

Marietta Daily Journal

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■ YOUR OPINION

Mass transit will not fix traffic issues

DEAR EDITOR:

I read with total disbelief the story in the Wednesday, June 23, 2021, Marietta Daily Journal that 71% of Cobb citizens want expanded transit. Then it was further revealed that just 17% of the reported 5,300 survey respondents said that they use public transit, and with that wide skew we are supposed to believe that this is a statistically valid survey without misleading questions being asked?

Then it is revealed that a "plurality" of those surveyed would agree to an additional 1% sales tax levied on Cobb residents to pay for the expanded transit. Has anyone noticed that the Current Cobb Transit buses run at an average of 30% occupancy? Yet those pushing expanded transit are going to dump more money into a system that currently cost \$28 million dollars a year to operate and returns a third of that amount in fare revenue?

The myth that Cobb Transit is going to solve our crowded roadway situation shows naivety. Cobb Transit is the problem. Buses on crowded streets will still be the primary mode of passenger pick-up and delivery ... they know it, you know it, I know it.

Who is pushing this improved transportation plan centered on buses, heavy

rail, and people-moving methods other than automobiles, the technology that most of us will have to use for the foreseeable future because the bus will never be able to get us where we want to go within reasonable time?

Is it the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce pushing expanded transit so that they can brag that the workforce has a way to get to work when pitching new industry?

Is it the Cumberland crowd pushing expanded transit to increase shopper traffic from Atlanta?

Is it the Cobb Commission that already holds our needed and required street repairs hostage to force a positive vote for one more round of Transportation SPLOST?

I request that the Marietta Daily Journal publish the survey questions that were asked the reported 5,300 respondents to the Improved Transit survey. The questions that were asked are a major part of the story that was not reported. I think that once the questions used in the survey are published we will quickly understand why a group of 5,300 survey respondents statistically representing 71% of Cobb citizens want expanded transit.

Gene Greneker
Powder Springs

TRANSIT

From A1

But questions continued to crop up: would the committee be leading the board, or vice versa? And what, pondered Deputy County Manager Jimmy Gisi, might be the fallout of the committee producing recommendations the board did not support?

"I think (the mandate) should be very, very specific if we're going to move forward with this type of organization," said Commissioner Jerica Richardson.

Gambrill and Cupid, however, grew steadily less confident in the hypothetical committee as the discussion went on. The emergent consensus became that it was the board, and not the usual suspects of advisers, who ought to be driving the proposal.

"We need to sit down and say—okay, where are we going?" said Gambrill.

Pulling the committee from Tuesday's agenda could be the death knell for any such body, Cobb DOT Interim Director Drew Raessler told the board.

"If we're going for a '22 referendum, and if we're going to utilize this committee, we need to go," Raessler said. "Without this we will need specific, consensus vision from the board. And I know that's very difficult, because these are big questions."

Cupid asked Raessler near the discussion's close to consider bringing the item back up in two weeks. But barring any salvation of the committee, commissioners will now be the chief body tasked with seeing the transit referendum to fruition.