

Metro Atlanta Transit HB 930 CSFA As Passed and Conference Committee Comparison

Summary:

In summary, there have been no extensive revisions to HB 930 CSFA As Passed, new and/or revised language has been included in the bill to establish the ATL as a new entity, that is administratively attached to GRTA, rather than a repurposing of GRTA. Also, some revisions are included to make sure the intent of the bill is concise and unambiguous.

Specific Comparison Points:

Bill Element	Description of Changes
1. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional language is included to provide additional details on how counties in the authority's jurisdiction take a TSPLOST to referendum and how <i>neighboring counties</i> can work with counties within the authority's jurisdiction to select transit projects and take a TSPLOST to referendum. Meetings to create such a project list must be held "60 days" prior to referendum as opposed to "30 days". Additional language added to specify that the special districts must be qualified to levy a TSPLOST. Language was also simplified to clearly state <i>how TSPLOST will be distributed to the special districts for projects</i>. Language was also revised to specify the role of "special districts" and "counties" as it relates to TSPLOST. Language was added to specify that <i>TSPLOST funds must be used within the special district(s) in which they were collected</i>. <i>Removed</i> language that imposed an <i>airport tax and ride share fee</i> to fund regional transit within the ATL's jurisdiction. Language was added that specifies the ATL as the <i>sole recipient of federal and state funding for transit and moves these powers from GRTA and SRTA to the ATL</i>, no later than July 1, 2021.
2. Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language was revised to include <i>16 board members as opposed to 14</i>. The board comprised of 16 members includes; 1 board chair appointed by the Governor, 1 representative of 10 authority districts, elected by local legislative delegations, County Commissions and Mayoral Caucuses within each district; 2 appointed by Lt Governor and 2 by Speaker; and GDOT Commissioner as ex-officio nonvoting member. Removed language referencing the transfer of GRTA's powers to the ATL and added language which establishes <i>the ATL as a new entity that is administratively attached to GRTA</i> which allows for shared administrative resources. Language was added that provides minimum board member qualifications. Specifies that the board may, in its discretion, appoint an executive director as the administrative head of the authority and shall set his or her salary. <i>The executive director of GRTA shall serve as a temporary director</i> until the board is constituted and an executive director is appointed by the board. Revised language that the <i>Governor will appoint the board chair</i> rather than serve as the board chair.
3. New nonattainment counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language added to specify the <i>requirements of adding a new nonattainment area</i> to the jurisdiction of the ATL. Counties that are newly established nonattainment areas will have the <i>ability to join the jurisdiction of the ATL by majority vote and passage of a resolution by the board of commissioners</i>, of such county.
4. County referendum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional language to <i>clarify the process for Gwinnett to hold a special election for a transit referendum</i>. Additional language was also added to specify if a rapid transit contract is entered into after January 1, 2019, the rapid transit service to be provided through the execution of a rapid transit contract shall be from the regional transit plan and approved by the Atlanta-regional Transit Link 'ATL' Authority. Language was added that <i>creates a Cobb County Special District for Transit Committee</i> to be composed of the members of the board of commissioners of Cobb

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	<p>County and the members of the House of Representatives and Senate whose respective districts include any portion of Cobb County. The Committee may formulate a map for a proposed Cobb County Special District for Transit for the provision of public transportation services. <u>Upon approval of such map Cobb county can work in consultation with the ATL to negotiate terms of a rapid transit contract</u>, on behalf of the special district. Cobb County may hold a referendum of the population of this Special District, to enter into a contract for the provision of transit services into that Special District. The transit services must be in the ATL’s Regional Transit Plan and must be approved by the ATL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cobb Commission may choose any method to finance this transit expansion. However, passage of that referendum will authorize Cobb County to implement a special retail and use tax. • The Committee will be abolished on December 1, 2019
5. Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised language regarding the submission date of the annual report to coincide with budgeting.
6. Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional language was added that details the ATL’s powers to plan, design, acquire, construct, add to, extend, improve, equip, operate, and maintain transit systems, transit projects, and air quality control installations. • Language was added that transfers transit operations from GRTA to the ATL, no later than July 1, 2021. • Revised language to include “capital asset worth more than \$250,000 that is regularly visible to the public” rather than “property” to ensure branding is required on buses, stations and trains, but not on assets which are not visible to the public or are disposable or short-term property
7. ATL’s jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language was added to exclude airports from the ATL’s jurisdiction. • Language was added to exclude transit oriented developments in Fulton County from the ATL’s jurisdiction.