.

Trust: 92% trust UGC more than traditional ads.

Cost-Effective: UGC can cut marketing costs by up to 50%.

Engagement: UGC posts see 28% higher engagement.

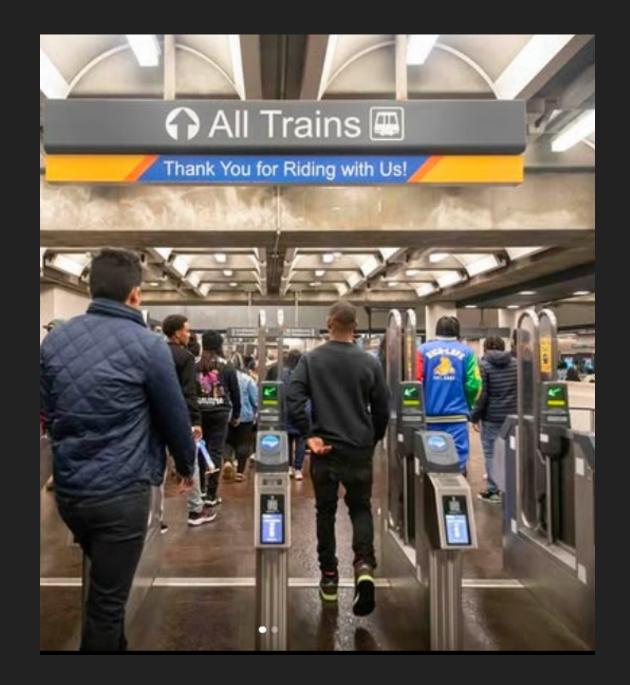


Benefits of UGC for MARTA

MARTA's shift to sharing rider stories has strengthened community connections, built brand loyalty, and reinforced our commitment to valuing passenger voices.

By sharing the personal stories and experiences of our riders, we have seen an increase in follower engagement on our social media platforms, especially Instagram.

Overall, engagement has increased by 35% with UGC









2/ How To Videos



3/ Tour Guides on MARTA



4/ Recommendations

Strategies for Collaborations



Access to Limited Edition
MARTA Merch & Breeze Cards



Invites to Exclusive & Public Events

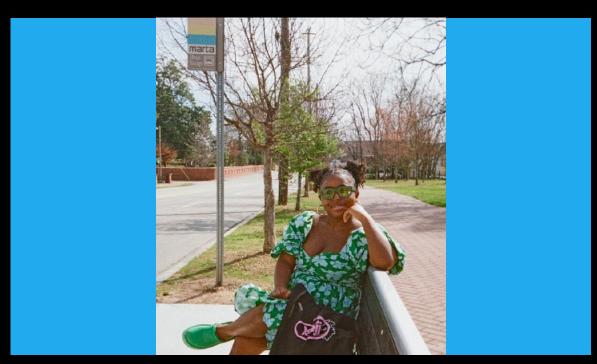


Opportunities to "See It First"

World #CarFree Day

Initiative Promoting Transit and Encouraging #CarFree Engagement

Local nano-influencers shared their perspectives on supporting public transit and using MARTA.



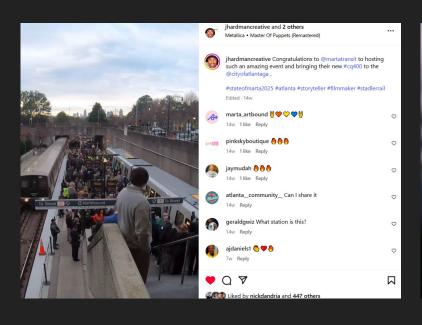
Atlanta Transit Girl - 1,175 followers



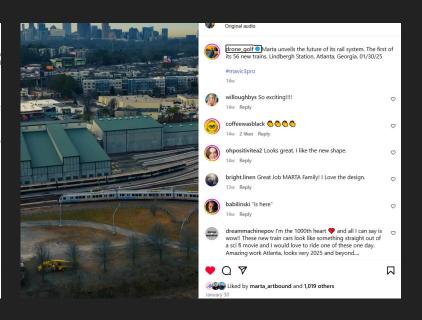
NoodzLuvr – 8,845 followers

STATE of MARTA Influencer Takeover

2nd Highest Ranking Engagement



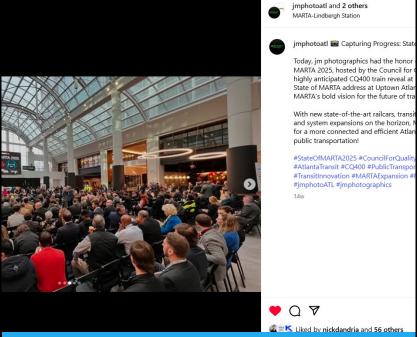




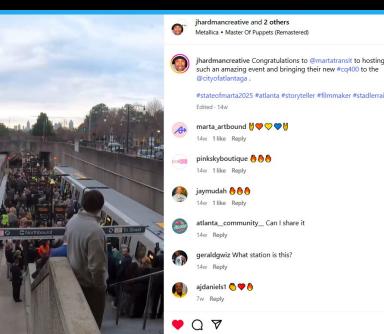
Social Media Stats

Total Impressions: 2,377,632

Total Likes: 80,545











ceoxdrone and 2 others

Open gangways for easy movement between Charging stations for your devices P Digital maps & real-time service info Solution Forward & inward-facing seats for comfort More space for bikes, strollers, luggage & w And that signature MARTA (@martatransit)

each rail line's color! Atlanta's transit game just leveled up. Who's rea

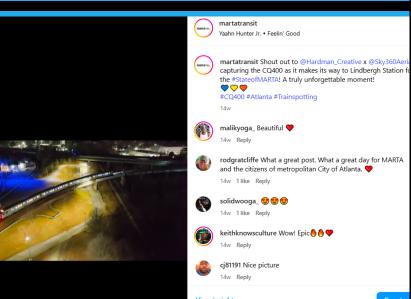
Want to see more? Grab a print to celebrate and Atlanta's evolving skyline! Check out our pr xeffectvisuals.pixieset.com/cityscapedatlanta/the

#RideMARTA #CQ400 #MARTAElevated #NextG #atlantaga #marta #martatrain #martatransit

marcial sanchez I love it great improve for a No



Liked by nickdandria and 1,106 others



 $\triangle \bigcirc \triangle$

Liked by marta_artbound and 649 others





Liked by nickdandria and 447 others

atlantatransitgirl 14w The future is happening and our time machine arrives this summer! 📵 🥖 🦃 □□□ M Today was the State of MARTA with unveiling or MARTA's new heavy rail fleets. All I have to say is dreams come true! Thanks MARTA and everyone that made this come to life!

#marta #atlanta #urbanism #transit

Would you ride the new train this summer 2025?! (2)

atlvimby 14w I had fun exploring the new train and buses with you today!

18 likes Reply

Many all 1 raplice





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Rider Stories: From Passengers to Storytellers



Michelin All The Way



Game Day for Out-of-Towners



Ride To Vote



A Family Connection





Exploring

Engaging

Creating interactive social media experiences

Personalized Tailoring social

Tailoring social media content to meet our riders' needs

Innovating

Exploring emerging social media strategies to enhance the rider experience

Inclusive

Ensuring social media platforms are representative of our riders















Keep In Touch

Stay connected and keep up with our latest initiatives by following us on social media!

Find us at **@MARTATransit** for general updates and **@MARTAService** for alerts and customer support.

We sincerely appreciate your support and engagement!

