

# ATLANTA BUSINESS CHRONICLE

Gwinnett to use \$20M on modern bus hub for future transit expansion



Gwinnett plans modern bus hub for future transit expansion



By [Tyler Wilkins](#) – Staff Reporter, Atlanta Business Chronicle  
Jun 29, 2023

Gwinnett will receive a federal boost to create a new bus hub, which is aimed at supporting transit expansion in the car-centric county.

U.S. Department of Transportation awarded a \$20 million grant for a new transit center near Pleasant Hill Road and Interstate 85, according to a June 27 news release. The funding comes from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

The new transit center will replace an existing bus hub and star-shaped plaza at the edge of Gwinnett Place Mall. The project will add a two-story building, 12 bus bays and new amenities for riders, including kiss-and-ride and park-and-ride facilities with electric vehicle charging stations.

The transit hub is poised to connect existing bus lines to Gwinnett's first bus rapid transit route, which involves running vehicles in dedicated lanes to mimic the speed of rail. The county is studying a route that would connect the Gas South District to Gwinnett Place Mall.

The investment comes as county officials work toward redeveloping Gwinnett Place Mall into a mixed-use district with apartments, shops, restaurants, offices, greenspace and a cultural center. It would link the transit center to trails and bike paths.

"We have been dependent upon the automobile, but you've got younger and older generations who are wanting mobility choices," said Joe Allen, executive director of Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District.

Gwinnett residents have repeatedly voted down plans to link the county to MARTA's network, first in 1971 and most recently in 2020. The last referendum, which would have extended MARTA's gold line to Jimmy Carter Boulevard, failed by about 1,000 votes out of nearly 400,000 cast.

The county is pressing ahead with updating its transit development plan to shape future expansion. The county's bus system, Ride Gwinnett, is adding three new bus lines this year. One of those routes will connect the transit center to an Amazon distribution center in Stone Mountain.

The county also plans to roll out micro-transit zones, in which on-demand shuttles transport riders within a specific area. Beginning in late August, those services will be deployed in Lawrenceville and Snellville.

U.S. Rep. Lucy McBath requested the federal funding for the transit center. U.S. DOT awarded this year's RAISE grants to four Georgia projects, including an extension of the

Atlanta BeltLine through Northeast Atlanta.