

Pictured:  
New Light Rail Station  
Breaks Ground,  
Opens in 2019 p. 5

More Bus, DAR Service p. 4

Valley Metro Rail Wins p. 8

# EYE ON TRANSIT



**City of Phoenix**  
Public Transit Department

June 28, 2017

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VM Wins at APTA	8
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**50th Street Station** 50th Street station groundbreaking celebration took place June 7 at Ability360.



**DBE Goals Public Hearing** p.6



**New regional radio system** p.7  
being installed in the Valley



**Valley Metro Rail team wins** p. 8  
at APTA International



**Transit talent on the move** p. 10-12



**Sips on 7th Street** Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Councilmember Kate Gallego and many community members kicked off new weekend late service at Mother Bunch on 7th Street. p. 4

Greetings and a very warm welcome to the latest issue of Eye on Transit! You may have noticed summer is in full swing in the Valley - in a scorching way. That's why we continue - with all your support - to improve our system so that riders have a better experience.

Thanks to Transportation 2050 funding, we have increased all Phoenix local routes to have a minimum frequency of 30 minutes or less, including weekends. During peak times, some of our busiest routes even have a frequency of eight minutes! This April we extended the service day to match light rail hours.

Mayor Greg Stanton, Councilmember Kate Gallego, many riders and non-riders kicked off the new service with a bus crawl on 7th Street, which has become a restaurant and drinking establishment mecca in Phoenix. Some even stayed out until 2 a.m., which is now the end of service day on Friday and Saturday.



**"We're honored to share these accomplishments because it's the work of many people and community members committed to transit."**

If you're trying to beat the heat, these new extended hours are crucial in your daily ride. Plus we're working on getting more shade to our existing bus stops. Lots going on!

Many riders also are happy to hear construction on the new 50th and Washington streets light rail station is now underway, and expected to open in 2019.

We are truly honored to share these accomplishments because it is the work of many people and community members committed to transit.

Feel free to share your thoughts or send us your latest news.

Maria Hyatt  
Phoenix Public Transit Director

# SIPS ON 7TH RICKS OFF MORE SERVICE

Seventh Street in Phoenix was buzzing with action April 28 when leaders and community members jumped on the bus for Phoenix's first bus crawl called Sips on 7th. Riders rode the bus to various participating businesses to show the bus is a great option to take not only to work, but also to have fun.

Phoenix bus and Dial-a-Ride service now matches light rail hours with Friday and Saturday service going until 2 a.m. More information at: [phoenix.gov/publictransit](http://phoenix.gov/publictransit).



# NEW 50TH STREET LIGHT RAIL STATION



Construction crews broke ground on the new 50th and Washington streets light rail station in early June. Leaders, business owners and future station users celebrated the start of the project.

Future users at the event talked about how the station means added convenience for them as they'll be able to take the train to work daily, as well as go out to downtown Phoenix for fun without worrying about parking.

The station, located near Ability 360 - a resource center for individuals with functional needs, is the first rail project under the voter-approved Phoenix Transportation 2050 (T2050) plan. It's also the first station added to the existing Valley Metro Rail line.

The station includes accessibility features such as a wider platform to accommodate mobility devices, as well as enhanced shading. Valley residents can look forward to the station opening for service in 2019.



# DBE GOALS INFO SESSION

Phoenix Public Transit is updating its triennial Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goals for federal fiscal years 2018-20. A public hearing in June allowed community members to provide input on the draft goal and learn about the upcoming Federal Transit Administration (FTA) projects.

An in-depth presentation included discussion about the meaning of a disadvantaged business enterprise, goal-setting principles and the methodology and requirements.

Attendees got an overview of upcoming FTA projects including information about the Laveen 59th Avenue Park and Ride, regional bus stop improvements and \$545 million in light rail construction planned for the next three years.

Find the presentation material at [phoenix.gov/publictransit](http://phoenix.gov/publictransit) under News, or contact Renee.

Renee L. Standing tree, (602) 534-2667



"FTA recipients that expect to award more than \$250,000 in FTA funds in prime contracts (excluding transit vehicle purchases) in a Federal fiscal year are required to set three-year goals for DBE participation for this DOT-assisted work."

- 49 C.F.F. 26.45 (a)

A new \$2.5 million radio system for the regional transit system is coming late 2018.

The Phoenix Public Transit Department is currently installing the system, which is used for emergencies and other transit-related data interchange, (together with the new upcoming Computer Aided Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Location system) on both Phoenix and Valley Metro bus fleets, with the goal to begin testing later this year.

The new system replaces the current 14-year old system which at times is glitchy and tough to upgrade because some parts are no longer manufactured.

Think about it in terms of having a 14-year old phone - time to upgrade! Stay tuned for more.



2003 cell phone vs. a 2017 smart phone

# NEW REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM HEADS TO TESTING PHASE



Radio tower

## New radio capabilities

- A backup system for cellular network failures
- A faster system that speeds up communication
- An overall more reliable system that ultimately gives operators and riders a better experience



Future radio system for bus.



Future radio system for operations control center.

# VALLEY METRO WINS AT APTA INTERNATIONAL RAIL RODEO

The 2017 American Public Transportation Association International Rail Rodeo tested the skills of operators and maintainers as they fought for top honors in Baltimore, Maryland in early June.

Valley Metro had multiple teams compete at the event with the maintenance team coming in second place overall, scoring the top spot in the "Wheel Gauge" event.

The combined team of both operators and maintainers landed in seventh place out of 16 international teams.

Congratulations to the winners and to all who participated!



Maintenance Team:  
Michael Dechant  
Luke About  
Alex Caron  
Operators (white polos):  
Travis Nugent  
Rose Ortiz



First Transit and leadership of Amalgamated Transit Union continue to meet to discuss a new collective bargaining agreement. On Tuesday, June 6, it was announced that ATU members voted to authorize a strike, although the city of Phoenix has been informed that both sides have agreed to continue to meet with the presence of a federal mediator after the collective bargaining agreement expires on June 30.

Currently, all bus service is running normally and there is NOT a work stoppage scheduled at this time. First Transit operates 11 local bus routes and one circulator route in Phoenix. Several of the First Transit routes also serve Avondale, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson and Scottsdale.

News will be posted on [phoenix.gov](http://phoenix.gov), [valleymetro.org](http://valleymetro.org) and the following social media channels:

Twitter - @PhoenixMetroBus @CityofPhoenixAZ @ValleyMetro

Facebook - ValleyMetro and CityofPhoenixAZ

Riders also can call Valley Metro Customer Service 602-253-5000.

## IN CASE OF SERVICE INTERRUPTION RIDERS SHOULD CONSIDER:

- Working with employers to arrange carpool or telecommuting options
- Registering for carpool or vanpool at [valleymetro.org](http://valleymetro.org)
- Taking other routes not on the list and/or light rail



FIRST TRANSIT WEST -  
POSSIBLE  
BUS OPERATOR  
WORK STOPPAGE

# JOHNSON JOINS SCOTTSDALE TRANSIT: BRING ON THE DESERT SHE SAYS

Lisa Johnson comes to the city of Scottsdale from Metro Transit in Minneapolis, Minn. However, her career in transit started decades ago.

Lisa started out as a transit information representative more than 20 years ago. Since then, she said she's had the pleasure of working in all aspects of transportation including as a transit supervisor, assistant manager and manager of street operations and most recently assistant director of field operations. Lisa specializes in transit operations and emergency planning.

At Metro Transit in Minneapolis, she coordinated Interstate 35W eight-lane bridge collapse emergency service changes in 2007. She also coordinated transit for the Republican National Convention in 2008 and various other high profile events.

In addition to her work in operations, Lisa oversaw the implementation of the Metro Transit fleet on-board announcement system, the transit signal priority project and the expansion of Metro Transit's real time sign system. Lisa will just miss the 2018 Super Bowl event, but she's excited to join the Scottsdale team.

Lisa says she is thrilled to be working on the expansion of the Scottsdale Trolley system to include two new trolley lines: Cactus Trolley and Airpark Trolley. She also will be working on the new Scottsdale Limited route that is coming soon.

Welcome to the Valley of the Sun, Lisa!



## PHOENIX NAMES NEW BUS RAPID TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR



Phoenix Transit recently added an administrator to introduce bus rapid transit (BRT) under the city's voter-approved Phoenix Transportation 2050 plan (T2050).

Mike James joins the department as the city's first BRT Administrator, after having spent the last four and a half years planning and managing rail and transit corridors in Seattle, which included street car operations and seven new bus rapid transit corridors.

"I am excited to be back in Phoenix and starting a new challenge with public transit. I look forward to working with the team and innovatively developing a new transit mode that our community can be proud of."

James adds the key to success in transit is working with the communities, finding out what their needs are and showing how the project is going to benefit them. His involvement is in everything, from the design of the stations to evaluation of the operational and technological needs of each BRT corridor.

He wants to make sure we introduce a safe, clean, reliable and secure service - another option - that can be used daily to get to work, school and that will help develop and expand local businesses.

James has more than 20 years of transportation experience including previous work with Valley Metro, the city of Mesa and as a consultant in the private sector.

# TENG IS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Congratulations to Kevin Teng!

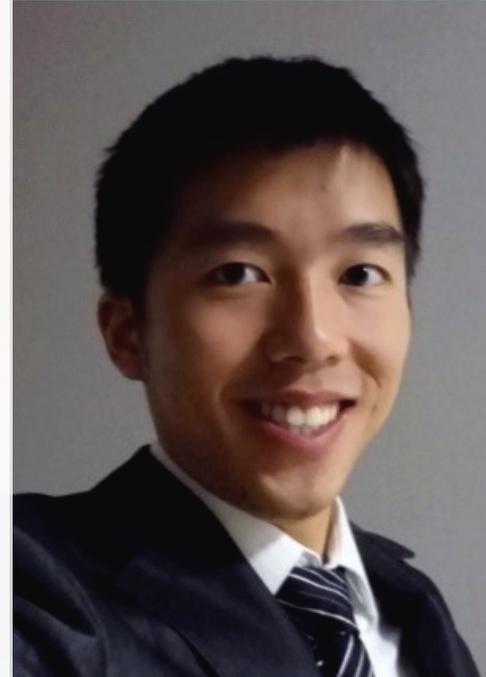
He starts his new position with Phoenix Public Transit Department as principal transit planner on July 10. This is a promotion for Kevin as he's been a planner II for the department since 2014.

Kevin's transit career started when he was a service planning intern with Sound Transit in Seattle. After Sound Transit, Kevin worked for Google as a contractor on Google Maps before moving to Virginia to work for Hampton Roads Transit as a transit service planner II.

Kevin says he's excited to begin this new step in his career. He'll be leading a group of talented and passionate transit planners with a mission, he says, to continue improving our transit network to be more efficient, reliable and friendly for our riders. He looks forward to the many new transit projects coming up including additional light rail miles and introducing bus rapid transit to the Valley.

He adds that it's motivating and thrilling to have the opportunity to continue making improvements and refinements to the fixed local route system to support our evolving high capacity transit system.

"I see no better place to continue my transit career than here in Phoenix alongside so many talented transit professionals," says Kevin.



If you need this newsletter in another format, please contact us.

## EYE ON TRANSIT NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 6

Phoenix Final Four fans line up for buses to championship game in Glendale.



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