

## There's More Than One Way To Get Around DeKalb

Colin is a *huge* fan of mass transit. He prefers taking MARTA to get around town and also enjoys taking Amtrak for long trips to other regions. He even takes MARTA to school—there's not a school bus route that works between his home in Northern DeKalb and his high school in Chamblee. Sure he could drive, but he just really likes it. His commute is a nine-mile trip that takes about 75 minutes from start to finish! It includes a 1.5-mile walk, a train ride, and a bus ride. He says that one of the great things about mass transit is that, "Most people in DeKalb County have transit as an option regardless of age or income, but definitely not everyone can own and operate a car." He'll tell you that many people that live in DeKalb County rely on transit because they are either too young or too old to drive, or because they simply can't afford to drive. He believes transit is an option for the people.

He likes that DeKalb is one of the two Counties in the region that participates in the MARTA system. Because of this, he thinks that on the whole DeKalb has some of the best transportation options in the Atlanta region. "I have visited many other counties and have been shocked at how lacking those systems really are without a major transit system in place." Even though DeKalb County's transportation system could always be improved, Colin's opinion is that overall, when DeKalb is stacked up against its sister counties, it does a pretty good job of maintaining a balanced system. But he also believes transit in DeKalb could be even better. There could be more buses, shorter gaps between vehicles, and hopefully one day more rail. Unfortunately today, some areas of the County still don't have access to transit at all. He also sees a need to make better use of our existing system with smarter development. Our transit could serve us better by concentrating walkable transit-oriented neighborhoods and buildings around rail stations and key bus routes.

When Colin isn't riding on trains or buses, you might find him running on the school cross country team or watching a good movie. He isn't sure about his career aspirations at the moment, but what 11<sup>th</sup> grader is? One thing really is for sure though: Colin loves mass transit.

