



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta City Council calls for infrastructure bond referendum to go before voters in March

ATLANTA – Residents of the City of Atlanta will be asked to vote on an infrastructure bond referendum on Tuesday, March 17.

On Monday, January 5 the Atlanta City Council approved a substitute resolution (Legislative Reference No. 14-R-4374) to regulate and provide for the calling of an election to determine the issuance or non-issuance by the City of Atlanta of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$252 million including finance costs, to fund up to a combined \$250 million in public improvement capital outlay projects. The resolution was sponsored by Councilmembers C.T. Martin, Michael Julian Bond, Ivory Lee Young, Jr., Alex Wan, Keisha Lance Bottoms, Joyce Sheperd, Clela Winslow, Carla Smith, Andre Dickens and Kwanza Hall, and approved by a vote of 12-0.

The proposed General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds will consist of:

(1) \$187,945,000 of bonds for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, improvement, critical capital maintenance and equipping of public streets and traffic control infrastructure and equipment, curbing, storm water drainage, street name and directional signage, bridges, viaducts and related public improvement including but not limited to streetlights, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and transit stops so as to improve the pedestrian and transit environment, the cost of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for such improvements;

(2) \$64,055,000 of the bonds for the purpose of paying the costs of the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, improvement, critical maintenance and equipping of municipal facilities, including buildings, recreation centers and other facilities and related public improvements and the cost of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 for such facilities and improvements.

Today, the City of Atlanta faces an infrastructure backlog of more than \$900 million. To address the city's most pressing infrastructure challenges, such as improving our city's roads, bridges, sidewalks and

upgrade critical public buildings and facilities, the city is proposing an infrastructure bond referendum to pay for these repairs and improvements.

The bond referendum will be held March 17 at regular and established polling places in each precinct in the City. Each polling place will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The City Council also approved a substitute ordinance (Legislative Reference No. 14-O-1513) amending the City Charter of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances to create a public infrastructure maintenance and improvement account for the purpose of appropriating 3.5 percent of the City of Atlanta General Fund Budget at the beginning of each fiscal year (to be phased-in over a five-year period) to ensure adequate annual future funding for routine maintenance, repair and replacement of public infrastructure. Ordinance 14-O-1513 was sponsored by Councilmembers Howard Shook, Joyce Sheperd, Keisha Lance Bottoms, Alex Wan, Ivory Lee Young, Jr. C.T. Martin, Carla Smith, Kwanza Hall, Felicia Moore, Yolanda Adrean, Mary Norwood, Michael Julian Bond and Andre Dickens, and approved by a vote of 13-0.

In other news, the City Council approved a substitute ordinance authorizing the mayor to pursue an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with DeKalb Council in order for the City of Atlanta to receive a portion of the Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST). The ordinance was sponsored by Councilmember Natalyn Archibong and Alex Wan, and approved by a vote of 13-0.

On February 17, 1997, the Atlanta City Council adopted Resolution 97-R-0629, which established the priorities of use for the HOST proceeds to include projects relating to:

- (1) Freedom Park construction;
- (2) Memorial Drive/Whiteford Rd;
- (3) Johnson Road Bridge replacement; and
- (3) sidewalk improvements in the Boulevard Business District and other areas.

The first HOST payments were made in 1999, when DeKalb County collected \$82 million in HOST taxes; and per the IGA, the City of Atlanta received a direct payment in an amount of \$1,111,402 that year.

However, in 2001, the IGA was terminated based on DeKalb County's determination that the City did not comply with the reporting requirements established in the IGA, and the City was prohibited from receiving any further HOST proceeds. Despite termination of the IGA, DeKalb has continued to collect HOST proceeds originally intended to benefit capital improvements for Atlanta residents within the geographical boundaries of DeKalb.

Councilmembers said Atlanta residents within the geographical boundaries of DeKalb County are entitled to all capital improvements intended for their benefit pursuant to DeKalb's collection of HOST proceeds.

The City Council on Monday also:

- Approved by a vote of 8-3, amended ordinances 14-O-1435 and 14-O-1413 rezoning and changing the land use of property located at 690 and 658 Lindbergh Drive, N.E., fronting approximately 511 feet on the north side of Lindbergh Circle at the northwest intersection of Morosgo Drive and Lindbergh Circle;
- Appointed Councilmember Yolanda Adrean as Atlanta City Council President pro tempore for calendar year 2015, by a vote of 12-0; and
- By a vote of 13-0, confirmed Amy Phuong as Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

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