

What Are the Similarities Between Atlanta and Los Angeles?

A similar transit proposal in Los Angeles sparked a grassroots movement. In 1996, the Labor Community Strategy Center and the Bus Riders Union (a grassroots group of transit users) sued the Los Angeles MTA over its plan to raise bus fares and build an expensive rail system at the expense of bus riders, who made up 95 percent of transit users. The MTA bus system, used largely by low-income persons and people of color, received only 30 percent of the MTA's transit dollars. Grassroots organizing and the Bus Riders Union's legal victory resulted in \$1.5 billion for new clean-fuel buses, service improvements, lower fares, a landmark Civil Rights Consent Decree, and a vibrant multiracial grassroots organization of more than 2,000 dues-paying members. Contact the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, 223 James P. Brawley Drive, Atlanta, GA 30314 (404) 880-6911 (ph), (404) 880-6909 (fx), E-mail: ejrc@cau.edu. Website: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu>.

Where Can I Get More Information on Transportation Equity?

*Prepared by the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University under its Atlanta Transportation Equity Project (ATEP). The ATEP is made possible by grants from the Turner Foundation and the Ford Foundation. See <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu>.

Following are statistics on MARTA receipts from sales tax and user fees from 1973 to 2010.

TABLE 4.14

MARTA Receipts, 1973-2010

Year	Receipts
1973	\$43,820
1974	\$50,501
1975	\$50,946
1976	\$52,819
1977	\$57,933
1978	\$66,120
1979	\$75,472
1980	\$88,342
1981	\$99,836
1982	\$104,685
1983	\$112,008
1984	\$123,407
1985	\$134,902
1986	\$147,149
1987	\$148,582
1988	\$158,549
1989	\$162,543
1990	\$165,722
1991	\$168,085

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Year	Receipts
1992	\$167,016
1993	\$181,345
1994	\$198,490
1995	\$222,475
1996	\$229,510
1997	\$236,545
1998	\$243,579
1999	\$277,309
2000	\$299,103
2001	\$303,562
2002	\$284,427
2003	\$271,006
2004	\$283,381
2005	\$307,227
2006	\$334,486
2007	\$350,526
2008	\$349,668
2009	\$312,704
2010	\$307,525

Source: Guess and Farnham (2000), p. 196; and 2010 *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Planning Authority, 2010. Receipts for 1996 and 1997 are linear interpolations.