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August 20, 2024

MARTA Board of Directors
2424 Piedmont Road
Atlanta, GA 30324

Dear Members of the MARTA Board of Directors,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the recent audit of the More MARTA program conducted by Mauldin & Jenkins on behalf of the City of Atlanta.

After reviewing the audit and MARTA's response, it is apparent that several critical issues raised by MARTA were not addressed in the audit report. Specifically, MARTA has challenged the cost allocation methodology applied by Mauldin & Jenkins, which appears to have retroactively used a COVID-based formula to estimate charges for bus services from FY 2017 through FY 2019. At first glance, this methodology seems misaligned with the actual data and financial accounting practices used during those years, leading to potentially significant miscalculations.

Furthermore, I find it troubling that MARTA's responses, which highlighted some of these potential flaws and provided necessary context, were disregarded in the audit's final report. This omission raises concerns about the impartiality and thoroughness of the audit process, as such a review should consider all relevant information and responses.

To ensure that the audit findings are accurate and reliable, I would like to formally recommend that the Board of Directors engage KPMG, a leading international auditing firm, to conduct an independent review of Mauldin & Jenkins' work. For efficiency purposes, this engagement could be executed within the larger scope of KPMG's current ongoing audit on behalf of the MARTA Oversight Committee. KPMG's expertise in conducting rigorous and objective audits will provide a more accurate, objective assessment and address the concerns that have emerged.

I appreciate the Board's continued work on behalf of the greater Atlanta area, and look forward to achieving more transparency and clarity around Mauldin & Jenkins' findings.

Sincerely,

Honorable Deborah Silcox
State Representative, HD 53
Georgia General Assembly