

## MARTA has an elevator problem

### Let's have some equal access

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How many students use elevators at Georgia State every day? We constantly use elevators all over campus. For some of us, even getting to campus requires an elevator.

I take MARTA to get to Georgia State, but if the one MARTA elevator is broken, I'm stuck, I'm in a wheelchair. I can't get to class. For a disabled person like myself, there's just one point of access, the one elevator.

MARTA should have more elevators, like Georgia State. Georgia State always has multiple elevators in every building, just about.

Every MARTA station has at least seven points of access for all walking people. There's an up escalator, a down escalator, four sets of stairs, and one elevator.

When the elevator is out at the Georgia State MARTA

station, I have to go to the Five Points station and use the elevator there to get back up to street level.

There are 37 stations in the MARTA system, but only Five Points has two elevators you could use the second elevator if the first one is broken.

Sometimes, the single MARTA elevator doesn't work, and if it does work, it smells like pee.

Nobody ever pees in a Georgia State elevator.

Equal access under ADA should require MARTA to build six more elevators per station, but I'll settle for just one more per station. MARTA can build extra bathrooms instead.

MARTA should take a lesson from Georgia State, how thoughtful it is to provide extra elevators, just in case the one doesn't work.

Take the Library for example-- there are three elevators. In Classroom South, four elevators. In Langdale Hall, there are eight. Even the 75 Piedmont Building has four. Now, Sparks Hall has just the one, but it always works, and there's no human body waste.

There is human body waste in the Five Points elevators, despite the signs that say, "Armed with Urine Detection Device.

Public Urination - Don't Do It!"

To get to the second elevator at Five Points, you first have to risk your life, well, maybe not your life, but certainly your final destination.

The two Five Points elevators are located on opposite ends of the opposite tracks, but Five Points has a middle platform between the tracks; however to get to the opposite side and the opposite elevator, you first have to run through the Westbound train when it briefly stops to pick up passengers, then wait for its inner-platform doors to open and then run out onto the middle platform.

Once in the middle platform, you have to wait for an eastbound train to stop, then wait for its inner-platform doors to open, run into the eastbound train and hope you can run all the way through before the doors close and it takes off again.

In other words, you have to run through two almost-moving trains, coming from two opposite directions, to use the second Five Points elevator on the eastbound side.

If the second Five Points elevator's not working, maybe somebody can pee on it to get it going again.

