
MEMORANDUM

TO: CEO JEFFREY PARKER, BENJAMIN LIMMER AND
LEESHU KENNEDY

FROM: VIOLA DAVIS

SUBJECT: UPDATE: MARTA PRIORITY LIST ON SHELTERS AND BENCHES

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2018

CC: CEO MICHAEL THURMOND, DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, JAN COSTELLO, RODERICK FRIERSON, AND ALL
APPROPRIATE PARTIES

Update: MARTA Priority List on Shelters and Benches in DeKalb County – Extension of the Mission

We want to thank you for meeting with us in August of 2018 and listening to our concerns, especially on the issue of shelters, benches, and bus stop signage. We were informed that the work completed at the bus stop in front of the new Waffle House added an improved upgrade to the area, plus additional seating. We have before and after pictures to highlight the improvements to demonstrate how working with the community can deliver quality work that everyone can take pride in.

We took pictures of the location in front of the new Waffle House once the issue was brought to our attention to include:



Picture of a bus stop on Redan in front of the Waffle House (before)



Picture of the new Waffle House on Redan – (before)

We took the following pictures after the MARTA board meeting and our meeting with staff:



Picture of the bus stop on Redan in front of the Waffle House - upgrade



Picture of the bus stop on Redan in front of the Waffle House (new bench)



Picture of the bus stop on Redan in front of the Waffle House - upgrade

We presented a list of concerns by the Greater Hidden Hills Community Development Corporation (GHHCDC) in South DeKalb and stated that they were working to attract business development in the area. The Greater Hidden Hills Community Development Corporation used streetscape beautification as the primary tool to push economic development. They partnered with private and public businesses and agencies such as MARTA to make this goal a reality.

We want to work with MARTA shelter and bench planners to move several projects that have fallen behind by as much as 3-7 years toward completion to include:

- 1) The top priority is the bus stop on Redan Road, near Los Arcos. It is being upgraded by the new Waffle House. MARTA has promised to provide two benches and two garbage cans, and Waffle House wants to install them next week. The contact person who promised these resources has been nonresponsive according to the leadership of the GHHCDC. **(Completed)**
 - a) The person the leadership spoke with is named Wendy Prescott, Bus Shelter Coordinator at wprescott@itsmarta.com.
 - b) The public-private partnership to improve the streetscape and provide two benches will save MARTA at least \$7,000-\$14,000 due to the cost of bench placements being estimated to cost an average of \$7,000 each. **(Completed)**

- 2) **The bus stop at Fieldgreen and South Hairston is supposed to have a bench. The bench was promised several years ago.**
 - a) An Open Records response was written May 4, 2018, requesting information on the shelters, benches, and boarding number for South Hairston. The Open Records was addressed to CEO Jeffrey Parker.
 - b) A Second Open Records Request was written May 9, 2018, requesting information on the shelters, benches, and boarding numbers for bus stops on South Hairston. We were informed by customer service to write our request to Attorney Sharon Dunn.
 - c) A copy of the Open Records Request was sent to Roderick Frierson, President of Hidden Hills Civic Association on May 13, 2018.

- d) Attorney Sharon Dunn delivered a chart via email on May 25, 2018, that answered our Open Records Request by providing the location of the shelters and benches on South Hairston. The chart also gave the ridership/boarding count. (Please view Exhibit A)
- e) Roderick Frierson forwarded copies of pictures of damages to the entrance sign and intersection of Hidden Hills that was sent to MARTA in February 2015. (Please view Exhibit B)



Picture of the bus stop at Fieldgreen and South Hairston – with damages



Picture of the bus stop at Fieldgreen and South Hairston – with damages



Picture of the bus stop at Fieldgreen and South Hairston – with damages

- 3) **The bus stops on South Hairston near Mainstreet Parkway, at the Hairston Park entrance, were due to receive a bench and garbage receptacle over three years ago. The park is being upgraded with over \$250,000 investment in 2018, and it is getting more traffic.**



- 4) **The bus stop on the south side of Redan Road, east of Allgood Road was due to receive a bench also.** The request was made by the Carriage Cluster Neighborhood Association more than six years ago. MARTA did provide the requested trash can.



We are focusing on the shelters and benches stated in the letter due to the extended time to deliver on the promise to complete these request. We would love to work with the same contact person to ensure continuity and decrease episodes of confusion and misunderstanding.

As stated earlier, we want to thank you for completing the top priority on our list. The upgrades to the shelter and benches in front of the new Waffle House have greatly improved economic development in the area. We look forward to completing the three remaining locations on the list.

Please inform us of the next step to get the above requests completed.

Extending the Mission to complete Shelters and Benches Installations throughout DeKalb County

We plan to extend our mission to ensure that over 390 shelters and benches throughout DeKalb County are installed. After assessing the needs of our local district and community, we have identified a serious inequity involving the shelter and benches installation that borders on “**negligence**”.

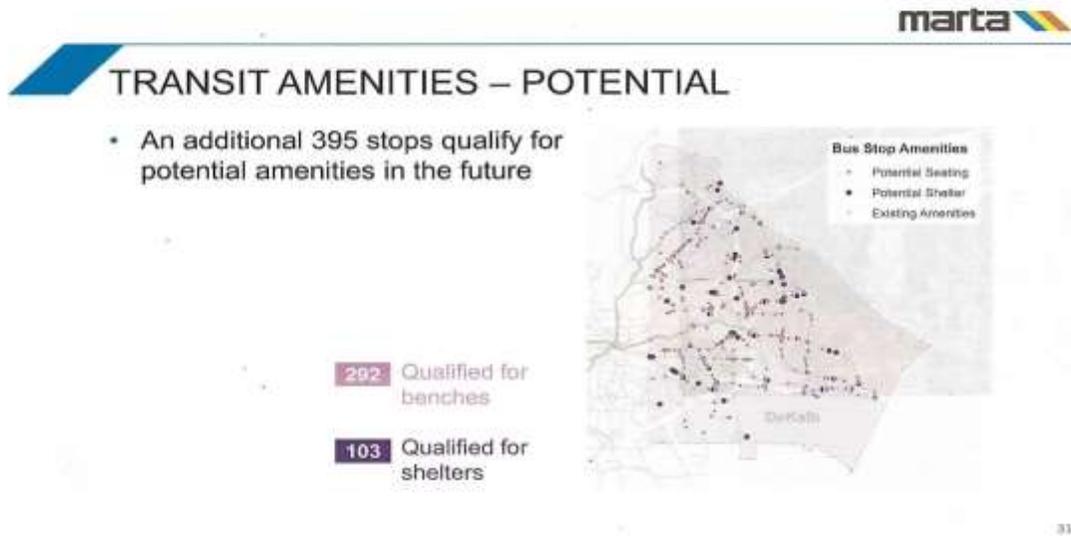
The request for benches and shelters appears to number over 5-10 years, especially after the need was clearly identified. We must ask, “**Why did it take so long to resolve this issue?**”

MARTA gave a presentation to DeKalb County Board of Commissioners in March 2018. MARTA distributed a 33-page PowerPoint presentation titled, “MARTA Jurisdictional Briefing – DeKalb County”. The presentation had a section that highlighted transit amenities - benches and shelters.



MARTA Service Standards FY 2017 is a publication with 30 pages prepared by the Office of Transit System Planning. The Transit Amenities section of the publication on page 12 detailed the requirements for benches and shelters to include:

Ridership: Ridership for the bench – 15 boardings per day; Ridership for a shelter – 40 boardings per day.



MARTA has identified 292 locations that are qualified for benches:

$$292 \text{ benches} \times \$7,000.00 \text{ per bench} = \$2,044,000.00$$

MARTA identified 103 locations that are qualified for shelters:

$$103 \text{ shelters} \times \$20,000.00 \text{ per shelter} = \$2,060,000.00$$

$$292 \text{ benches} + 103 \text{ shelters} = \$4,104,000.00$$

MARTA staff informed us that the tax collection was **over \$500 million** dollars. Why were DeKalb County MARTA riders forced to go without much-needed transit amenities that costed less than 5 million dollars, especially since we are focusing on benches and shelters?

The time is overdue to examine and challenge the inequity in funding within the MARTA and/or Georgia Transportation systems.

UNHAPPY TAXPAYER & VOTER

UNHAPPY TaxPayer & Voter

**SPEAK WITH YOUR MONEY
SPEAK WITH YOUR VOTE!**

Time for our *“blue county”* to sue this *“red state”* over a *“green issue”*! A *“green issue”* called **MONEY!**

We PAY and Can't PEE?

HELP
Restore
Bus Routes and
Bathrooms at
MARTA

The HELL you Say!

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