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**Face Coverings No Longer Mandatory for Xpress Commuters Effective
April 18, 2022**

Ruling follows The White House announcement *that the Transportation Security Administration will no longer enforce the federal mandate*

ATLANTA – The Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority announces that face coverings are no longer mandatory for Xpress commuters effective April 18, 2022.

As of Monday, April 18, masks are optional for all Xpress employees, and customers. Employees and customers that wish to still wear masks may continue if they choose. This announcement follows the ruling of a U.S. district court judge on Monday, along with the Biden administration announcement that the Transportation Security Administration will no longer enforce the federal mandate requiring the public to wear masks while on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares. This also applies to travelers in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and seaports; train, bus and subway stations and any other areas that provide transportation.

Given the unexpected nature and timing of the federal announcement, please be patient with others who may not be aware that enforcement is no longer required. Xpress is in the process of updating bus header and onboard communication systems about the change to a mask optional policy.

ATL Xpress transit services is committed to doing its part in slowing the spread of the coronavirus while continuing to provide critical services to customers that rely on public transit. The enhanced cleaning regimen for Xpress with a combination of daily cleaning of high touch areas using products promoted to eliminate 99.9 % of germs will continue.

For additional information visit www.XpressGA.com. Customer service representatives will be available Monday – Friday from 5:30 A.M. – 8:30 P.M. at 844-XPRSSGA (977-7742) and riders may also sign up for alerts by texting XPRESS to 888777 for additional information.

About the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority

The ATL was created by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2018 legislative session to provide coordinated transit planning and funding for the metro Atlanta region. The ATL is responsible for developing the ATL Regional Transit Plan, as well as identifying and prioritizing the projects and initiatives required to develop region-wide transit. The ATL is also charged with creating a unified regional transit system brand. Effective July 1, 2020, the ATL was legislatively authorized to oversee the state's Xpress regional commuter transit system and the Atlanta region's vanpool system. The population of metro Atlanta is growing rapidly and projected to add an additional 2.5 million residents by 2040. The ATL is a critical step towards more efficient and effective transit and mobility in the region. For more information on Xpress and the ATL, visit <https://atltransit.ga.gov/> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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