

OCTOBER 2024

ISSUE 07

# EN ROUTE

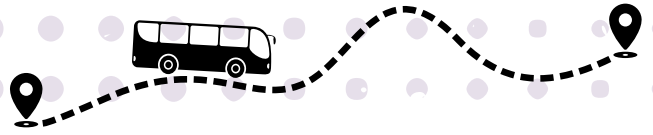
A PHOENIX PUBLIC TRANSIT  
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



**City of Phoenix**  
Public Transit Department



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Public Transit Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you all had a great summer! Cooler weather is upon us, but the work does not stop. Over the last several months, the Phoenix Public Transit Department has accomplished much. The first group of hybrid-electric buses hit the road, our shade goal at bus stops is on track, and we celebrated the topping out of the east tower of the new Central Station.

As we near the end of the year, I am proud of the work the department has done and will continue to do to improve public transit in Phoenix. Soon, there will be more low- and zero-emissions buses on the streets, more light rail lines available to passengers, and a downtown Greg Stanton Central Station hub for riders to access multiple modes of transit.

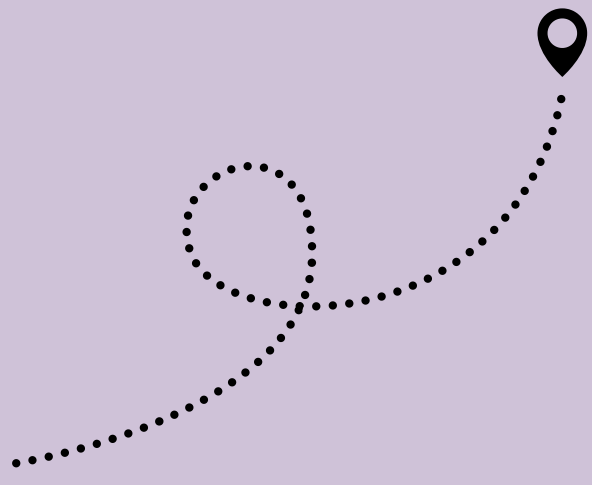
We are en route to getting folks to where they need to go – all throughout Phoenix!

Sincerely,



*Jesús Sapien*

**Director, Public Transit**





# TRANSIT UPDATES

## Availability and Disparity Study

Public Transit's Equal Opportunity Division has begun an Availability and Disparity Study on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program. Mason Tillman Associates will conduct this study and collect feedback from small, local, disadvantaged businesses in Phoenix. Two community meetings were held in October, where participants learned about the study's methodology. [Learn more.](#)



## Central Station Naming

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, Mayor Kate Gallego, along with elected officials and the Community and Economic Development department, celebrated the [naming of the Greg Stanton Central Station](#) in downtown Phoenix.

## Phoenix Receives \$12.9 Million Congestion Relief Grant

The Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration has awarded the Phoenix Public Transit Department a grant to help with congestion mitigation in the city. The grant will fund Project EASE (Effective Access Solutions for Easing Congestion), a three-pronged congestion mitigation initiative that will implement new microtransit



([a flexible, on-demand transit option](#)) zones, augment existing commuter bus service, and integrate services into the Valley Metro app. Learn more: <https://www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/public-transit/3257>





## Capitol Extension (CAPEX) Project

The Capitol Extension was modified due to recent legislation restricting light rail's proximity to the State Capitol. The project team has begun the environmental evaluation as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Check out this [project fact sheet](#) for details.



## South Central/Downtown Hub

Much progress has been made on the South Central/ Downtown Hub light rail extension. Most rail track has been laid and art projects have started to go up. With the naming of Central Station to the Greg Stanton Central Station at the beginning of the month – the city expects to start revenue service Summer 2025.

## Small Business Financial Assistance Program (SBFAP)

The SBFAP was crafted as a pilot program to provide direct financial support, through grant funding, to small, locally owned businesses immediately accessible from the light rail construction corridor. The purpose of the funding is to help offset business operations expenses and support long-term business retention. The Phoenix Community Development Investment Corporation (PCDIC) provides Tier I funding, and Transportation 2050 (T2050), provides Tier II funding. All remaining Tier I funds have been distributed to businesses along the South Central light rail corridor. The SBFAP will continue to accept completed Tier II applications through December 31, 2024, in alignment with the pilot program's plan, available funding, and the significant completion of construction. Since inception of the program in March 2021, \$1,574,161 in grant funds have been distributed to businesses in the South Central, Downtown, and Northwest Phase II light rail corridors.







## Hybrid Buses on the Road

Did you see the [news](#)? There are now 20 hybrid-electric buses on the road! These buses will help us achieve our goal of a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040. [Learn more](#) about the 2040 goal and how we plan on getting there.



## Bus Stop Shade Goal

With record heat this year, our facilities team continues working hard to provide shade at bus stops. On track with our goal of 80 shade installations per year, more than [75 percent](#) of all bus stops in Phoenix currently have shade. Check out this coverage from [Arizona's Family!](#)



## Transportation 2050 Annual Progress Report

The Fiscal Year 2024 T2050 Annual Report is now available! Learn more about the city's efforts to stay on track with our goals. Read the report, [here](#).



# INTRODUCING THE NEW WAY TO PAY



The new fare system is here! Riders now have the option of using the [Valley Metro app](#) or purchasing a reloadable Copper Card as valid fare.

This Smart Fare creates a more efficient rider experience. Beginning October 28, paper passes will be replaced with new forms of fare. Riders can purchase a Copper Card at numerous locations including retail stores and transit centers across the region. Fare options within the Valley Metro app have also been expanded. Learn all about smart fare, [here](#).



## Plaza19 Family Festival Truck-and-Treat

In partnership with the City of Phoenix, Valley Metro hosted the Plaza19 Family Festival Truck-and-Treat. The community toured vehicles including public transit vehicles, enjoyed family activities and discovered their community space. Phoenix Public Transit Public Information staff tabled at the event and spoke with community members and partners.



# FROM OUR PARTNERS



## Bulk Trash by Appointment

Phoenix's appointment-based bulk trash program has begun! The [online scheduling portal](#) is open, and customers must schedule an appointment for all bulk trash collection from this point forward (up to four times annually). Remember that dates surrounding Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day will be blocked out and appointments will be unavailable on those dates. This will reduce blight in the street as you celebrate the holidays with loved ones. [Learn more about the new program.](#)

## Water Services

In August, the Watershed Management Group and the City of Phoenix Water Services Department partnered up for a five-part virtual series called Hydrate the Valley, to inform the community about what sustainable living can look like in the Sonoran Desert. Each course is now available online to help transform your yard, save water, and embrace native plants.

- Episode 1: [Designing a Water Harvesting Landscape](#)
- Episode 2: [Selecting Native Plants for Multiple Benefits](#)
- Episode 3: [Vegetable Gardening in the Low Desert](#)
- Episode 4: [Cultivating Native Edibles](#)
- Episode 5: [Native Landscape Care](#)



## Diwali (Festival of Lights)

Join the Human Relations Commission and the Equal Opportunity Department at the Diwali (Festival of Lights). Come experience the beauty of India's unique culture, as it is a fantastic way to build cultural awareness and appreciation while also providing a fun and educational experience for the entire family. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

**Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**1 – 3 pm**

**Paradise Valley Park**

**17642 N. 40th St. Phoenix, AZ 85032**







# PUBLIC TRANSIT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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