

EN ROUTE

A PHOENIX PUBLIC TRANSIT
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



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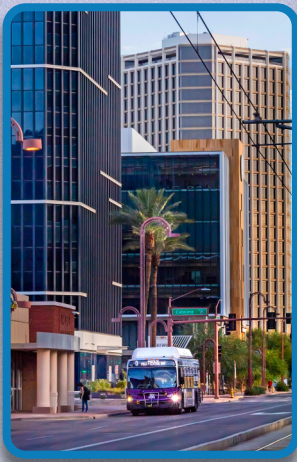
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Public transit friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the latest issue of *En Route*, your one-stop shop to stay up to date on Phoenix Public Transit. It has been almost a year since our last update, and it has been a busy season in public transit and in our city. The heat is already on for our Phoenix Suns as they compete in the NBA playoffs. As we look ahead to the summer and next half of the year, we look forward to continuing providing essential services for our riders to their next destination. Looking forward to providing a safe ride for Suns fans to the NBA finals too!

Here are few notable Public Transit updates:

As our community has faced many challenges over these past two years of the pandemic, the Phoenix Public Transit Department has stayed on track by ensuring various safety measures are met across our fleet. Last October, we resumed welcoming our riders on board with front door boarding. We continue heading in the right direction with lower COVID-19 community spread numbers across Maricopa County. As a result, the City of Phoenix is proceeding with the next phase of our Return to the Workplace Plan on May 9th, which means more city staff working in-office with options to telework as appropriate.

Last October, we took additional steps to ensure that transit-dependent passengers can continue getting to the critical places they need to go during these challenging times. I am proud to say that our Phoenix City Council developed a strategic plan using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and \$1 million is being used for the purchase and distribution of transit passes for Phoenix residents. You can read more about this ahead.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and beat the heat. Until the next issue, stay safe en route to your next destination!

Jesús Sapien, Phoenix Public Transit Director



PROJECT UPDATES

Transportation 2050

Overview

The City of Phoenix voter-approved Transportation 2050 initiative expands investment in street and transit improvements through the year 2050. Developed by a citizen-led committee of transportation experts and community advocates, the plan will dramatically expand our investment in the city's streets, bus service, and light rail system. To see our accomplishments so far, visit the [T2050 annual progress reports](#) page.

Bus Rapid Transit

[Bus Rapid Transit \(BRT\)](#) was identified as a key component of T2050 to continue expanding our city's high capacity transit network.

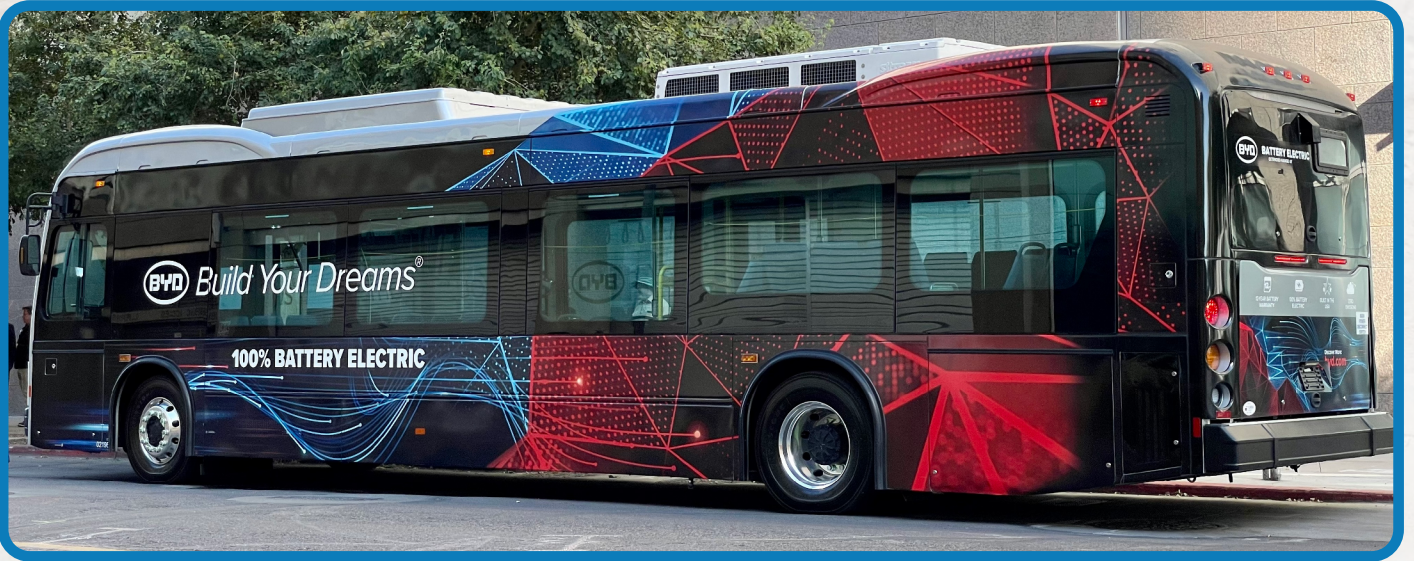
As a new transit option for Phoenix riders, BRT will transform and improve our current public transit offerings. Phoenix BRT is being developed with community input and collaboration and based on where current and future transit ridership shows the most need.

On October 6, 2021, following over a year of transit analysis, corridor evaluation, and community outreach and education, the Phoenix City Council approved the initial BRT corridor of 35th Avenue and Van Buren Street. Now that the first corridor has been approved for the BRT program, the next steps are to develop detailed corridor plans and conceptual alternatives, refine the program schedule, and identify funding options. Additionally, the Phoenix BRT team will continue to connect with the community through education, input, and collaborative opportunities to help build a system that best meets community needs.

Initial BRT Corridor

35th Ave/Van Buren





Phoenix's Future Transit Fleet

Phoenix is committed to contributing to cleaner air across the region. In support of Phoenix's recently approved [Climate Action Plan](#), staff are currently exploring low- and zero- emissions technologies that will provide a safe and reliable transit experience for operators and passengers.

Bus manufacturers are working with staff to pilot buses on Phoenix routes to evaluate performance. Local testing has shown improvements to vehicles' ranges, with further technological advancements anticipated in the coming years.



Light Rail

Northwest Extension (Phase II)

Kiewit McCarthy Joint Venture (KMJV) continues work on roadway widening, bridge widening, I-17 bridge work, third-party utilities, and public utilities throughout the project. Construction began on the bus transit center, transit amenities, and elevated station at Metrocenter. City of Phoenix successfully shut down a 48-inch waterline to allow KMJV to complete a waterline tie-in in April 2022. Visit [Northwest Extension Phase II | Valley Metro](#) for more info.



Federal and Local Leaders Celebrate Light Rail Funding

Federal and local dignitaries gathered Nov. 19, 2021, to celebrate the signing of a \$158 million full funding grant agreement for the Northwest Light Rail Extension Phase II (NWEII). The extension adds 1.6 miles of track, three stations, and a multimodal transit center to the existing 28-mile light rail system.

Connecting from the existing end-of-line at 19th Ave. and Dunlap, the extension will provide greater transit access to Phoenix residents west of I-17 thanks to a new rail-only bridge being built over the freeway, as well as the system's first elevated station. The extension is expected to serve 5,700 riders each day.

Valley Metro and City of Phoenix Renew Light Rail Business Assistance Program

After a successful first year, the Small Business Financial Assistance Program (SBFAP) will continue through 2024, which is the estimated completion of the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub and Northwest Extension Phase II light rail projects. In its first year, the SBFAP granted over \$360,000 to 62 businesses impacted by construction.

Businesses located adjacent to construction on Phoenix light rail projects can apply for up to \$9,000 in direct financial assistance, depending on their eligibility. More details can be found [here](#).



South Central Extension/Downtown Hub

Kiewit crews continue systems work in downtown Phoenix in preparation for the track tie-in that requires single-tracking (meaning the train can only utilize one track in order to continue servicing in both directions) from April 16 through early July. Kiewit placed the first concrete for the new track on Washington St. between 1st Ave. and 3rd Ave. Excavation has started for the Downtown Hub South platform between Jefferson St. between 1st Ave. and Central Ave., with continued work on the North platform. Further south, Kiewit continues utility work and roadway widening. Crews have also begun work on scour protection along the Salt River. More details can be found here:

[South Central Extension/Downtown Hub | Valley Metro.](#)



**Pardon our
Progress**

**April 16-July 2, light rail trains
arrive every 20 minutes.**

Some downtown stations will be closed.



Central Station broke ground on April 13, 2022!



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Distributing Free Transit Passes to Those Who Need it Most

Many Phoenix residents now have help with the cost of riding public transit - for both bus and light rail. Last year, the Phoenix City Council developed a strategic plan for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to be received by the City of Phoenix from the federal government. A component of that plan is to utilize \$1 million for the purchase and distribution of transit passes to Phoenix's most transit-dependent passengers to ensure they can continue riding during these challenging times.

City staff, with the help of the Phoenix City Council, identified more than [30 organizations](#) that can assist with the distribution of these passes to their clients. Pass recipients are asked to fill out a [short survey](#) about how they will utilize this assistance.

Assisting with transportation costs will be beneficial for those individuals that may need temporary help to get back on their feet, and go to work, school, medical appointments, and continue moving their life forward. This can make a positive impact across Phoenix communities who rely on public transit in their daily lives.

April 2022 Service Changes

Valley Metro service changes go into effect Monday, April 25, 2022. These service changes include route modifications and frequency reductions. The [Phoenix MARY Circulator](#) - a free neighborhood mini-bus - will have a route extension along 59th Avenue via Fillmore and Roosevelt streets. Find additional details at valleymetro.org/servicechanges.





WTS Metropolitan Phoenix Hosts Jesús Sapien

Phoenix Public Transit Director Jesús Sapien shared various components of the T2050 plan at the WTS Metro Phoenix Chapter April event. Jesús highlighted the initial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor of 35th Avenue and Van Buren Street, future light rail extensions, and restoring service after impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maryvale Resource Fair

Phoenix Councilwoman Betty Guardado hosted the Maryvale Resource Fair at the Maryvale Community Center on April 9, 2022. City of Phoenix departments, business, and local organizations provided resources and information to community members. Phoenix Public Transit staff supported the event by providing information on bus routes, upcoming service changes, and handed out transit passes funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



Friends of Transit Conference

On Feb. 11, 2022, public transit professionals gathered in downtown Phoenix for the Friends of Transit 20th Annual Conference. Charles Marohn, President of Strong Towns, gave the keynote address. His presentation, *Confessions of a Recovering Engineer*, was a part of his latest book tour where he talked about how the values of engineers versus the public may differ during the design process of a transportation system.

Civil Rights Title VI/ADA Complaint Process Trainings

Public Transit Civil Rights staff held their second virtual Civil Rights training for Valley Metro Call Center staff on Feb. 7, 2022. The purpose of the training was to introduce the revised Title VI Complaint Procedures as part of the region's 2020 Title VI Enhanced Review corrective action plan.

Staff also conducted the third and final Civil Rights ADA & Title VI training geared towards the region's Operations and Transit Service Provider (TSP) staff on March 23, 2022. The third training session completes the department's FTA Title VI Enhanced Review plan pertaining to the regional passenger complaint process updates.

PARTNER-SUBMITTED CONTENT

Road Safety Action Plan

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department received City Council approval to create a comprehensive Road Safety Action Plan. Developing this plan involved a robust public engagement process that began in mid-November and ran through February 2022. More than 2,600 survey responses were logged, and members of the public marked 5,946 locations in the community where they'd like to see improvements made. The project team is now analyzing all the data received through this effort. The resulting plan will be influenced by data and public input, which the department will use to prioritize investments in safety for the greatest potential to prevent collisions that result in serious injury or death.



Paving Season is Underway!

Paving season began at the beginning of March with the first mill and overlay project taking place in the Sunnyslope area. The projects are part of the Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program (APMP). In the month of March, the Street Transportation Department completed 16.3 miles of mill and overlay, 8.3 miles of preservation treatments, 64.6 miles of crack seal, and installed 213 ADA ramps citywide. Since the program's inception, the department has completed 593 miles of mill and overlay work, 946.5 miles of preservation treatments, and crack sealed 1,261 miles of pavement. The total number of ADA ramps updated to the current standards is 14,436. To view planned or completed street maintenance, visit the interactive pavement maintenance dashboard at phoenix.gov/pavement.

Scan the Streets for Wheels and Feet!

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department reminds all road users to [Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet](#). This public service announcement reminds people to be alert and on the lookout for the wide variety of people who use Phoenix streets everyday but may not be driving a car. People walking, running, using wheelchairs or other mobility devices, riding bicycles, pushing strollers, or riding scooters are sharing our streets, so be sure to *Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet*.

Watch and share the animated video [here](#).



Phoenix is Built for Drought

City of Phoenix water customers understand the importance of conservation and wise water use – it even increases our resiliency during a water shortage. The City has been preparing for shortages on the Colorado River for decades. As the city continues to plan, invest and conserve to ensure sustainable growth, rest assured we will continue to provide safe, clean, and reliable water to our customers without interruptions. For more information: Phoenix.gov/Drought.



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Phoenix.gov/publictransit

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En Route Newsletter

To submit content, email: gina.conrow@phoenix.gov

Call 602-261-8392; TTY 502-543-5500

302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 900

Phoenix, AZ 85003

If you need En Route in another format,

contact Phoenix Public Transit

Email: pubtrans@phoenix.gov