

MARTA interim CEO gets job permanently

Transit agency’s directors pick Jonathan Hunt over two other finalists.



The MARTA headquarters is on Piedmont Road NE in Atlanta, near the Lindbergh Center rail station, which is visible on Sunday. MARTA’s new CEO was the unanimous selection of the board of directors. MIGUEL MARTINEZ/AJC

By Sara Gregory | sara.gregory@ajc.com

MARTA’s next general manager and CEO will be Jonathan Hunt, a familiar face who has been with the agency for more than a decade, including spending the past year as its interim leader.

Hunt was the unanimous selection of MARTA’s board of directors, which picked the lawyer from a group of three finalists who included transit officials from Washington, D.C., and Jacksonville, Florida.

Picking an internal candidate was not board members’ plan when they began a national search last year following former chief Collie Greenwood’s resignation. And Hunt originally said he didn’t want the job before changing his mind.

But Board Chair Jennifer Ide said Thursday that Hunt’s performance overseeing MARTA over the last year – a pivotal time that included the FIFA World Cup and the advancement of several major capital projects – showed he’s the best person for the job among a field of “exceptional” candidates.

“We could not be more excited to have Jonathan on board in this permanent role,” Ide said. “He inherited the interim job a year ago with high expectations and a very long list of major projects coming online at one of the most transformational moments in MARTA’s history. Through it all he led with passion, with dedication and with unwavering dedication.”

MARTA continued on A7



Newly chosen MARTA CEO Jonathan Hunt came to the agency in 2014 as its chief legal counsel, a job he held until last year, when he was tapped to lead MARTA on an interim basis. ARVIN TEMKAR/AJC 2025

‘He met the moment and delivered.’

— Jennifer Ide, MARTA board chair on Jonathan Hunt’s tenure as interim CEO and general manager and why he was named to the position in a full-time capacity

Paramount eyes Atlanta for new HQ amid lawsuit

CEO: If Calif. AG won’t settle over merger, the company may leave.

By Rodney Ho | rodney.ho@ajc.com

Could Atlanta become home to Paramount Skydance?

David Ellison, the chairman of Paramount, which is trying to buy CNN parent Warner Bros. Discovery, is reportedly threatening to move its headquarters from Los Angeles to a city in a state that is not suing his company, according to reports from multiple media outlets, citing unnamed individuals.

Ellison held a meeting last week with his executive team and said he is considering a move to Texas, Tennessee, Georgia or an unnamed state if California Attorney General Rob Bonta doesn’t negotiate a settlement with Paramount by Oct. 1, entertainment journalist Matt Belloni of Puck reported this week, citing two people with direct knowledge of the matter.



Paramount CEO David Ellison wants to settle with California by Oct. 1.

Paramount continued on A6

Passengers’ in-flight digital connectivity has expanded

Life on terra firma has, almost, been replicated in the skies.

By Kelly Yamanouchi | kelly.yamanouchi@ajc.com

Flying once meant checking out of life for a while, lifting off the ground into a dead zone with no internet connectivity and no contact with the real world down below.

Now, your digital life on terra firma has almost been replicated in the sky.

You can go online, stream movies, watch TV, text your friends around the world, make sports prediction picks, scroll social media and shop online while on a flight. Just as if you were sitting on the ground.

Some recent developments highlight how quickly things are changing: Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines rolled out a partnership with DraftKings to let passengers play sports prediction games to win Delta gift cards.

Flying continued on A7

It’s Vibrio season. Protect yourself against this tissue-destroying bacteria.

Several fatalities have been reported in Gulf Coast and other states.

By Alex Nettles | alex.nettles@ajc.com

Cook your oysters and keep your eyes on the waterfront: Warmer waters are spreading vibrio bacteria and could bring fevers, diarrhea or even life-threatening complications.

Vibrio infections, which typically rise in the summer, have

already taken some lives on the Gulf Coast, according to reports from the Louisiana Department of Health.

That state has seen nine cases of the bacterial infection Vibrio vulnificus in 2026, its health department said in a news release. Everyone who got the infection was hospitalized and five people died from the bacteria. Over the past decade, Louisiana reported an average of seven cases and one death each year, according to that state’s Department of Health.

Vibriosis cases are also mount-

ing in the other Gulf Coast states. Florida has seen 14 cases of the strain Vibrio vulnificus and two deaths in 2026, according to its public health department. Vibriosis cases have not been fatal so far this year in Mississippi, despite the state having 29 cases. The Alabama Department of Public Health reported six cases of vibriosis in 2026, although the website was last updated in June.

Texas has not updated its publicly available data since 2019,



A boy plays in the surf on Jekyll Island. Hotter water temperatures from May through October are when reports of vibriosis are elevated, the CDC said. July was the hottest month ever recorded. AJC FILE

Vibrio continued on A6

TODAY’S TOP STORIES INSIDE



NATIONAL, A2

Flock making changes to its platform

Among them, the Atlanta-based camera surveillance company will flag abnormal search behavior from law enforcement, as well as require a code to tie data to a specific case.



SCHOOL SHOOTING, A6

Teacher, deputy saved student shot in leg

Houston County Sheriff Matt Moulton says the bullet was believed to have struck a major artery. The teacher allowed the student in her classroom; the deputy stopped the bleeding.



FALCONS, B1

QB’s recovery more mental than physical

Nine months after knee surgery, Michael Penix Jr. says he can “go out there and do anything.” Now he’s working on gaining the confidence to play without hesitation.



GO GUIDE, C1

Are you looking for a peachy-keen treat?

Menus are stacked with sweet and savory tributes to peaches, ranging from heirloom salads to inventive desserts. Check out our list of places to catch these seasonal delights.



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