

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1004

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER,
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL,
AND ANTITRUST LAW
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
INTELLIGENCE, EMERGING THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES
STRATEGIC FORCES

Sonya T. Proctor
Director, Surface Division
Transportation Security Administration
Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598

RE: Top Transit Asset List (TTAL) for Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

Dear Ms. Proctor:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's (MARTA) request for recognition by the Transportation Security Administration as critical infrastructure for the nation. MARTA serves Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, our country's busiest passenger airport, as well as numerous important and sensitive locations throughout the region. MARTA provides necessary services to over 415,000 thousand Georgians and visitors every day, reducing congestion and providing critical alternative means of transportation. I urge you to consider recognizing MARTA as critical infrastructure for the nation as your office revises the Top Transit Asset Listing (TTAL).

Public transit systems across the country face unique security challenges. We must ensure that the limited federal resources provided to address security challenges are equitably allocated. MARTA is the ninth largest transit agency in the country and the largest public transit provider in the Southeast region, yet receives less than 1% of the total Transit Security Grant Program funding administered by your agency. MARTA connects many high profile/critical infrastructure systems including the Georgia Dome, Phillips Arena, the Georgia World Congress Center, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and a new state-of-the-art NFL stadium. A serious security incident on MARTA's system could cause significant loss of life or injury and a disruption of the regional economy, while limiting the region's emergency response ability. MARTA is in the process of undertaking a significant expansion of service across the region; this expansive undertaking will make these specified concerns all the more imperative.

Adequate federal grant funding, such as the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), is essential to ensure continued security. Federal resources have proven to be an absolute necessity in enhancing the infrastructure of our most vulnerable assets throughout the MARTA transit system including the Vehicle Security Camera Program, CCTV Program, comprehensive training and

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public awareness. Furthermore, federal grant funding has helped the MARTA Police Department remain at the forefront in implementing counter-terrorism strategies. Unfortunately, MARTA has seen a significant decrease in federal TSGP support from roughly \$8 million per year (prior to the introduction of the TTAL) to about \$2 million per year. The most recent TSGP investment (FFY14) was merely \$850,000 out of the more than \$1.6 billion available for preparedness grants across the nation. This appears to represent a significant underrepresentation of funding allocations for preparedness grants to mass transit systems in the Southeast Region.

I commend and fully support your review of the request by MARTA to add the additional identified MARTA assets to the Top Transit Asset List (TTAL). The asset list should be revised to properly recognize Atlanta's critical infrastructure as well its position as a national leader in business, travel, logistics, and tourism.

Sincerely,

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

Hank Johnson, Esq.
Member of Congress