

MARTA Hopes to Attract More "Lifestyle" Riders with Expanded Tiered Bus Service Plan

by Carl Holt

Currently, MARTA operates two distinct tiers of service: rail and local bus. But there's a significant gap between them. The 2016 Comprehensive Operations Analysis seeks to fill it by expanding the levels of bus service. The goal is to attract more riders from "lifestyle" transit markets using a five-tier approach, as explained in more detail below.

First, MARTA envisions **arterial rapid transit** (ART) as a network of frequent routes on existing high-density arterial corridors where residents will likely respond positively to enhanced service. It will bridge the gap between the speed of rail and the convenience of a local bus.

ART routes will have at least six buses per hour, further spaced stops (which will allow buses to travel faster), signal priority, queue jump lanes at intersections, and dedicated lanes. Off-board fare collection, level platform boarding, and all-door boarding will decrease time at stops.

Similar to rail, ART routes will serve as principal network spines. Corridors selected will feature linear alignments with higher densities of residents, retail, and jobs.

Second, **express** routes are long-distance trips that utilize freeways and metro Atlanta's growing network of high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes to provide fast connections between park-and-ride lots and transit centers to employment destinations or rail stations.

The express tier serves a variety of purposes from simple point-to-point commutes to longer distance rapid transit. Routes with greater all-day demand offer connections to



intersecting transit services. GRTA is an example of existing express service.

Third, **frequent local** routes will focus on corridors that support buses arriving at a stop at least every 15 minutes all day. They will use 40' buses, along major corridors.

Along with rail and ART, this tier completes the Frequent Network, envisioned as a "collection of transit services that consumers can use spontaneously, without consulting a

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Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization (KNO) is a racially and economically diverse civic organization devoted to the revitalization of Atlanta's historic Kirkwood community.

KNO meets on the 10th of each month at 7 pm at the Turner Monumental A.M.E. Church, 66 Howard Street NE.

Everyone is welcome!

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Atlanta Clay Works Able to Offer More Classes

by Candace McCollough

The artist members of Atlanta Clay Works are honored and grateful to the neighbors who supported their Kickstarter campaign. More than 100 people backed the project, making it possible for ACW to purchase additional wheels and to pay for some build-out construction costs.

As a result, they're able to offer classes to more people. Some openings may still be available in the kids' classes, which are on a three-week rotation.

Looking for something to do with your sweetie or friend? ACW's new "Date Night" evenings offer experience in working on the wheel, and, hopefully, the opportunity to come away with a finished product.

You'll create the work, and ACW does the rest: trim, bisque-fire, and glaze your piece, which will be available for pick up 2-4 weeks later. Reservations are required.

Upcoming Date Nights are February 24 and March 31. Visit **www.atlclayworks.org** for more information.



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New Look for an Old Corner



That's a Wrap! is now located at 1619 Hosea L. Williams Dr. SE. They're having an open house on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2:00 – 6:00 PM.

by Mia Canada

That's a Wrap! is so pleased to put a fresh face on a familiar neighborhood building. Atlanta's premier gift-wrapping boutique has relocated to the old Dis and Dat corner at Hosea and Woodbine.

But the physical address isn't the only thing that's changed: That's a Wrap! has also added new products and services. It now offers custom stationery, boutique balloons, curated gift boxes, and a variety of classes.

Come see the new, larger location Saturday, Feb. 11, during an open house and the unveiling of the new DIY Co-Creative space. There will be demonstrations of their class offerings on bath scrubs, soy candles, soaps, jewelry 101, leather crafting, crocheting, and cake decorating. They'll also have a craft corner for smaller guests to make a Valentine craft. And you can pick up a curated gift box, basket, or balloon for Valentine's Day!



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FATE Starts Second Semester

by Jennifer Kraften

College students from Manchester University in Indiana spent a week volunteering at FATE in January. They worked in classrooms, helped paint a new mural in the garden, and hosted a Family Fun Night with record-breaking attendance. The visit was organized with help from Communities in Schools.

District Events

Representing FATE at the science fair were 4th graders Skylar and Legend and 5th graders Riley, Amariah, and Axe.

Harmony (4th grade) and Amariah (5th grade) participated in the spelling bee.

At the tech fair were 3rd graders Maceo, Tori, and Stella; 4th graders William and Alex; and 5th graders Amariah, Brendan, and Gabriel.

4th graders Legend, Jaiden, Charles, and Alex along with 5th grader Brendan represented at the reading bowl.

Students of the Month

Last month, FATE honored some of its most caring students.

• PreK: Lilith, Sasha, and Rowan

• Kindergarten: Jordan, Zoe, Brandon, and Parys

• 1st grade: Memphis, Kennedi, and Kade

• 2nd grade: Carmen, Madison, and Maya



Congratulations to the Toomer students who participated in the APS science fair. Skylar received a silver key, and Legend and Amariah both received bronze. Riley got an honorable mention.

3rd grade: Micah,
Takiyah, and Sariyah
4th grade: Kylen,
Geronimo, and Taniya

5th grade: Ryen,
 Demarcus, and Imani.

Garden Harvest Taste Test

Students tried kale and beets from FATE's garden during a cafeteria taste test hosted by Captain Planet and Food Corps volunteers. Both received high praise from many students and staff. **Girls' Basketball** FATE proudly cheered on the team during its first game on Jan. 19. Through

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 10

Annual Valentine's Dance, hosted by the PTA.

February 13–17

College and Career Motivation week. Students throughout Atlanta Public Schools will focus on their futures and take steps to make their career goals happen.

Wednesday, February 15

Local favorite Inky Johnson brings his positive motivation to a schoolwide assembly.

Playworks, 4th and 5th grade ladies have honed their skills and teamwork, which allows them to play competitively with other schools.

Look for an updated schedule of games on FATE's website.

"From little seeds grow mighty trees."

To learn more about the FATE family:

schedule a tour (404) 802-3450

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How Toddlers Learn Music

by David C. Wetzel

For both children and adults, it's easier to learn new things when they relate directly to something in our lives. We tend to be great learners when what we're learning is meaningful to us. In educational jargon, this concept is called "meaningful context." It's one of the basic strategies teachers use to motivate students to learn.

Think about a teacher you loved who made the subject matter "come alive." That teacher probably did something to make the topic meaningful to you, knowing that if you found a personal connection to the material, you'd be naturally inclined to learn more about it.

The same idea applies to learning music. Young children don't start out familiar enough with music to be able to find special meaning in the melody, harmony, or meter used in a song. But if you sing a song about a child's best friends, favorite animals, or special events in their lives, they will quickly "tune in" to the music and want more!

We also retain information better when it's accompanied by movement. And physical movement relates to the rhythmic feeling in music. So using movement activities with music has the advantage of not only applying the meaningful context concept, but capitalizing on movement as a way to learn, too.

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Events at the Library

Reading with Ringling Bros.

By reading 5 books, kids can earn a voucher good toward a FREE kid's ticket with the purchase of a full-price adult ticket to an upcoming Ringling Bros. Circus Xtreme show: Feb. 15-20 in Atlanta, Feb. 23-March 5 in Duluth. **Kirkwood Library Black History Month Book Bingo**

Pick up a bingo card and check out 5 books in a row to enter the grand prize drawing! Grand prize winner will be announced on March 6. All ages.

Drop In Computer Lab

Get one-on-one assistance with your computer needs and library resources. All ages. It's The Teeny Tiny Tots Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM

Little ones and their parents/caregivers can enjoy new and classic books and action songs and meet other toddlers from the neighborhood. Ages 6-36 months. **30-Minute Meditation** *Wednesdays, Feb. 1-22, & Monday, Feb. 27, 12:30 PM*

Interested in learning about Buddhism and meditation? Join the Kadampa Meditation Center for this free session. Ages 16+. AARP Tax Volunteers Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, 27 &

Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, 2/ & Thursdays, Feb. 16, 23, 10:15 AM – 2:30 PM (Please arrive no later than 1:30 PM.) Free income tax assistance for low- to moderate-income taxpayers; special attention to those 60 and older. Ages 18+.



African-American Genealogy Class

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10:00 AM Genealogy searching techniques for finding your African-American ancestors. Registration required. Ages 18+.

Family and Friends CPR

Saturday, Feb. 11, 12:00 PM Improve your heart

healthy knowledge and learn CPR skills that might save a loved one's life. This class is non-certification skills training. Registration required. Ages 10+.

Journey to Literacy with Junior League of Atlanta Saturday, Feb. 11, 2:00 PM

Join us for interactive reading with crafts and activities, and receive a FREE book! Ages 2-8. **Chocolate Chippis Book Club**

Saturday, Feb. 18, 12:30 PM Join us for an empowering book club for girls of all shades with a focus on titles with multicultural characters. Ages 5-12.

11 Kirkwood Rd. NE • 404-377-6471

MARTA bus service

continued from page 1

schedule and planning their arrival at the stop/station. This level of convenience is important in developing a constituency of transit passengers that can feel comfortable using the transit network rather than just individual stops."

Fourth, **supporting local** routes make up the majority of the network. They will provide connections to places like employment centers, transit centers, and activity centers. They're the lifeline to transitdependent residents, while also providing connections to the Frequent Network.

Supporting local routes will have buses every 30-60 minutes, depending on usage. Additional peak-period buses could be added to routes that show strong support.

This is the type of service MARTA buses have historically focused on to provide connections to rail stations. Under the COA, supporting local routes will offer access to a far broader Frequent Network than rail service alone.

Lastly, **community circulators** are shorter-distance local routes that connect residents to community retail, education, and transit stations. This service will be different from supporting local because it will use smaller or specially branded buses.



MARTA's 2016 Comprehensive Operations Analysis wants to increase the types of bus service to improve transit usage.

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