

# EN ROUTE

A PHOENIX PUBLIC TRANSIT  
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 6, 2023



WINTER 2023 | ISSUE 04

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Public transit friends and colleagues,

Welcome to 2023 and a new issue of *En Route*, the fast lane publication to stay up-to-date on all things transit. We accomplished many milestones last year that will help shape the future of Phoenix's public transit system, and we hope to do the same this new year. Some exciting updates include:

Our sixth Transportation 2050 (T2050) annual progress report is available and includes major updates for bus, light rail, and street improvements. As a component of T2050 and after receiving approval from the Phoenix City Council for the 35th Ave/Van Buren corridor, Bus Rapid Transit public engagement opportunities will be upcoming this year. A new Neighborhood Transit Study to evaluate Phoenix's current neighborhood circulator services also is underway.

In addition, Phoenix Public Transit is working full speed ahead into 2023 with multiple grants awarded from the Federal Transit Administration. Phoenix received a \$16.3 million grant for greener buses and supporting infrastructure, a \$1 million grant to help implement the South Central/Downtown Hub light rail extension's Transit-Oriented Development Community plan, plus a \$514,045 grant to conduct a west Phoenix High Capacity Transit study. Most recently, Phoenix City Council voted to transition the City's heavy-duty bus fleet to zero-emission models by 2040. More to come on all of this!

Our goal for 2023 is to continue making improvements and advancements to our fleet and infrastructure. We are motivated to continue serving our riders with efficient and safe services.

We hope you've had a great start to 2023! Until the next issue, stay safe *en route* to your next destination!

Jesús Sapien, Phoenix Public Transit Director



# PROJECT UPDATES

## Transportation 2050

### New T2050 Annual Progress Report Available

The City of Phoenix voter-approved [Transportation 2050 \(T2050\)](#) initiative expands investment in street and transit improvements through the year 2050. Developed by a citizen-led committee of transportation experts and community advocates, the plan will dramatically expand Phoenix's investments in the city's streets, bus service, and light rail system.

Check out the latest updates at the [T2050 annual progress reports page](#).

[View the new annual report here.](#)



### Full Speed Ahead

Phoenix Public Transit teams continue working on Transportation 2050 (T2050) projects, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and a Neighborhood Transit Study (NTS).

Initial design elements are underway for the City's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor along 35th Avenue and Van Buren Street. To continue engaging the community in the process, we've launched a new 'Meet Phoenix BRT' blog site at [meetphoenixbrt.com](#). The site hosts a series of blogs, infographics, and the latest BRT program information.

Phoenix Public Transit is also working on a Neighborhood Transit Study (NTS) to get feedback from the community on existing neighborhood circulator routes. The first phase of the study will focus on the downtown circulator known as the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH).

A new web page on [phoenix.gov/neighborhoodtransit](#) hosts plenty of information about neighborhood transit, how it is used, and goals of the study. The page also includes an interactive [Story Map](#) to view the study area and public comments received.

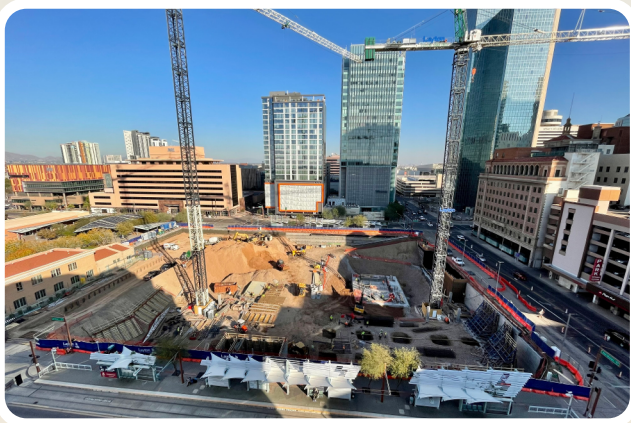
More exciting things are coming for BRT and NTS!



# Light Rail

## South Central Extension/Downtown Hub is Halfway to the Goal Line

After more than 1.5 million hours of work from construction crews, the [South Central Extension/Downtown Hub](#) light rail project is now 50 percent complete. With new utilities upgraded throughout most of the project area, track installation and station construction continue throughout the corridor. Nearly 5,000 feet of track has been installed, including 13 pieces of [special trackwork](#). [Read more about this milestone.](#)

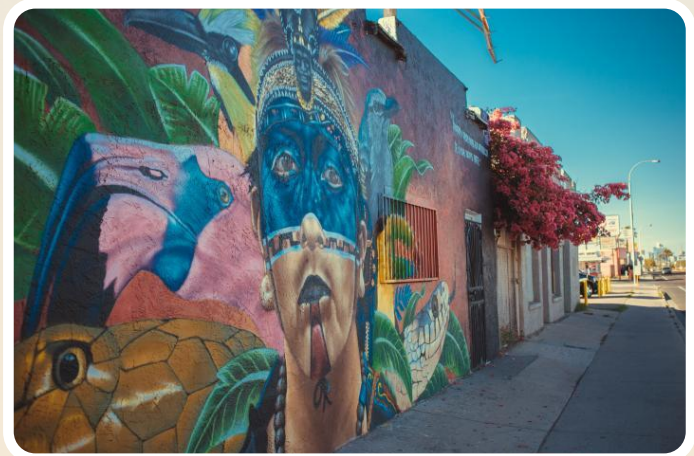


## Central Station

The Central Station redevelopment project is making headway! Two tower cranes were recently installed as construction progresses. The team is close to achieving a “bottoming out”, where the excavation will be complete and building the underground parking structure can begin. Stay tuned for more to come in 2023!

## New Art Program for South Central Corridor

Downtown and South Phoenix residents will soon enjoy artistic and cultural enrichment to reflect the community and complement construction of the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project. Through 2024, Valley Metro will [fund a total of \\$90,000 in grants](#) to local community organizations who will facilitate arts and culture projects. [Read more about the program.](#)



## Northwest Extensions Phase II

Construction continues for Northwest Extension Phase II. At Metrocenter Mall, the first elevated station for light rail is completed! [Read more about this milestone.](#) Visit [Northwest Extension Phase II | Valley Metro](#) to stay in the loop on project updates.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## Phoenix is Full Speed Ahead on Zero Emission Bus Fleet

Phoenix Public Transit is paving the road towards a zero-emission bus fleet. On December 14, the Phoenix City Council voted to support the department's plan to transition the City's heavy-duty bus fleet to zero-emission models by 2040. This means that Public Transit staff has the green light to move forward with purchasing newer technology buses and evaluating future infrastructure needs. Read more in the [Phoenix Newsroom](#).

## Phoenix Receives \$1 Million Grant for South Central Light Rail Development

The City of Phoenix received a [\\$1 million grant](#) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to help implement the South Central/Downtown Hub light rail extension Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Community plan. The Phoenix project is one of 19 nationwide projects to receive a portion of the [\\$13.1 million awarded](#) in 14 states. The grant is another step forward in Phoenix continuing to build modern infrastructure with an equitable future. Read more in the [Phoenix Newsroom](#).

## Phoenix Public Transit Receives Grant to Study New West Valley Transit Mode

Phoenix Public Transit was awarded a \$514,045 grant from the Federal Transit Administration's American Rescue Plan Route Planning Restoration Program. This funding will be used to conduct a west Phoenix High Capacity Transit (HCT) study that will provide a recommendation for transit modes that can provide a higher level of rider capacity and efficiency.

Read more in the [Phoenix Newsroom](#).

## Phoenix Public Transit Secures \$16 Million Green Bus and Infrastructure Grant

The Federal Transit Administration awarded the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department a \$16.3 million grant for greener (low and no emissions) buses and supporting infrastructure. The grant is made available through the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) under the highly competitive [Low-No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities](#) grant programs. The programs' goal is to support the transition of the nation's fleet to more energy efficient and cleaner transit vehicles. Read more in the [Phoenix Newsroom](#).



## Phoenix Meets Houston Bus Rapid Transit

The Phoenix Public Transit team and a Phoenix delegation visited Houston, Texas in December to check out Houston's bus rapid transit system. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Vice Mayor Laura Pastor, Councilmember Ann O'Brien, and Councilmember Yassamin Ansari were welcomed by city of Houston delegation, including Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. The visit included riding their bus rapid transit system, METRORapid.

## ADOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) & Small Business Expo

ADOT held the annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) & Small Business Transportation Expo on August 10 and December 6-7. The virtual public outreach event draws hundreds of attendees and contractors representing construction, professional services, and goods and services entities. Valley Metro and City of Phoenix staff from the Public Transit, Aviation, and Equal Opportunity Departments assisted ADOT with planning, coordinating, and hosting the event.

## Holiday Festival and Resource Fair

Phoenix Councilmember Yassamin Ansari hosted the inaugural Jolly Jamboree on December 15, 2022. The holiday festival featured a resource fair focused on health, jobs and housing – connecting residents to a multitude of resources and services that the city of Phoenix and local partner organizations have to offer. Phoenix Public Transit staff supported the event by handing out informational flyers, including job recruitments, giveaways and promoting the Valley Metro app.



## Service Changes

Valley Metro service changes went into effect October 24. Phoenix's service changes include route extensions on **Rt. 43 - 43rd Ave** and **Rt. 77 - Baseline Rd.**

# SUPER BOWL LVII IN PHX

Stay up to date on resources and the latest updates for Super Bowl LVII by visiting [Phoenix.gov/Superbowl!](https://Phoenix.gov/Superbowl!)

Current bus and light rail service updates:

- Expanded Glendale bus service on Game Day:
  - Route 60 (Bethany Home Rd)
  - Route 70 (Glendale Rd)
  - Route 83 (83rd Ave)
- Staged buses downtown for:
  - Event ingress/egress
  - Light rail assistance
- Increase light rail service February 8–12 using 3-car trains at 15–20-minute frequencies with evening special event service
  - 3-car trains have the capacity to move 570 riders
- Extend light rail service to 2 a.m.



## Mobile Fare is Coming!

Have you seen new purple fare readers as you step onto a Valley Metro bus or light rail station? Phoenix Public Transit and Valley Metro are working together to upgrade the entire fare system as part of the [Fare Collection System Modernization Project](#). [Pardon our progress](#) as fare reader installation continues. To view the timeline and learn more about the project visit [valleymetro.org/faretechnology](https://valleymetro.org/faretechnology).





# PARTNER-SUBMITTED CONTENT

## Phoenix Street Transportation Department

*Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet* is a series of public service announcements aimed at reminding all road users of the duty to look out for one another. Brief reminders will air before traffic reports on the radio and will also be featured on Google and Facebook.

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department received a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to cover the cost of the safety campaign, which is part of the city's [Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan](#).

Whether you walk, ride or roll, scan the street for wheels & feet



## Phoenix Water Services Department

Arizona Water industry experts united at the Phoenix Water Forum in early December. The panel discussed municipal sustainability in infrastructure and the importance of water conservation. Conservation is more vital than ever when dealing with the consequences of a historic drought and shortages. The City of Phoenix is still under a Stage 1 Water Alert and continuously looking for ways to conserve water during the drought. To view the panel discussion or to learn more about the steps the City of Phoenix has taken to conserve water, visit [phoenix.gov/drought](http://phoenix.gov/drought).



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[PHOENIX.GOV/PUBLICTRANSIT](https://PHOENIX.GOV/PUBLICTRANSIT)

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