

**CITY OF PHOENIX
CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION**

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **CITY OF PHOENIX CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION** and to the general public, that the **CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION** will hold a meeting open to the public on **November 6, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. located in the Conference Room, 7th Floor, Public Transit Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.**

One or more commission members may participate via teleconference. Agenda items may be taken out of order.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1.	Call to Order	Chairperson James
2.	Approval of the minutes of the September 4, 2014 meeting <i>This item is for information, discussion and possible action.</i>	Commission Members
3.	Chairperson's Report & Commissioners' Reports This item provides the Chairperson and Commissioners with an opportunity to provide updates on transit-related issues and other housekeeping items. <i>This item is for information, discussion and possible action.</i>	Chairperson James/ Commission Members
4.	Call to the Public Consideration, discussion, and concerns from the public. Those wishing to address the Subcommittee need not request permission in advance. Action taken as a result of the public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.	Chairperson James
5.	General Plan Update This item provides presentation and discussion regarding the draft General Plan. <i>This item is for information and discussion.</i>	Josh Bednarek/Xandon Keating, Planning and Development
6.	South Central This report provides an update regarding the next steps for the South Central light rail extension, including recommendations about the roadway configuration and station locations. <i>This item is for information, discussion and possible action.</i>	Albert Santana
7.	Northwest Extension Phase II This report provides an update and recommendation, including refining the terminus for the light rail Northwest Extension Phase II. <i>This item is for information, discussion and possible action.</i>	Albert Santana

8.	Budget Update This item provides information on the current and projected department budget. <i>This item is for information and discussion.</i>	Ken Kessler Presentation only
9.	April 2015 Service Changes This report provides an overview of public outreach for the April 2015 bus service changes. <i>This item is for information, discussion and possible action.</i>	Joe Bowar Report Only
10.	Public Involvement Process This item provides an update on the public involvement process to obtain public input on behalf of the Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation. <i>This item is for information and discussion.</i>	Matthew Heil Report Only
11.	Public Transit Director's Report This item gives the Public Transit Director an opportunity to discuss issues and accomplishments with the commission. <i>This item is for information and discussion.</i>	Maria Hyatt Presentation only
12.	Request for Future Agenda Items	Chairperson James
13.	Adjournment	Chairperson James

For further information, please call Megan Neal, Management Assistant II, Public Transit Department at 602-534-6192.

Persons paid to lobby on behalf of persons or organizations other than themselves shall register with the City Clerk prior to lobbying or within five business days thereafter, and must register annually to continue lobbying. If you have any questions about registration or whether or not you must register, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 602-262-6811.

To request reasonable accommodations, call Megan Neal at Voice/602-534-6192 or TTY/7-1-1 as early as possible to coordinate needed arrangements.

September 29, 2014

**CITY OF PHOENIX
CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2014**

Public Transit Department
302 N. First Avenue, 7th Floor

Commission Present	Public Present	City Staff Present
James, Abraham – Chair	Chavez, Santos E.	Bowar, Joe
Aylsworth, Aaron	Rochelle, Marvin	Crespo, Albert
Dalager, Rob		Gathers, Kim
Davis, Pam		Heil, Matthew
Hunter, Yvonne (arrived 7:36am)		Howard, Kacie
MacDonald, Shelley		Hyatt, Maria
Miller, Maizie		Jankowski, Brian
Tallarico, Fred (left 8:30am)		Johnson, Eric
Wiltshire, Donald		Kessler, Ken
		Neal, Megan
		Sumners, Scott
		Sweinhagen, Melissa
		Venegas, Bernard
		Wimberly, Terrie

Commission Absent
Cannon, Bob
Ricardo, Mia
Snow, Lou

1. Call to Order
Chairperson Abraham James called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. The Chair advised that a quorum was present.

Commissioner Maizie Miller arrived to the meeting at 7:31a.m.
Commissioner Yvonne Hunter arrived to the meeting at 7:36a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2014 Meeting
Commissioner Donald Wiltshire made a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fred Tallarico. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Chairperson's Report & Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Pam Davis stated that the minutes from the May 1st meeting, Item 7, mentioned that staff would come back to the Commission with more information on the route changes to Rts. 106/90/138. Commissioner Davis also noted that these services changes have already gone to City Council and were approved, so she was wondering if the Commission was going to hear further information on them.

Director Maria Hyatt asked Joe Bowar to come up and address the Commission on the October service changes. Mr. Bowar stated that all of the October service changes were presented to the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee and approval was given to forward to the City Council. Mr. Bowar also stated that staff has worked to improve the time points between Rts. 106/90/138 so that there will be 8 minutes gaps during most trips.

Director Hyatt explained to the Commission that there was some difficulty with timing due to the summer recess that Council takes and making sure that it went to the T&I Subcommittee first. In the future, Director Hyatt ensured the Commission that they would be notified and the situation would be handled differently.

4. Call to the Public

Chairperson James stated he did not receive any cards to speak, but one card from Mr. Santos E. Chavez who did not wish to speak but is opposed to Item 6, Central Station RFP.

5. Vice Chair Elections

Vice Chair Commissioner Julie Rees, therefore a new Vice Chair needs to be elected by the Committee as noted in the charter. The Chair is appointed by Mayor and Council. Ms. Megan Neal also stated the Committee Member John Hart and Mia Ricardo have termed out. Ms. Megan Neal explained that the Vice Chair can be voted on by the majority of the Commission and any number of nominations can be made. Chairperson James opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Yvonne Hunter nominated Commissioner Rob Dalager for the position of Vice Chair. No other nominations were received by the Commission. Commissioner Hunter made a motion to approve Commissioner Dalager, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Pam Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Central Station RFP

Mr. Eric Johnson, City of Phoenix Community & Economic Development Department, and Ms. Kim Gathers, City of Phoenix Public Transit Department, provide the Commission with an update of the results of the Phoenix Central Station Request for Proposals (RFP) to redevelop the City's Public Transit property and facility at Central Avenue and Van Buren Street.

Ms. Gathers provided a small history of Central Station. Central Station was originally constructed in 1997 using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. Light rail stations were incorporated into site in 2008 and facilities were refurbished in 2011 using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funds.

Mr. Johnson provided a brief timeline of the RFP process.

- Late 2013: RFP and Evaluation Criteria Authorized
- December 2013: RFP Issued
- February 2014: Proposals Due, with 2 Received:
 - Forum Capital LC + AIG Global Real Estate
 - Smith Partners LLC
- March-May 2014: Panel Evaluation, Interviews and Scoring

The review panel consisted of 12 members from the Citizens Transit Commission, ASU College of Public Affairs, ASU Real Estate Development, Downtown Voices Coalition, Roosevelt Action Association, Evans Churchill Community Association, RED Development, Downtown Phoenix Partnership, City Staff – Public Transit, Planning & Development, Parks & Recreation, Community & Economic Development. The committee forwarded the recommendation of Smith Partners LLC as the successful proposer.

The Smith Partners LCC \$82 million dollar proposal contained design for a 34-story residential tower with 475 apartments, a parking garage, on-site Transit Facilities, commercial space, a pool, shaded bus bays, and a dog park.

Ms. Gathers explained the potential impacts of this project. In the short-term, the Public Transit Department (PTD) will work through coordination and phasing of temporary and permanent bus operation changes. There will also be a temporary relocation of the PTD Transit Center office, security, and fare operations current housed at Central Station. Metro Light Rail service and improvements will have minimal impacts during construction. In the long-term there will be more centralized transit operations along Van Buren Street, Central Avenue & 1st Avenue and more efficient bus routes since they will not have to travel through Central Station anymore.

Mr. Johnson presented the scope and schedule of the project.

- Scope:
 - 475 apartments
 - 475 space garage
 - 30,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space
 - Replace transit office space
 - Public amenities
- Schedule:
 - 6 months to enter into Agreements
 - 18 months to commence construction
 - 30 months to complete construction
 - Options for 2 year extension and phasing the tower into two high rises

During this project, the developer will replace Public Transit facilities which are currently housed in Central Station. Also, the City and Developer will enter into leases: 25 year GPLET lease for tower (~25% of site) and 99 year ground lease for commercial and garage improvements. Mr. Johnson also explained that the City will

retain ongoing ownership of a majority of the site and will also coordinate with Valley Metro and FTA prior to construction.

Mr. Johnson also explained what the City will receive from moving forward with this development: 476 residential units in downtown, \$2,800,000 in payments during 25 year tower lease, revenue sharing payments during 99 year ground lease, use of 30,000 SF of commercial space during ground lease, construction jobs, \$82,000,000 of private capital investment in downtown, construction sales taxes of ~ \$1,400,000, annual tax revenues of ~ \$235,000, and annual operating cost savings of ~ \$75,000. The developer for this project will also receive incentives such as the title to the tower parcel, \$2,500,000 for reimbursement of public improvements paid out of the Downtown Community Reinvestment Fund, the relocation of bus operations, and use of city land for the project.

If approval is granted to day by the Commission, the next steps will be to go to the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on September 9, 2014 and then to the City Council Formal meeting on September 17, 2014. If approved, then the FTA would be contacted for review and approval.

The Commission was asked to recommend Subcommittee and Council authorization to enter into a Development Agreement, ground lease, easements and other agreements with Smith Partners, LLC, for a transit-oriented development project at Phoenix Central Station.

Commissioner Donald Whiltshire asked if the proposed parking garage would be strictly residential or if there would also be public parking. Mr. Johnson stated that the parking will be initially for residential tenants, but that it is expected that the spaces will be available to the public if not used by tenants. Mr. Johnson also clarified that the revenue share received by the City will be a percentage off of the net return of the entire project, not just one area of income.

Commissioner Aaron Aylsworth asked about the future plans of the Public Transit building at 302 N. 1st Avenue and how much of the building is currently being leased out. Ms. Gathers answered that the staff that is currently in the 302 building will remain; the only staff that will be relocated is the Transit Center staff that is currently at Central Station. Ms. Gathers also explained that the 302 building has 8,000 sq ft of space that is not currently being leased, which equals around 7% of the building. A new property manager has been hired, and will work to lease the available space.

Commissioner Aylsworth also asked about using the phrase “transit-oriented” for the project when it seems overwhelmingly residential and commercial oriented. Director Hyatt explained that bringing people and transit together is the goal of transit-oriented projects, and it is hoped that the residents and tenants become transit users. Director Hyatt also mentioned that the FTA encourages projects that bring enhancements to transit services and that this project will bring in revenue that wouldn’t normally come in.

Commissioner Aylsworth asked staff what would happen if at any point the

developer decided to pull out of the project and who would end up being responsible. Mr. Johnson stated that the City would not be responsible if the developer pulled out of the project and that usually the lender will find someone else to take over the project. It will be written into the contract that the City will not be responsible for the site.

Commissioner Yvonne Hunter asked for clarification on the rendering of the proposed project. Mr. Johnson explained that the light rail platforms would remain where they currently are, along 1st Avenue and along Central Avenue. The bus stops that are currently within Central Station would be moved out to the surrounding streets, mainly Van Buren Street. Commissioner Hunter also wanted to know, if the tower was split into two phases, where would the split occur. Mr. Johnson stated that they would build two towers in the place of one larger tower on the south side of Polk Street if that option was decided on. At this time, it is the plan of the City and the developer to proceed with one phase of construction and not split out the towers, although the option will be in the contract. Commissioner Hunter also expressed concern about, if the towers were done in two phases, the impact that additional construction would have on the surrounding areas. Mr. Johnson assured that construction downtown has been done in phases with minimal disruption, but that he understood her concern and would make sure that was considered if the discussion about two phases was brought up. Ms. Gathers assured that transit operations would not be affected by a two-phase tower construction because all of the transit services would be completed in the original phase, so they would be up and running despite what was happening with the tower construction. Director Hyatt agreed to keep Commissioner Hunter's concerns in mind for future discussions with the developer.

Vice Chair Dalager asked questions in regards to if the parking garage would be below grade and where would the commercial be located in relation to the garage. Vice Chair Dalager also cautioned against not having commercial access on the perimeter of the property, like Cityscape, because it is difficult to access the stores and restaurants from the street. Mr. Johnson explained that the commercial space would be on the ground level of the building with the garage above.

Vice Chair Dalager asked staff to explain the revenue sharing on this project and if the City had revenue sharing on any other properties downtown, as well as how the parcels will be divided. Mr. Johnson answered that the City will be able to lease the commercial space and generate revenue that way, as well as collect a percentage of revenue share from the total revenue earned by the developer (mainly on the residential units). If the developer only completes one tower, the parcel would be split and the City could develop on the remaining piece of the parcel. Mr. Johnson also stated that the City currently collects a revenue share from the Legends Entertainment District downtown. After the land lease with the developer expires, the developer would gain ownership but the City would still collect a revenue share. The developer will be required to pay a monthly fee during the term of the lease which will total \$2.8 million.

Commissioner Dalager had some question in regards to the dollar amounts mentioned in the presentation. Mr. Johnson explained that the \$235,000 in annual

taxes does not include the commercial tax amounts, but does include utility tax and rental tax. The estimated rental rate from the developer is \$1.80 sq/ft, and the estimated \$75,000 in savings to the City would be from no longer having to maintain the facility since the developer would be in charge of that. Mr. Johnson also reiterated that the developer would receive reimbursement up to \$2.5 million for public improvements.

Commissioner Aaron Aylsworth asked staff if there was research to support a housing demand in downtown and if it was really expected to increase transit ridership. Mr. Johnson did not have exact numbers on how full the current residential properties were, but that the developer did research and feels confident that there would be a viable rate of capacity at the residential tower. It was also explained that there is a desire for a higher density of people at the core of the city, and that the FTA looks for joint-development projects and that it is expected that this will enhance transit services offered downtown.

Commissioner Aylsworth reiterated that he believes that the project is misnamed as a “transit-oriented” project and that there is concern of building residential in hopes that there is a need for it.

Lastly, Vice Chair Dalager asked staff if they believed that \$82 million was enough for a project of this size. Mr. Johnson explained that the number came from the developer and is within 10% of what was expected.

Vice Chair Dalager made a motion to recommend the Council authorization to enter into a development agreement, ground lease, easements and other agreements as necessary with Smith Partners LLC for a transit-oriented development project at Phoenix Central Station subject to the terms and conditions presented to the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Yvonne Hunter seconded the motion.

Motion approved; Commissioner Aylsworth abstained from the vote.

7. Committee Launch

Director Maria Hyatt shared with the Commission that the new Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation has officially been created with 35 members assigned by the Mayor and City Council. The first meeting was held last week, and the next meeting is Monday, September 8, 2014. The committee is tasked with reviewing the community’s transit needs and the Commission will receive periodic updates from the committee.

8. Transportation Public Involvement Plan

Mr. Matthew Heil, City of Phoenix Public Transit Public Information Officer, presented the public involvement goals to the Commission. The goals for public involvement are: to give accurate information for decision-making, the opportunity to learn about the current transit system and areas for improvement, give residents a means for meaningful participation in decision-making, and have engagement over the entire process from development to finalization of a plan.

Mr. Heil explained the qualities of effective outreach are to meet people “where they are,” cover diverse populations (including low-income, minority and limited-English populations), geographically distributed, and addresses both public transit and street infrastructure issues. The methods of outreach will include www.talktransportation.org, community meetings, outreach at events, presentations to groups/organizations of interest, and formal public hearings or meetings.

Additionally, Mr. Heil informed the committee that there will be a partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) which will assist the City with research out outreach by providing graduate student researchers to help with student engagement, improving social media, and online outreach.

Lastly, Mr. Heil stated that the plan was approved unanimously at the August 26th meeting of the Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation, and requests the Commission to recommend City Council approval of the public involvement plan as described, with any additional recommendations to be incorporated as the outreach process progresses.

Commissioner Yvonne Hunter asked staff look into using Friends of Transit events to get information out to the public as well as use the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Heil stated that he will make not of these suggestions and make sure to contact them for assistance in getting information out to the public.

Commissioner Donald Wiltshire asked staff how the committee will fee into the General Plan being worked on by the City of Phoenix already. Director Hyatt explained that the transportation items from the general plan will be given to the committee. Ms. Megan Neal also explained that groups working on Reinvent Phx and the General Plan have met to discuss the committee and their input will be communicated to the committee.

Commissioner Yvonne Hunter made a motion to recommend City Council approval of the public involvement plan as described, with any additional recommendations to be incorporated as the outreach process progresses.

Commissioner Shelley MacDonald seconded the motion. Motion approved.

9. Public Transit Director’s Report

Director Maria Hyatt informed the Commission that Kini Knudsen, former Deputy Transit Director, took a position with the City of Phoenix Streets Department, and Deputy Director Jesus Sapien will now be over both the Facilities and Operations divisions.

Director Hyatt explained that staff had been busy with community outreach as well as planning for the upcoming Superbowl. Also, the City will be meeting with the Democratic National Convention in hopes of securing next year’s convention in Phoenix.

Lastly, Director Hyatt expressed her appreciation to the Commission and thanked them for all of the questions that they raised on these important issues.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chairperson James asked for any future agenda; none received.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson James asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dalager set the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Wiltshire. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

12. Request for Future Agenda Items

None

13. Adjournment

Chairperson James asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hart set the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Maizie Miller. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47a.m.

May 12, 2014

General Plan Update

The following is a link to the draft General Plan for your review:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdds/Docs/PlanPhx%20Draft%20General%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

- You can view more information about the project at:
<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/pz/general-plan-update>
- Attend the PlanPHX Summit on November 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center (10am-2pm).



planPHX SUMMIT

the general plan update

LOCATION

Phoenix Convention Center
North Ballroom
100 N. 3rd St
Phoenix, AZ 85004

**see other side for more info*

www.myplanphx.com

NOV

15

2014

10am - 2pm

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CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT

TO: Maria Hyatt
Public Transit Director

FROM: Albert Santana
Light Rail Project Administrator

SUBJECT: SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION

This report requests the Citizens Transit Commission recommend Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee approval to refine the approved Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to include lane configuration and station locations and to initiate the Federal environmental reviews and preliminary engineering phase for the South Central Light Rail project.

THE ISSUE

In 2012, the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro received a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to conduct an Alternatives Analysis in the South Central Avenue Corridor. In 2013, the Phoenix City Council approved an LPA that defined light rail transit as the preferred transit mode and Central Avenue as the preferred alignment; however, the LPA did not define the roadway configuration or passenger station locations. It is important that these elements be defined as part of the LPA prior to initiating the environmental review and conceptual engineering phase of the project.

Following the City Council adoption of the LPA, subsequent study identified a two-lane roadway configuration (one through traffic lane in each direction) with intersection flares at four locations (Baseline Road, Southern Avenue, Broadway Road, and Buckeye Road) as the recommended roadway configuration for the South Central Avenue Light Rail Extension. This configuration minimizes private property impacts while maintaining existing automobile capacity at four arterial intersections.

The subsequent study effort also identified passenger station locations at Baseline Road, Southern Avenue, Roeser Road, Broadway Road, Audubon Center (south of the Rio Salado), Buckeye Road, and Lincoln Street. These stations are recommended based on ridership potential, community access, connectivity to other transit services, and future development potential.

OTHER INFORMATION

In 2014, the City Council approved the initiation of amending the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to include South Central Light Rail Extension and to include this project into any proposed extension of T2000. The RTP amendment process is currently underway and has been approved by the State Transportation Board and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

In 2014, the City of Phoenix received a Federal TIGER grant from the FTA to complete the environmental review process and conceptual engineering. The Federal grant is \$1.6 million with a local match of \$1.6 million totaling \$3.2 million to complete this phase of the project.

Next Steps

The next step in the project planning phase is to complete the environmental review process in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and complete preliminary engineering.

RECOMMENDATION

This report requests the Citizens Transit Commission recommend the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee approve the following:

1. Approve a two-lane roadway configuration along South Central Avenue between approximately Baseline Road and Buckeye Road with intersection flares at Baseline Road, Southern Avenue, Broadway Road, and Buckeye Road for evaluation as part of the South Central environmental review process.
2. Approve station locations along South Central Avenue at Baseline Road, Southern Avenue, Roeser Road, Broadway Road, Audubon Center (south of the Rio Salado), Buckeye Road, and Lincoln Street for evaluation as part of the South Central environmental review process.
3. Authorize work to commence on the environmental review and preliminary engineering documents for the South Central Light Rail project.

Attachment

South Central Project Recommendation



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CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT

TO: Maria Hyatt
Public Transit Director

FROM: Albert Santana
Light Rail Project Administrator

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST PHASE II LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION UPDATE AND
NEXT STEPS

This report requests that the Citizens Transit Commission recommend Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee approval to amend the LPA for the Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension project. Approval would include a long-term financing strategy for construction and operations, and a project definition recommendation.

THE ISSUE

In 2005, the Phoenix City Council approved the Northwest Extension LPA and later modified the LPA in 2007. The Phase II segment of the Northwest Extension LPA begins at Dunlap Avenue/19th Avenue, and travels west to 25th Avenue, north to Mountain View Road, and then west on Mountain View Road to a terminus east of the I-17 freeway. The LPA included stations at Dunlap Avenue/25th Avenue and a station along Mountain View Road east of the I-17 freeway.

In 2013, the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro completed a project definition study to evaluate options to extend the Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension across I-17 to Metrocenter Mall. After a series of outreach efforts, including internal concept design workshops with City staff in August and December 2013 and community outreach meetings in January and October 2014, a leading alternative for crossing I-17 near Mountain View Road has been identified. The result is a revised Northwest Phase II LRT alignment that follows Dunlap Avenue between 19th and 25th Avenues, heads north on 25th Avenue, turns west on Mountain View Road and crosses I-17 to end a short distance west of the freeway. Station locations are recommended at Dunlap Avenue/25th Avenue, 25th Avenue between the Arizona Canal and Mountain View Road, and the southbound I-17 access Road near Cheryl Drive.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension is included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), but the recommended change in the alignment to extend west of I-17 will require an update to the RTP. The update requires the demonstration of a reasonably assured financial plan. In this case, the extension of T2000 is assumed to provide the local funding for construction and operating expenses. Although the details of an extension to T2000 are not known now,

there should be adequate revenue available to support this project if the tax is maintained and the revenue is apportioned similar to the current tax.

Next Steps

The next step in the project planning phase is to complete the environmental review process in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and complete preliminary engineering.

Upon receiving City Council approval, staff will coordinate with Valley Metro and the Maricopa Association of Governments to update the recommended alignment of the Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension project in the RTP, and commence work on the environmental review and preliminary engineering documents.

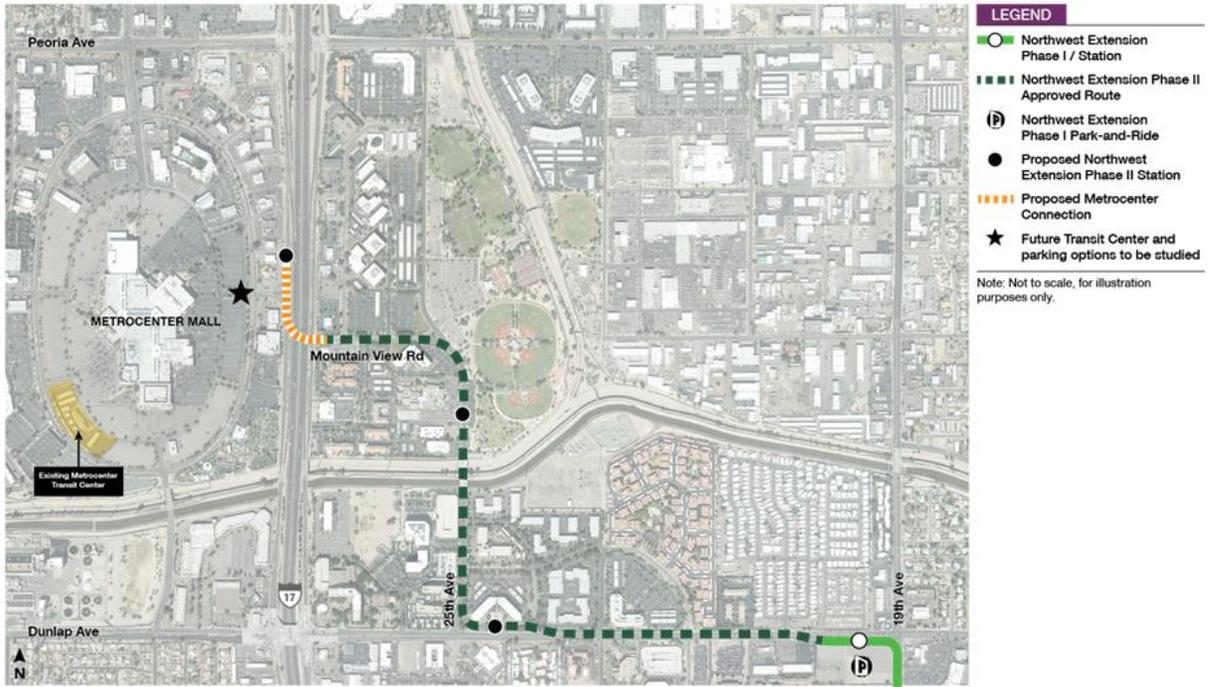
RECOMMENDATION

This report requests the Citizens Transit Commission recommend the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee approve the following:

1. Approve a modification to the Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension LPA to follow Dunlap Avenue between 19th and 25th avenues, extend north on 25th Avenue, turn west on Mountain View Road and cross I-17 to end a short distance west of the freeway.
2. Coordinate with Valley Metro and the Maricopa Association of Governments to initiate the process of updating the RTP to include Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension alignment modification.
3. Council support for inclusion of Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension into any proposed extension of T2000.

Attachment

Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension Recommendation



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CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT

TO: Maria Hyatt
Public Transit Director

FROM: Jesus Sapien
Deputy Public Transit Director

SUBJECT: APRIL 2015 PROPOSED BUS SERVICE CHANGES – PUBLIC
OUTREACH

This report provides information to the Citizens Transit Commission on proposed bus service changes for April 2015 and the associated public outreach process.

THE ISSUE

The Public Transit Department is focused on improving the efficiency of Phoenix’s transit service to best serve passengers’ needs. The Department reviews routes semiannually to determine if improvements can be made while at the same time offsetting the costs of enhancing transit service. The proposed April 2015 bus service changes are funded through Transit 2000, the dedicated Phoenix transit tax, and Proposition 400, the regional transportation tax. A public outreach process for the proposed changes will be conducted.

OTHER INFORMATION

The proposed April 2015 bus service changes and public outreach process are outlined below.

Route 7 (7th Street)

Align the route to the grid arterial street (7th Street) by eliminating the loop that serves the Ed Pastor Transit Center and the loop that serves Central Station. Modifying the route will allow for increasing frequency from 20 minutes to 15 minutes in the higher ridership segments and decreasing frequency at the ends of the route from 20 minutes to 30 minutes. This method of adjusting route schedules has proven successful with other routes.

Route 13 (Buckeye Road)

The City of Phoenix Aviation Department is expanding the Sky Train from its current terminus at Terminal 4 with the completion of the Sky Train to between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3. Staff recommends modifying Route 13, which currently serves Terminals 3 and 4 to end at Terminal 2 and the new Sky Train connection. This aligns with the Aviation Department’s plans to reduce vehicle traffic through the airport and provides improved connectivity to the Sky Train system.

Route 108 (Elliot Road and 48th Street - Ahwatukee)

Modify the route to eliminate the morning and afternoon trips from 48th Street and Chandler Boulevard to the Pecos Road and 48th Street Park-and-Ride. This specialized

service has seen limited ridership, and residents along the route have expressed their dissatisfaction with bus traffic along Frye Road. Route 108 is operated by Valley Metro/RPTA and partially funded by Phoenix.

Central South Mountain RAPID – East (new RAPID commuter route)

The City of Phoenix is constructing a new park-and-ride at 24th Street and Baseline Road. The new park-and-ride will be completed in early 2015 and complements the park-and-ride at 27th Avenue and Baseline Road. These park-and-rides have been developed to provide a RAPID commuter service to downtown Phoenix for the South Mountain, Laveen, and Central City areas. The new RAPID service would start in April 2015 and is proposed to operate five (5) trips each in the morning and afternoon to/from downtown Phoenix. The route will travel on Baseline Road and Central Avenue.

The Public Transit Department will use the locally adopted public outreach process for the proposed April 2015 bus service changes. In November and December, staff will solicit public comment on service changes through several public outreach events located near the proposed service change areas in coordination with other regional proposed service changes. Outreach will include: on-board bus announcements encouraging passengers to provide their feedback on the proposed changes, in-person discussions with passengers at affected areas, and notices on the Valley Metro website. In addition, a formal public hearing will be scheduled to collect public input and feedback on the proposed service changes. Advertisements for the public meetings will be placed in local newspapers, information will be posted to the Department and regional transit websites, and staff will send media releases and contact local reporters.

After the conclusion of the public outreach process for these proposed service changes, the Public Transit Department intends to return to the Citizens Transit Commission with a formal recommendation on these proposed bus service changes.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is provided for information only.

CITIZENS TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT

TO: Maria Hyatt
Public Transit Director

FROM: Matthew Heil
Public Information Officer

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

This report provides an update to the Citizens Transit Commission on the public involvement process for the Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

Talktransportation.org – City staff has established a website to garner comments from the general public on a variety of transit- and streets-related issues.

Talktransportation.org participation activity has increased since the last report, with more than 18,501 page views and over 4,000 unique visitors to the site as of Oct. 30. There are currently 493 active participants, who have posted ideas on a range of topics, with several related directly to specific areas of the city, as well as more general ideas. Participants have posted general concerns about late night service availability, frequency, and overcrowding, with specific ideas around a downtown streetcar circulator service, refillable fare media passes, Grand Avenue streetcar service, and as citywide network of bike paths garnering support.

Several polls have also been conducted online to get feedback on a variety of questions about the transportation system. One question “What is the most important benefit to you as a transit user?”, generated a significant response. With the majority of votes online, 88 out of 231 overall, respondents *said multiple transit options that get me to my destination on time* was the most important benefit.

Community-based organization engagement – Staff is continuing to follow up with a number community based organizations to engage in outreach. For the month of October, staff presented at approximately 35 organizations.

Public meetings – Staff conducted seven open houses in Phoenix during the month of October. The open-house format allowed staff to engage residents in a drop-in format, and take casual comments from visitors or individuals who attended specifically to share their thoughts. Overall, staff contacted over 300 individuals at the open houses to share information about the transportation planning process.

Site visits and onboard surveys – Staff conducted site visits at transit facilities and other locations to meet residents in their communities, during early morning and evening

hours. Currently, Public Transit staff has conducted outreach at Central Station, the 79th Avenue & McDowell Park and Ride, Desert Sky Transit Center in west Phoenix, Sunnyslope Transit Center, Paradise Valley Mall Transit Center, MetroCenter Transit Center, and Ed Pastor Transit Center.

In talking to individuals at the facilities, key items raised were:

- For many people, transit service is a necessity, as they did not have a car or driver's license. Many respondents also take transit to get to school.
- The main requests for system improvements included more frequency, later operating hours, and reduced overcrowding.
- Respondents also cited more routes in the West Valley as a priority.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is provided for information only.