



City of Phoenix
Public Transit Department

Eye on Transit

Issue #5 | March 2017



ASU students present their transit innovations
at the Friends of Transit conference.

More on p. 4



Contents

- 3 Transit is Community
- 4 Friends of Transit
- 6 Final Four in Phoenix
- 7 Event Transit Pass
- 8 Good News for Riders
- 9 Transportation Expo
- 10 Transit Welcomes Renee
- 11 DBE Goal Public Hearing
- 12 Light Rail Gets Awards
- 13 Networking Event
- 14 Neighborhood Clean Up
- 15 Retirement
- 16 South Mountain Freeway
- 17 Contact Us



Central Ave

Transit is about community



For college basketball fans it's March Madness – and that madness has spread to the Valley this year as we host the Final Four.

To ensure the thousands of visitors have an easy time navigating the Valley this weekend, we're all hard at work preparing light rail and bus services so fans can get to the games, concerts and other activities. However, preparing for this basketball frenzy doesn't mean we haven't forgotten our everyday riders, because we are all hard at work to improve their transit experience sooner rather than later.

Here are some of this year's Transit wins and upcoming improvements:

- The Northwest Light Rail Extension celebrated its first year of service on March 19, and now adds more than 5,000 daily riders to light rail.
- Thanks to Phoenix's voter-approved Transportation 2050 plan (T2050), we continue the expansion of bus service to match light rail hours seven days a week starting April 24.
- Phoenix is in the final steps of starting a new contract to add more bus shelters across the city – thanks to T2050.
- Friends of Transit continues their support for the future of transit in the Valley with the student innovative transit ideas competition (read more on page 4).

All these accomplishments are thanks to our citizens who take the time to comment and turn ideas into action. Take for example the 19th North Community Street Clean Up in February, which recruited more than 300 community members to get in the trenches and pick up litter along 19th Ave from Bethany Home Road to Dunlap Road. Transit really means community and it has the power to do many good things when we work together. Let's continue sharing these stories. Keep sending us your latest news and thanks to all who continue to contribute to Eye on Transit. Enjoy the Final Four event and take transit to all the festivities!

Maria Hyatt, Phoenix Public Transit Director

A photograph of four people (two men and two women) standing together at a conference. They are all smiling and wearing lanyards with name tags. The woman in the center is holding a large board game box with transit-related icons. The man on the far right is wearing a grey hat and colorful patterned pants. The background is dark with some blue lighting.

"TRAN - SANITY" sweeps FOT annual conference

"The future of transit continues to be a vital part of our transportation choices in the Valley and by giving our youth the opportunity to present their innovative transit ideas, we succeed in creating a bright and promising transit future."

- Yvonne R. Hunter, Friends of Transit Chair

Friends of Transit educates the public on the importance and benefits of a well-designed and accessible mass transit system.

At the 15th Annual Friends of Transit Conference on Feb. 17, many friends of transit were educated by student innovation.

Three Arizona State University student teams presented their transit ideas and the attendees voted to decide the winners. The top award of \$2,000 and bragging rights

went to team Tran – Sanity with three members; Diego Miranda - a classical guitar performance graduate student, Jennifer Sz-Jin Wu - a business communication senior and Srishti Bhalla - an industrial design senior.

The group spoke about ideas for improving upon the existing transit system including having better signage in transit areas and dedicating light rail cars just for bikes.

Group members based their presentation on what they saw while taking various trips around the

city. The proposed rider improvements focused on a healthier, easier and friendlier transit experience.

Congratulations to all students who participated!

"Stepping into the shoes of first time and every day transit users helped us with our ideas"

- "Tran-Sanity"

Phoenix is hosting fans and visitors for the NCAA Final Four Basketball Championship March 31 to April 3. Downtown events include Final Four Fan Fest at the Phoenix Convention Center and March Madness Music Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park. Final Four games are at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

Valley Metro Rail is connecting fans and visitors to downtown Phoenix with three-car trains and ambassadors will help with wayfinding. Special bus service will connect fans to University of Phoenix Stadium from 19th Ave/Montebello park-and-ride for games on March 31, April 1 and April 3. Regular fare is required.

***NCAA Final Four
Phoenix 2017
March 31 - April 3***

Find it all here:
Valley Metro planning valleymetro.org/finalfour
To volunteer, email sadames@valleymetro.org
NCAA Clear Bag Policy phoenixfinalfour.com/4tips
City of Phoenix phoenix.gov/finalfour

Phoenix departments, Valley cities and various partners, like Valley Metro, have been working around the clock to make sure this event is a success for all. Enjoy the excitement of March Madness!

Special Event Transit Pass

Encourages groups visiting the Valley to use transit

The new special event pass program kicked off March 1, 2017 and provides flexibility in pricing and costs. The program also avoids unnecessary costs for sponsoring organizations and encourages participating visitors to use our regional transit system.

The program works like this:

- Provides Platinum Pass smart cards to organizations in the Valley for a multiple day event
- Pricing is like the current multi-day passes offered
- Participating organizations will be billed based on actual pass usage
- A maximum cost will be based on the length and logistics of each particular event



Good News for Riders Buying a Pass on the Bus

Starting June 1, 2017, the additional \$2 charge to purchase a pass on the bus will be eliminated.

Efforts have been made to make transit passes more widely available through the expanded retail outlet network and online orders. However, those without easy access to retail outlets or online order opportunities often must buy their transit pass on the bus and pay an additional \$2 for a \$4 All-Day pass, making the onboard pass purchase \$6.

The change was made after citizens brought the issue to Valley Metro's Board and to Phoenix's Citizens Transportation Commission and City Council.

The Arizona Department of Transportation and partner agencies including Phoenix Public Transit, Aviation, Street Transportation departments and Valley Metro hosted the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Transportation Expo March 16 at the Glendale Civic Center.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to learn about future projects, build new relationships with businesses, make two-minute pitches to prime contractors and agency buyers and network to improve their company's visibility.

Presentation speakers included Transportation Director for Maricopa Association of Governments Eric Anderson, ADOT Deputy State Engineer for Statewide Operations Jesse Gutierrez, Phoenix Public Transit Director Maria Hyatt, Phoenix City Engineer / Street Transportation Assistant Director Kini Knudson, Valley Metro CEO Scott Smith and from the Office of the Governor Barry Wong.

Educational sessions were available for attendees to learn more about marketing, websites and navigating public procurement websites.



Transportation Expo



Welcome to Public Transit, Renee!

The Public Transit Department has a new Equal Opportunity Specialist in the Facilities and Oversight Division. Renee Standing tree started on Feb. 13 replacing the recently retired Susan Sweeden.

Renee oversees the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. She monitors the department, contractors and subrecipients for compliance with all applicable DBE requirements.

The objective of the DBE program is to create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) assisted contracts.

One of the first tasks on Renee's desk is spearheading the development of the department's new Federal Transit Administration Triennial DBE Goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2018 - 2020. (Check out flyer on p.11)

She will be conducting DBE training workshops, outreach, providing applicable DBE contract clauses and building community relationships to help us carry out our vision of ensuring small businesses have an equal opportunity to obtain work on our regional transit projects.

Prior to coming to the Public Transit Department, Renee served as the Phoenix Housing Department's Davis-Bacon Compliance Officer. Renee has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, and in her spare time is very active in her garden and traveling.



To contact Renee:
(602) 534-2667

Renee.Standing.Tree@phoenix.gov



City of Phoenix

PUBLIC TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

WE NEED YOUR INPUT JUNE 7!

It's time to update our triennial Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for federal fiscal years 2018-2020.

- Provide input on the draft goal.
- Learn about upcoming Federal Transit Administration funded projects.

See you there!



June 7, 2017

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix
Conference Room 7A

RSVP Eventbrite: DBE Triennial
Contact: Renee (602) 534-2667

Congratulations to all involved in making the Northwest Light Rail Extension (NWE) a reality. All that hard work and planning is being recognized as Northwest Extension has been selected for two prestigious awards.

The Associated General Contractors of America selected NWE Phase I as the recipient of the 2017 Alliant Build America Award in the Highway and Transportation New category. The award recognizes the success of this construction project in maintaining access to neighborhoods, businesses and schools while moving major utilities in a dense urban community.

The second award Northwest Extension received is the Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award. This was due to the collaboration between the construction contractor Sundt/Stacy and Witbeck Joint Venture, Valley Metro, city of Phoenix, third party utility companies and community partners.

Light rail has helped transform the Phoenix transit landscape by bringing in new business, energy and economic development. Most importantly it provides another option for thousands of residents connecting to jobs, school, appointments and entertainment throughout the Valley.

The light rail extension includes three new stations, public art and connects various neighborhoods and businesses. The \$327 million project started in Jan. 2013 and was completed in March 2016 (accelerated by seven years). Phase II of Northwest Extension will cross Interstate 17 and extend to Metrocenter Mall with an anticipated completion date of 2023.

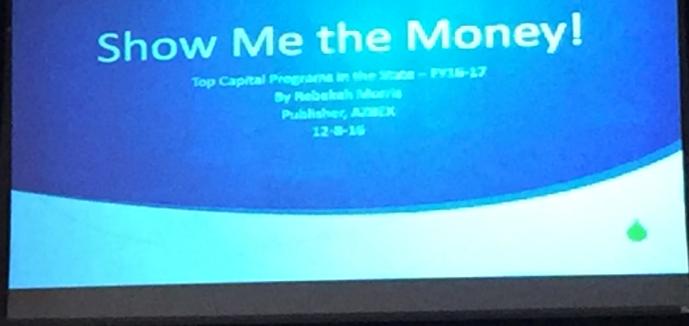


*Northwest
Light Rail
Extension
Receives
National and
Partnership
Awards*



Photo credit: Valley Metro Flickr

Construction Networking



Various Phoenix departments including Phoenix Public Transit, the Arizona Builder's Exchange and other valley cities participated in the 27th *Fueling the Local Economy* Construction Networking Event. Phoenix City Engineer and Street Transportation Assistant Director Kini Knudsen spoke about upcoming Phoenix capital improvement projects.

Event attendees met key prime contractors, listened to discussions about future construction projects and public bidding opportunities around the Valley and just networked. Guests were admitted for free with donation of one canned food item for a community food drive.





19 North, a neighborhood association working to revitalize the corridor along the Northwest Extension on 19th Avenue, organized a "Love Our Community" event in February. Phoenix Police, various Phoenix departments, Mayor Stanton, Councilmen Daniel Valenzuela and Michael Nowakowski, Valley Metro and various organizations recruited more than 300 volunteers to pitch in and clean up the neighborhood.

After the cleanup, more than 700 people including volunteers and area residents enjoyed a community festival.

19 North



CLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD

Congratulations Madeline!



Scottsdale Transportation Planning and Transit Operations Manager Madeline Clemann just retired Feb 17, 2017. Since the start of her career with Scottsdale in 2002, Clemann's greatest satisfaction has come from working to significantly improve Scottsdale's free trolley system.

Under her direction, Scottsdale increased hours of operation and trip frequency, brought in more comfortable and fuel-efficient buses and added two new routes (and potentially a third still under consideration). She also coordinated a \$24 million project to build four new downtown parking garages.

Before coming to Arizona, Clemann worked on projects that spanned three states, five counties and 21 cities, including managing the first Interstate 90 corridor light rail alignment alternatives analysis for Seattle's Sound Transit. The resulting \$3.7 billion, 14 mile East Link Extension is now under construction and scheduled to be completed by 2023.

When congratulated on all her accomplishments Madeline says, "I never accomplished anything completely by myself, and I've entered all projects with the can-do attitude I learned from being in Girl Scouts all my life."

-Madeline Clemann

The start of 2017 marks the beginning of major construction activity in multiple locations on the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway. The work includes setting foundations for several bridges, widening eastbound lanes of Pecos Road to help traffic flow during construction and creating access roads at the freeway's future interchange with Interstate 10 in the west Valley.

Crews are building drainage structures and roadway embankments, relocating utilities and extending HOV lanes west from the Loop 202 (Santan Freeway).

The 22-mile freeway, anticipated to open late 2019, will provide a long-planned direct link between the east and west Valley and a much-needed alternative to I-10 through downtown Phoenix. Approved by Maricopa County voters in 1985 and again in 2004 as part of a comprehensive regional transportation plan, the South Mountain Freeway will complete the Loop 202 and Loop 101 freeway system in the Valley.

Visit SouthMountainFreeway.com to view the new flyover video simulation, current construction activities, maps, schedules and community events - and stay tuned for how transit will use this freeway once completed.



phoenix.gov/publictransit
phoenix.gov/T2050

Metrocenter

Transit Center

If you need Eye on Transit in another format, please contact us.

Eye on Transit newsletter - Issue 5

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