

## **SB 313 Summary – MARTA- Funding and Development Requirements ACCG – Georgia’s County Association**

This legislation allows counties and cities that have entered into rapid transit contracts with Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and already have a 1 percent sales tax to levy an additional 1/2 percent sales tax for use on MARTA projects. A county or city that does not want to enact the additional 1/2 percent sales tax must adopt a resolution or ordinance by June 30, 2016.

By May 31, 2016 (and again in 2017, if the 2016 referendum fails), MARTA must submit a preliminary list of rapid transit projects within or serving the county or city that could be funded by the proceeds of the 1/2 percent additional sales tax. By July 31, 2016 (and again in 2017, if the 2016 referendum fails), MARTA must submit a final list of rapid transit projects to the city or county that must be incorporated into the rapid transit contract.

The county or city must advertise the referendum once per week for the four weeks prior to the referendum. The referendum will be held in all election districts within the territorial limits of the county or city except that no county may hold an election within the City of Atlanta.

If the referendum passes, the 1/2 percent sales tax must first be spent on the cost of the rapid transit projects included in the contract between the county or city and MARTA. If the referendum passes in all of the counties and cities contracting with MARTA, then any excess funds collected in one county or city must be spent on rapid transit projects of the other contracting counties and cities.

If the referendum passes, the county or city may not impose a sales tax rate over 1/2 percent allowed by the Special District Mass Transportation Sales and Use Tax permitted by O.C.G.A. § 48-8-260 *et seq.*

If the referendum fails in 2016, the process may be repeated for the 2017 municipal general election.

SB 313 also provides that MARTA property that is not used for transportation is subject to planning and zoning requirements.