



Kirkwood Neighbors Organization
PO Box 170010, Atlanta, Georgia 30317
www.historickirkwood.org

February 10, 2024

To: MARTA NextGen Bus Network

Re: NextGen Bus service to the Kirkwood community

On behalf of the Kirkwood neighborhood, I am writing to reiterate our concern regarding the proposed changes to bus routes 21, 24 and 2/102 that MARTA has proposed as part of the NextGen Bus Network redesign. While we support the program's objective to create a modern, more efficient transit system, **the proposal significantly degrades connectivity to important community resources** like Kirkwood Library, Zone 6 police precinct, Atlanta-DeKalb Human Services complex, and Kirkwood Business District.

Our previous request for engagement with the Kirkwood Neighbors Organization's transportation committee by January 31 was denied. Therefore, **we'd like to suggest the following adjustments to the proposed rerouting in order to minimize impact to our residents, businesses, and community services.**

1. **Redirect the proposed route 34** along Hosea Williams Dr NE and Whitefoord Ave NE, terminating at Edgewood/Candler Park station
2. **Restore route 21 to 20-minute headways** as promised by the More Marta program
3. **Expand the Candler-McAfee Belvedere Park On-Demand Zone** to include Kirkwood and adjacent areas in the original MARTA Reach pilot program

Kirkwood neighbors have been longtime enthusiastic supporters of MARTA. The 2016 More Marta sales tax referendum passed with 81% support in Kirkwood's primary voting precinct^[1]. Kirkwood's annual neighborhood festival encourages attendees to utilize route 24 to avoid traffic and limited neighborhood parking^[2]. Advertisements for the 2022 MARTA Reach pilot were filmed partially in Kirkwood and featured a Kirkwood resident^[3]. We ask only that MARTA continues to support the Kirkwood community as we work together toward a better future for Atlanta transit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathew George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mathew George,

President, Kirkwood Neighbors Organization

[1] https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/GA/DeKalb/64036/183321/en/md_data.html?cid=860&

[2] <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kirkwoodneighbors/posts/7667453109986966/>

[3] <https://itsmarta.com/reach.aspx>

CC: Jennifer Ide, Vice Chair

Sagirah Jones

Jacob Tzegaegbe

Liliana Bakhtiari, Atlanta City Councilmember, District 5