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ISSUE 05

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A PHOENIX PUBLIC TRANSIT
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



City of Phoenix
Public Transit Department

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Public Transit Friends and Colleagues,

We're already running deep into 2024! Last year was a busy year for the Phoenix Public Transit Department. We worked to provide seamless service through several major projects including several LARGE sporting events. Thousands of football fans used public transit to get to and from the big Super Bowl 57 game and all the festivities around the Valley. And in the Fall, the Arizona Diamondbacks brought the World Series back to the desert leading to an increase in light rail passengers. What a rush of sports adrenaline!

We have moved full speed ahead into 2024 with the grand opening of the Northwest Extension II light rail project. On January 27, more than 2,000 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Thelda Williams Transit Center (near the former Metrocenter Mall) and rode the brand-new light rail extension. It was a successful event with many members of our riding public, local stakeholders, and federal transit partners in attendance.

There are many events and projects to look forward to this year including providing public transit service for our customers during the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four, adding low-emissions hybrid buses to our fleet, and high-capacity transit project planning.

We continue to work diligently towards our goals outlined in the [Transportation 2050](#) program, and to serve our riders with reliable public transit options to get where they need to go.

Thank you for an exciting 2023 and we look forward to sharing more milestones with you this year.



Jesús Sapien

Director, Public Transit

PROJECT UPDATES



NORTHWEST EXTENSION PHASE II

The [Northwest Extension Phase II](#) is officially open to the public! On Jan. 27, 2024, more than 2,000 people gathered at the new Thelda Williams Transit Center to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting. This project adds 1.6 miles of light rail service from 19th Avenue/Dunlap Avenue, adding three stops, including a rail-only bridge over the I-17, to the elevated Metro Parkway station. There you will also find the new Thelda Williams Transit center that serves bus service routes 27, 35, 90, 106, and the I-17 RAPID. The transit center also has a four-story park-and-ride garage with direct access to the light rail station. The NWEll connects the East Valley and Downtown Phoenix to the Metrocenter community, creating greater access to jobs, entertainment, shopping centers and much more! Check out this recap [video](#) and all great photo coverage on X (formerly Twitter) [@PhoenixMetroBus](#) and [@ValleyMetro](#).

SOUTH CENTRAL EXTENSION/ DOWNTOWN HUB

The SCE/DH project is moving right along! Tracks have been laid along most of the light rail extension, which is expected to be completed in 2025. For additional news on the latest updates, download the Valley Metro Construct VM app or visit, valleymetro.org/southcentral.



FUTURE HIGH-CAPACITY PUBLIC TRANSIT PUBLIC OUTREACH

Valley Metro and Phoenix Public Transit held three public meetings to obtain input on potential future high-capacity transit projects in Phoenix. Attendees received information and updates on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the light rail [Capitol Extension \(CAPEX\)](#), [West Phoenix High-Capacity Alternatives Analysis](#), [I-10 West](#) Transit Oriented Communities, and other projects. The public had the opportunity to provide feedback, meet directly with project leaders, and find out how they can continue participating throughout the process.



[Learn more: valleymetro.org/projects](https://valleymetro.org/projects)



BUS SHELTER INSTALLATIONS

It's getting shady out there! In the past fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Phoenix Public Transit Department installed 100 new bus stop shade structures. Phoenix plans to install at least 80 new structures each year over the next five fiscal years. Follow us @PhoenixMetroBus and check out the hashtag #T2050 on X to see our new bus shelter social media campaign.

HYBRID BUSES COMING SOON

After City Council approval, the Public Transit Department purchased 20 new hybrid electric buses to add towards the goal of working towards a zero-emissions fleet. We're excited to share that the first New Flyer hybrid bus has arrived in Phoenix. The bus is expected to hit the road later this year after road tests and bus driver / safety trainings take place – stay tuned!



T2050 ANNUAL REPORT

For more updates and where we are on the Transportation 2050 program progress, check out our easy-to-read, highly visual T2050 annual progress report, [here](#).

COMING SOON

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TRANSITION



Effective Monday, July 1, 2024, the City's Alternative Transportation Programs (ATP) will transition to Valley Metro's [RideChoice](#) program for employment, medical/dialysis transportation, and Senior and ADA Cab programs. Phoenix is excited to partner with Valley Metro to continue meeting these transportation needs. The AT programs will transition to RideChoice, providing additional access to a large network of rideshare transportation providers including Uber, Lyft, taxicabs, and other wheelchair-accessible vehicles. Dial-a-Ride service will be unaffected.

NCAA FINAL FOUR



The [NCAA Final Four](#) returns to the Valley with festivities kicking off April 5 at Margaret T. Hance Park. Game days are April 6 and 8 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale. Phoenix Public Transit will provide bus bridging and support buses to assist Valley Metro light rail.

WEST TRANSIT FACILITY BUS SERVICES



In Spring 2024, Phoenix Public Transit will release a request for proposals on bus service operating out of the West Transit facility. The current contract serves about one-third of all Phoenix service and is set to expire June 30, 2025.

Visit us at: phoenix.gov/publictransit

FROM OUR PARTNERS



Street Transportation Department

No matter how you walk, ride or roll around the city, scan the street for wheels and feet. We share the roads and sidewalks of Phoenix with people who all want to get to their destination safely. Look out for one another by staying alert at all times.

Metro District TOC Project Workshop

The power of *connection*.

Join your neighbors at this community workshop to help shape a plan for a more connected and healthier community for everyone.

Family Friendly Event!



Learn more and RSVP here!
Phoenix.gov/NWEII



**Feb 26
thru
Mar 2nd**

Location:

**Cortez High School
8828 N. 31st Avenue
Phoenix, AZ, 85051**

Planning and Development Department

Metro District Transit Oriented Community

The TOC working group is hosting a five-day workshop series for the community in the Metro District area (Northwest Extension). These workshops will teach the public about compact, walkable communities centered around transit.

Workshops begin Monday, Feb. 26 – Saturday, March 2. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

For details, visit: phoenix.gov/NWEII.



ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix

Discover the ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix program, a vital statewide workforce development network dedicated to empowering employers and job seekers alike. The program specializes in helping businesses recruit, nurture, and retain top talent while providing job seekers with the essential services and resources to pursue rewarding career opportunities.

Explore the opportunities today at investinphoenix.com/workforce.



West Phoenix High-Capacity Transit Alternatives Analysis

Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix are hosting the fourth round of public meetings to discuss and receive feedback on the alternative modes and routes chosen to bring high-capacity transit into the Maryvale area. There will be two in-person meetings on Wednesday, Feb. 28 and Thursday, Feb. 29 and one virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 6. For location and details, visit: valleymetro.org/westphoenix



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