125 Years

125 YEARS OF HOPE IN ACTION

Urban Renewal is a Game with Winners and Losers

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The 1996 Olympics

It's Atlanta!

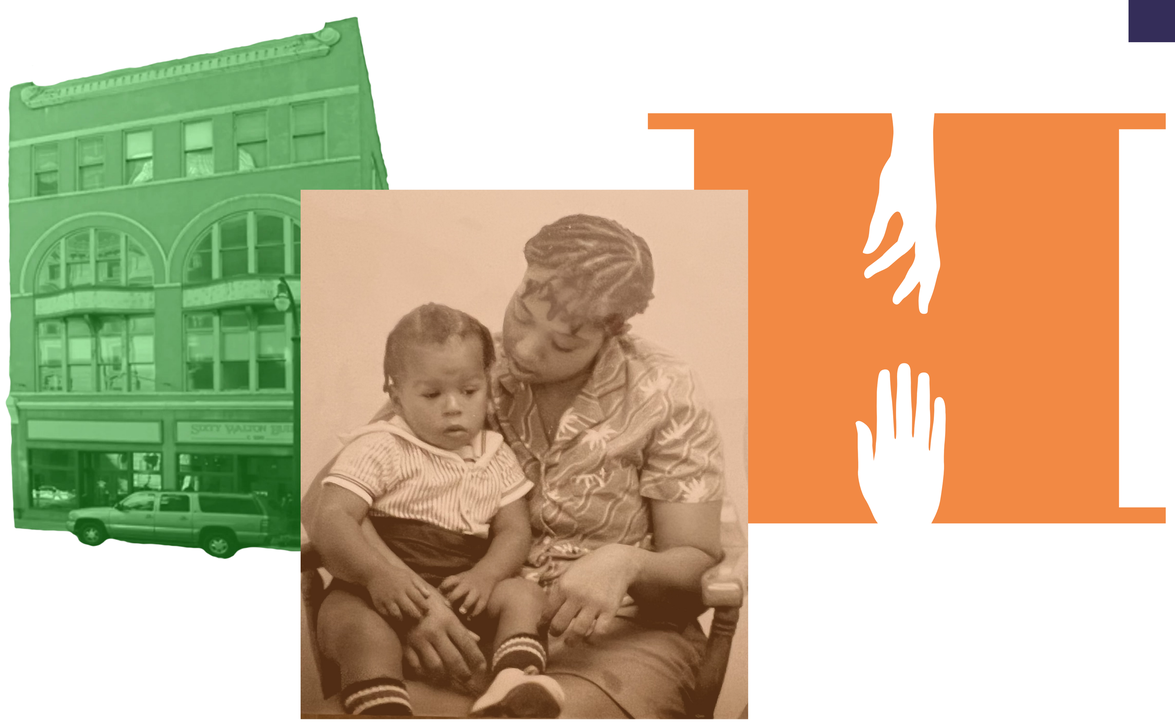
City explodes in thrill of victory

Atlanta became the first major U.S. city to demolish all of its traditional public housing projects (including Bowen Homes, Capitol Homes, etc.), displacing thousands, many of whom were not successfully rehoused. Olympic Games-driven gentrification occurs in all host cities. In preparation for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, Atlanta city officials cleared homeless encampments and displaced low-income residents in downtown and Lower Midtown, often without housing alternatives. Leaders were accused of displacing or arresting homeless individuals to present a more sanitized image to visitors. This practice, sometimes described as "social cleansing," involves moving homeless populations away from areas near Olympic venues. While authorities often cite security concerns, critics argue it's a way to hide the city's homelessness problem and displace vulnerable populations. Built on the site of a former public housing project, the Olympic Village for the Atlanta Games became Georgia Tech dormitories.

During the Olympic Games, Hope Atlanta served 9,000 people over 3 frenzied weeks.

After the Centennial Park Bombing, Hope Atlanta supported over 40 injured individuals with housing and transportation assistance.

"Social cleansing" involves moving homeless populations out of sight. People who were evicted from their homes due to the demolition of public housing, rental speculation, and gentrifying "urban renewal" remember the Olympics with anger and bitterness.

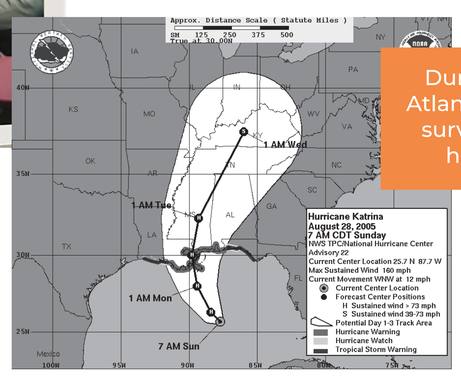


For homeless people and local activists, 1995/1996 was the year 9,000 homeless people were arrested in Atlanta, and the City faced a Federal Court Order to "cease and desist" the pattern and practice of arresting homeless people without probable cause. The Metro Atlanta Task Force on Homelessness uncovered pre-printed arrest citations that included "African American," "Male," and "Homeless" pre-filled, with blank spaces for the specific charge and name.

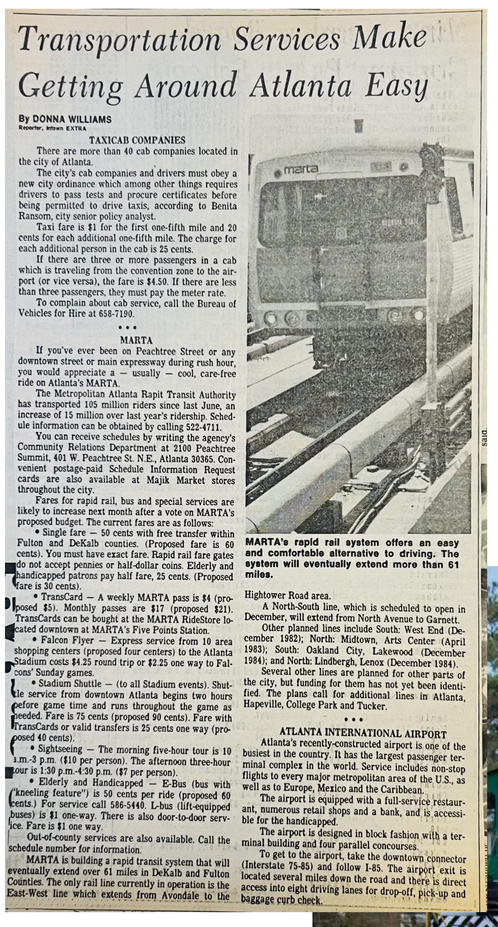
1996 One-Way Bus Ticket Practice: Ahead of the 1996 Olympics, Fulton County reportedly gave one-way bus tickets to homeless individuals under pressure to clear public spaces—seen as an attempt to "clean up" the city.

During the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, the organization (under its Travelers Aid Society moniker) worked 'round the clock to assist swindled and stranded workers, including more than 700 Florida teenagers hired as $5/hour vendors for the Olympics venues, ended up stranded in Atlanta without the promised jobs, housing or transportation home.

Hurricane Katrina survivors arrived in Atlanta seeking refuge and support. Hope Atlanta case managers, staff and volunteers responded —working tirelessly at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and at our 60 Walton Street NW offices providing food, clothing, and basic needs as well as helping families secure both temporary and long-term housing.



During 3 intense weeks, Hope Atlanta served over 9,000 Katrina survivors ensuring each family had a pathway to stability.



Transportation Services Make Getting Around Atlanta Easy

By DONNA WILLIAMS
Reporter, Intown EXTRA

TAXICAB COMPANIES

There are more than 40 cab companies located in the city of Atlanta.

The city's cab companies and drivers must obey a new city ordinance which among other things requires drivers to pass tests and procure certificates before being permitted to drive taxis, according to Benita Ransom, city senior policy analyst.

Taxi fare is $1 for the first one-fifth mile and 20 cents for each additional one-fifth mile. The charge for each additional person in the cab is 25 cents.

If there are three or more passengers in a cab which is traveling from the convention zone to the airport (or vice versa), the fare is $4.50. If there are less than three passengers, they must pay the meter rate.

To complain about cab service, call the Bureau of Vehicles for Hire at 658-7190.

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MARTA

If you've ever been on Peachtree Street or any downtown street or main expressway during rush hour, you would appreciate a — usually — cool, care-free ride on Atlanta's MARTA.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapit Transit Authority has transported 105 million riders since last June, an increase of 15 million over last year's ridership. Schedule information can be obtained by calling 522-4711.

You can receive schedules by writing the agency's Community Relations Department at 2100 Peachtree Summit, 401 W. Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta 30365. Convenient postage-paid Schedule Information Request cards are also available at Majik Market stores throughout the city.

Fares for rapid rail, bus and special services are likely to increase next month after a vote on MARTA's proposed budget. The current fares are as follows:

• Single fare — 50 cents with free transfer within Fulton and DeKalb counties. (Proposed fare is 60 cents). You must have exact fare. Rapid rail fare gates do not accept pennies or half-dollar coins. Elderly and handicapped patrons pay half fare, 25 cents. (Proposed fare is 30 cents).

• TransCard — A weekly MARTA pass is $4 (proposed $5). Monthly passes are $17 (proposed $21). TransCards can be bought at the MARTA RideStore located downtown at MARTA's Five Points Station.

• Falcon Flyer — Express service from 10 area shopping centers (proposed four centers) to the Atlanta Stadium costs $4.25 round trip or $2.25 one way to Falcons' Sunday games.

• Stadium Shuttle — (to all Stadium events). Shuttle service from downtown Atlanta begins two hours before game time and runs throughout the game as needed. Fare is 75 cents (proposed 90 cents). Fare with TransCards or valid transfers is 25 cents one way (proposed 40 cents).

• Sightseeing — The morning five-hour tour is 10 a.m.-3 p.m. ($10 per person). The afternoon three-hour tour is 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. ($7 per person).

• Elderly and Handicapped — E-Bus (bus with "kneeling feature") is 50 cents per ride (proposed 60 cents.) For service call 586-5440. L-bus (lift-equipped buses) is $1 one-way. There is also door-to-door service. Fare is $1 one way.

Out-of-county services are also available. Call the schedule number for information.

MARTA is building a rapid transit system that will eventually extend over 61 miles in DeKalb and Fulton Counties. The only rail line currently in operation is the East-West line which extends from Avondale to the Hightower Road area.

A North-South line, which is scheduled to open in December, will extend from North Avenue to Garnett.

Other planned lines include South: West End (December 1982); North: Midtown, Arts Center (April 1983); South: Oakland City, Lakewood (December 1984); and North: Lindbergh, Lenox (December 1984).

Several other lines are planned for other parts of the city, but funding for them has not yet been identified. The plans call for additional lines in Atlanta, Hapeville, College Park and Tucker.

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ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Atlanta's recently-constructed airport is one of the busiest in the country. It has the largest passenger terminal complex in the world. Service includes non-stop flights to every major metropolitan area of the U.S., as well as to Europe, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The airport is equipped with a full-service restaurant, numerous retail shops and a bank, and is accessible for the handicapped.

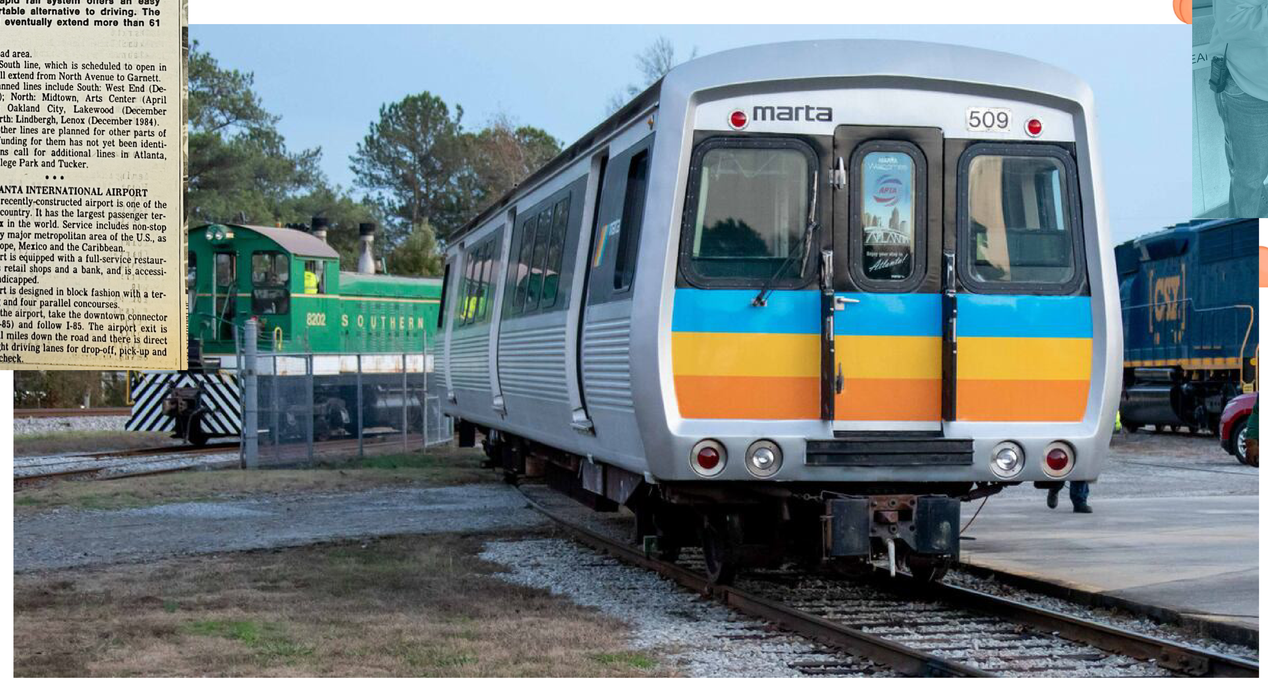
The airport is designed in block fashion with a terminal building and four parallel concourses.

To get to the airport, take the downtown connector (Interstate 75-85) and follow I-85. The airport exit is located several miles down the road and there is direct access into eight driving lanes for drop-off, pick-up and baggage curb check.

MARTA's rapid rail system offers an easy and comfortable alternative to driving. The system will eventually extend more than 61 miles.

2000

MARTA HOPE Outreach

Over the years, unsheltered individuals have often taken refuge in MARTA stations or bus shelters, prompting customer complaints and straining public transit operations. MARTA launched the HOPE Atlanta outreach in 2020 with Pathways to connect individuals at transit hubs with social services, while also providing discounted fare for service-related trips.

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