



City of Phoenix
PUBLIC TRANSIT DEPARTMENT



Fall 2019

Eye on Transit



Message from the director:

Welcome to the fall 2019 edition of Eye on Transit, the Phoenix Public Transit Department's newsletter with a snapshot of the latest transit issues in our region.

Fiscal year 2018-2019 has been a dynamic year in transit, both across the country and locally. With the recent rejection of Proposition 105, which would have halted Phoenix's plans for multiple light rail extensions, voters reaffirmed their commitment and investment in public transit, which benefits Phoenix and the overall region.

Here at Phoenix Public Transit, we have many projects in the works, including evaluating new fare collection systems in a joint effort with Valley Metro, a private Central Station redevelopment project and continuing our Transportation 2050 goals.

As the calendar year comes to an end, we remain dedicated to providing a positive customer service experience to all riders and keeping our community connected to what's going on in transit.

For that to happen, it is important we continue working directly with our community and partners. So make this your newsletter, too - send us content ideas, including your accomplishments and key projects and we'll be sure to share. Email Athena Sanchez at Athena.Sanchez@Phoenix.gov and include a brief summary and an image.

Thanks to our partners who keep transit moving in the right direction, and here's to many more successes in 2020 - it's right around the corner!



Jesus Sapien
Phoenix Public Transit Director

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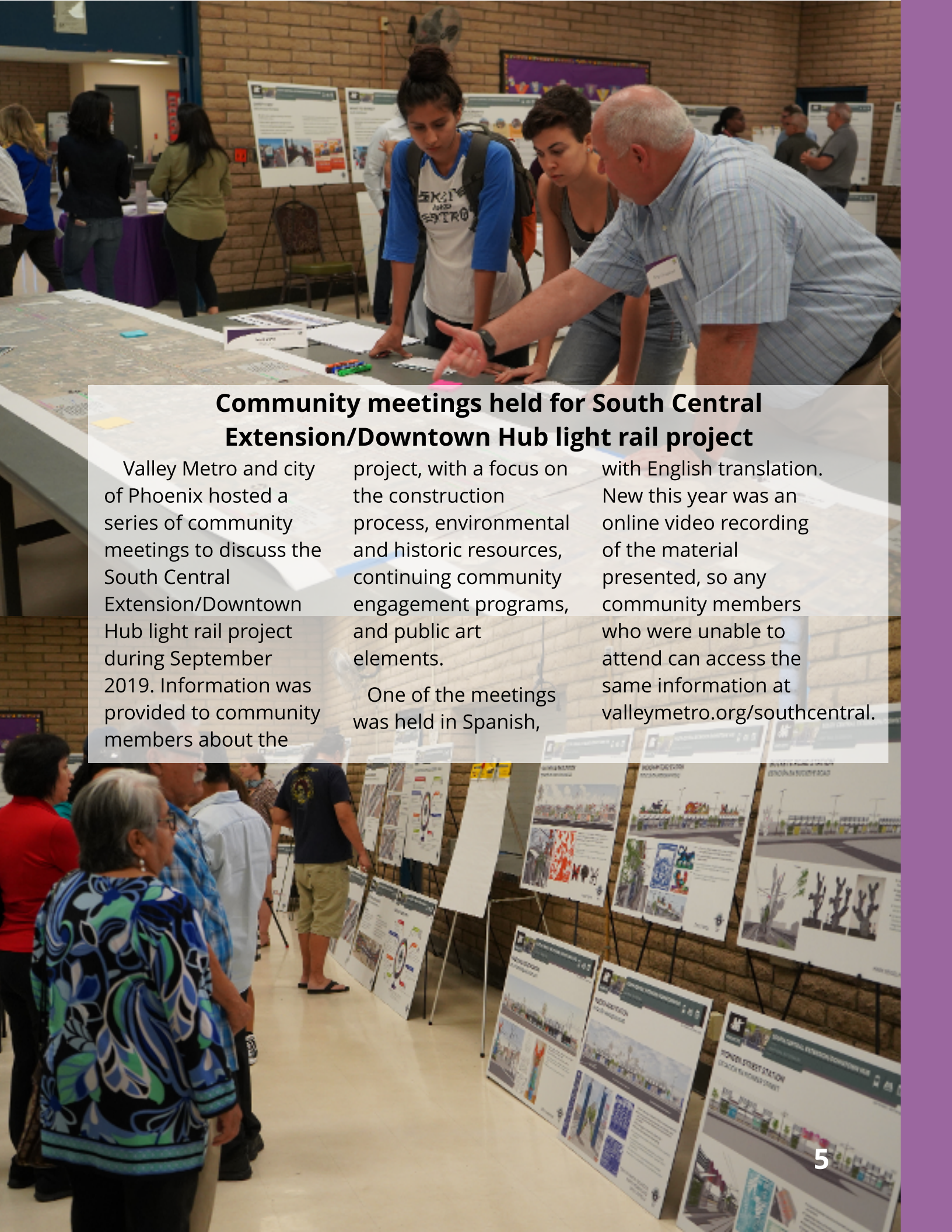
FTA Awards Phoenix \$100-million-dollar grant

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a \$100 million grant for the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project as a part of a \$300 million national disbursement.

The \$100-million-dollar grant will help fund the 5.5-mile Central Avenue extension that will extend from the existing downtown line to Baseline Road in South Phoenix.

The remaining funds will come from Transportation 2050, regional transportation funds and additional federal sources. This light rail extension is part of the city's Transportation 2050 plan; a 35-year plan to triple light rail miles in Phoenix and add to the current 20-mile light rail line.





Community meetings held for South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project

Valley Metro and city of Phoenix hosted a series of community meetings to discuss the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project during September 2019. Information was provided to community members about the

project, with a focus on the construction process, environmental and historic resources, continuing community engagement programs, and public art elements.

One of the meetings was held in Spanish,

with English translation.

New this year was an online video recording of the material presented, so any community members who were unable to attend can access the same information at valleymetro.org/southcentral.

The future of the Central Avenue corridor

In early 2019, community members participated in several workshops on the planning of the South Central Corridor hosted by a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant team. The TOD grant team was selected by the city of Phoenix to conduct community engagement in order to develop an inclusive community plan for the South Central corridor. The two major activity areas are Transit-Oriented Development Planning and Business Assistance.

The TOD grant team will host a series of presentations to provide a follow-up to the community's input. The family-friendly event will include illustrations based on the community-provided concepts, and an opportunity to celebrate the community's history and heritage. The events will take place on November 4 and 5, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the South Mountain Community Center and Academia Del Pueblo.



Valley Metro and Phoenix host Northwest Phase II extension community meetings

Project staff hosted the Northwest Phase II light rail extension presentation and open house on August 8, 2019 at Metrocenter. Community members received a project



update and were able to give input on various aspects of the project, including art elements at both the transit center and the planned park-and-ride.

What's new?

City of Phoenix welcomes new bus rapid transit administrator

Phoenix's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning and development continues to move forward, announcing Sara Kotecki as the city's Bus Rapid Transit Administrator.

Ms. Kotecki spent 22 years in city of Phoenix's Street Transportation Department and is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the State of Arizona. During her time in Street Transportation, she held positions in various technical divisions including Traffic Operations, Street Maintenance, Project Delivery, and Planning and Programming.

Ms. Kotecki has considerable experience managing large budgets, capital projects, plan reviews, traffic impact studies, and other various transportation aspects. Her previous experience working face-to-face with community members on neighborhood traffic programs and adaptive reuse programs will play a key role in developing and implementing Bus Rapid Transit under the Transportation 2050 plan.

Ms. Kotecki was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Pittsburgh, earning her bachelor and master degrees in civil engineering. While in Pittsburgh, Sara worked for the Port Authority of Allegheny County BRT system before launching her career with the city of Phoenix. Ms. Kotecki is a great addition to the Public Transit Department team!



Phoenix Public Transit hires federal compliance oversight manager

The Phoenix Public Transit Department announces the addition of Shelley Reimann as the Transit Compliance Administrator. In her role, she leads the team transit compliance team managing the Public Transit Department's oversight and compliance section. The team works with the region's many recipients of federal funds including Valley Metro, and other cities and agencies who operate under federal guidelines.

Ms. Reimann and her team are tasked with ensuring compliance and oversight of various programs including Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Title VI Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the oversight of subrecipients receiving Federal Transit Administration funding to make sure these are in compliance with federal mandates.

Prior to joining Public Transit, Ms. Reimann worked for the city of Phoenix as an internal auditor from 2001 to 2014. In 2014, she joined the Housing Department as a management assistant overseeing asset management and the compliance of nearly 4,000 residential housing units and 27 multi-family rental properties throughout Phoenix.

Ms. Reimann holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in women's studies, both from Arizona State University. Welcome, Shelley!



Central Station adds three new staff members

Central Station recently welcomed three new customer service clerks: Jasmine Martinez, Sylvia Hernandez and Omar Aviti. Their roles are essential to the functionality, logistics and face-to-face customer service at Central Station. Jasmine, Sylvia and Omar assist customers with purchasing tickets, finding their routes and many other issues that may come up during their commute. They also are responsible for working with the Phoenix Police Department to research and maintain lost item records. Welcome to the team!



Left to right: Jasmine Martinez, Omar Aviti and Sylvia Hernandez.

Transportation 2050 report recognized by organization

The Transportation 2050 team received a Public Relations Society of America Award of Merit at the 2019 Copper Anvil Awards for the annual [Transportation 2050 Progress Report](#).

The report highlights progress made in three categories: street maintenance and improvements, bus and Dial-a-Ride services, and high capacity transit; it also includes a financial summary on program sales tax revenues. The report is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the delivery of T2050 programs and projects. Planned progress and goals for T2050 programs and projects are also highlighted in the report.



Infrastructure improvements

Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway in Phoenix gets first opening

The Arizona Department of Transportation opened the first part of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway extension just as summer comes to an end. The extension will add 22 miles of freeway to the existing Phoenix metropolitan transportation system. The freeway will connect the east and west valley while providing much needed relief to existing freeway corridors and local streets.



The new interchange at 40th Street and Pecos Road includes new traffic signals at Cottonwood Lane and 40th Street Park-and-Ride, making it easier than ever for commuters to utilize RAPID service into downtown Phoenix.

Phoenix city Council approves major improvements to Central Station

Thousands of bus and light rail riders travel through Central Station (300 North Central Avenue) in downtown Phoenix every day. The station will soon be upgraded and transformed, with a \$231-million-dollar private development approved by Phoenix city Council in April 2019.

Following the city's request for proposals

(RFP), Medistar was selected to move forward with the proposed redevelopment. The current plan calls for replacing the transit center, while retaining some of its existing elements and preserving bus and light rail routes within the final project. The new development will include high rise buildings, retail space, and 9,000 square feet of office space for the city's Public Transit Department. Construction is projected to begin in 2020.

CONCEPT TO ACTIVATE THE SITE

Creating a Memorable Transit-Oriented Development

- A Transit Office
- B Apartments
- C Hotel
- D Office
- E Retail / Restaurant / Grocery
- F Event Space / Shade
- G Student Housing
- H Amenity Deck



Phoenix Public Transit adding more shade

Phoenix's goal to install about 80 shade shelters per year is pacing right on track. We continue installing new bus shelters as well as replacing old ones every month. Since January, 2019, the team has installed over 60 new shelters in order to provide a more comfortable transit experience for customers.





Phoenix Transit upgrades

The city of Phoenix Public Transit Department is in the process of upgrading its CAD/AVL (Computer Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location) system with a regional solution from Clever Devices. The project will replace the 16-year old existing system in buses and paratransit vehicles (Dial-a-Ride), with many

advanced capabilities, including new radio equipment with an 800 MHz radio system to improve communication between drivers and dispatchers.

The vehicle is also equipped with vehicle health monitoring that allows for immediate downloading of vehicle information for faster responses to issues which then allows for quicker repairs. The CAD/AVL

system also comes with the capability for real-time data feeds for more efficient tracking and dispatching of vehicles from the region's many transit yards.





New life for retired Dial-a-Ride vehicles

The Phoenix Public Transit Department donated nine Dial-a-Ride vehicles to the 2020 Census community outreach team efforts. Six of the vehicles were repurposed for outreach and the other three would be used for spare parts. The vehicles had reached the end of their useful lives but were still in good operating condition. Microsoft and Cisco partnered with the city by furnishing the

vehicles with computers and digital service. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Census staff debuted the re-purposed vehicles on September 12. The vehicles now allow staff to drive to neighborhoods to provide outreach, answer questions and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be counted.

Interested in volunteering your time to support this outreach?

Contact Leila Gamiz

Leila.gamiz@phoenix.gov



Upcoming events

Citizens Transportation Commission (CTC)

November 21, 2019 & December 12, 2019

Phoenix, AZ

South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail groundbreaking

December 2019

Phoenix, AZ

Transit Oriented Development

Future of the South Central Corridor presentation

November 4 and 5, 2019

Phoenix, AZ

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) internal staff workshop

December 2019

Phoenix, AZ

**Phoenix.gov/publictransit
Twitter: @PhoenixMetroBus**

Eye on Transit newsletter

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