

# METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

GLENN BUILDING / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 / AREA CODE 404 524-5711

## OFFICERS:

Richard H. Rich, Chairman  
Roy A. Blount, Vice Chairman  
Glenn E. Bennett, Secretary  
Henry L. Stuart, General Manager

July 25, 1967

Mr. H. W. DiCristina, Jr.  
6251 Vernon Woods Drive, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Dear Mr. DiChristina:

Thank you for your letter of July 20 in which you suggest the use of existing railroads for rapid transit. Very early in our study of rapid transit for the Atlanta region the possibility of using diesel electric commuter cars on the existing tracks was very carefully considered. The proposal was never accepted for a number of reasons.

Railroad operating conditions in the city require speed limits as low as 15 miles per hour in many places. This would slow rapid transit trains to the point where they would be no more rapid than the expressway.

Another problem which would have to be overcome would be the necessity to operate rapid transit vehicles on the same tracks with freight trains, passenger trains, and switch engines. This would invariably cause delays to the railroad operation and to the rapid transit operation, neither of which would be tolerable. In the same connection, the problem of maintaining a safe operation would be exceedingly difficult.

Another very difficult problem in using existing railroad tracks is that there would be no way to provide any services to Peachtree Street between Brookwood Station and the five points area. A similar gap exists on the West Line from Chappell Road to downtown.

As for such a service being a source of revenue, Southern Railway has indicated to us that such a service is possible but could not be expected to be a profit-making service and

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that MARTA or some agency would have to underwrite the service and make up the operating deficit. Our position is that such a service using old cars on old tracks to inconvenient or inaccessible stations would not be practical.

Henry L. Stuart, General Manager of MARTA, was, prior to assuming his present position, Director of Service Control, Southern Railway System, Atlanta, and was responsible for developing and implementing effective operational control plans for the entire system and is very familiar with the operational procedures and problems.

If you have further questions or comments along this line, please contact Mr. Henry L. Stuart, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, 808 Glenn Building, 120 Marietta, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Rich,  
Chairman of the Board

RHR:je

cc: Mayor Ivan Allen ✓  
H. L. Stuart