

## SOUTH DEKALB TRANSIT HUB SITE FEASIBILITY STUDY



### WHAT IS A TRANSIT HUB?

A Transit Hub is a centralized place where different travel options—walking, biking, bus, paratransit (MARTA Mobility), and mobility-as-a-service options (e.g., Uber and Lyft)—come together to make getting around easier, safer, and more efficient. The goal of the South DeKalb Transit Hub is to provide a safer, more convenient place for passengers to transfer between bus routes or switch transportation modes to reach their ultimate destination.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to investigate, analyze and determine the feasibility of the development and implementation of a new Transit Hub serving and connecting the transit user to a wide range of transportation options in South DeKalb County.

### WHERE IS THE SOUTH DEKALB TRANSIT HUB STUDY AREA?

The South DeKalb Transit Hub Site Feasibility Study is looking at the area generally surrounding the Candler Road (SR 155) (Exit 65) and Interstate 20 (I-20) interchange. It is home to The Gallery at South DeKalb (commonly referred to as the South DeKalb Mall), retail businesses, community, and institutional facilities, and is adjacent to several residential neighborhoods.



### WHY DO WE NEED A TRANSIT HUB?

The DeKalb County Transit Master Plan (DeKalb TMP) adopted last year by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners first identified this part of the county as a potential location for MARTA's first bus-to-bus transfer facility, dubbed a Transit Hub. The area is already functioning as a transfer point between bus routes but lacks the physical infrastructure to make transferring and access to other modes an easy and comfortable experience.

Then on February 21, 2020, MARTA announced its commitment to invest approximately \$250 million in transit improvements for DeKalb County. The countywide investments include:

- Bus-to-bus transit centers at South DeKalb Mall and Stonecrest Mall by 2023.
- 350 new bus shelters and amenities in DeKalb County by 2024.
- Rehabilitation of all eight DeKalb County rail stations by 2025.
- Maintenance of the existing rail, bus and paratransit system (State of Good Repair).
- 58 new Gillig buses are already operating out of Laredo Bus Garage and the first of 254 new rail cars will be placed in service in 2023.

## WHAT OUTCOMES ARE EXPECTED FROM THE SOUTH DEKALB TRANSIT HUB FEASIBILITY STUDY?

The feasibility study will consider location options for the Transit Hub within the study area and will recommend a preferred location. After identifying the preferred location, the next step will be to create conceptual plans and local bus service improvements to better serve the community and transit users. These concepts will not only include facilities and service enhancements needed for passengers on current MARTA bus lines in South DeKalb, but they will also consider the need for potential future MARTA investments and system riders in the area.

## WHY IS THE TRANSIT HUB NEEDED?

The DeKalb County Transit Master Plan identified several unmet needs among DeKalb County's bus passengers. These needs include a safe, sheltered place to wait for and transfer between buses, access to basic amenities such as Breeze vending machines and restrooms, and access to options like e-scooters and bike shares.

## WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE TRANSIT HUB?

The amenities in a Transit Hub can vary, but potential Transit Hub services and amenities could include:

- Seating
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- Shelter from poor weather
- Breeze card kiosks
- Vending machines
- Access to other transportation options like e-scooters and bike share services
- Real-time bus arrival information
- Other services as needed for the community



## WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE PROJECT?

The feasibility study will not result in a final, specific design of the South DeKalb Transit Hub. It will, however, provide the information needed to advance the project into design and construction stages. The general schedule of activities is as follows:



### PHASE ONE: **PLANNING** 2019-2020

- Transit Hub Site Feasibility Study/Site Concept Definition



### PHASE TWO: **DESIGN** 2020-2021

- Site Development
- Environmental Assessments



### PHASE THREE: **IMPLEMENTATION** 2021-2023

- Site Acquisition
- Design & Permitting
- Building Facility

**Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach**

## HOW CAN I PROVIDE INPUT OR GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Public participation in transportation planning is based on the belief that people whose lives are affected by planning and investment decisions have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and influence choices that are made. MARTA values input from the community and will provide ample opportunities for public participation. In response to COVID-19, MARTA is using a variety of virtual and electronic engagement techniques. For more information, visit the MARTA website ([www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com)).

**CONTACT:**

Ryan VanSickle  
Acting Manager of Special Projects & Analysis

**E:** [rvansickle@itsmarta.com](mailto:rvansickle@itsmarta.com)

**P:** 404.848.4151