

EYE ON TRANSIT

SPRING 2020

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Phoenix Public Transit Department continues taking precautions as a result of COVID-19 to protect transit personnel, riders, and the communities where we live and work.

We continue seeking guidance from professional health experts and local leadership as we make decisions, and we will continue to keep in place COVID-19 preventive measures.

- Beginning May 4, Phoenix is implementing bus service reductions as approved by City Council. The service day will begin at approximately 5 a.m. Monday -Friday and 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Service will end at approximately 11 p.m. seven days a week.

- Valley Metro is planning to implement similar reductions on five routes they operate which travel into Phoenix; those changes are tentatively scheduled to begin May 18.

- Staff continues working on notifying passengers of the service reductions in English and Spanish via press releases and local media, city and Valley Metro websites, social media including Nextdoor, posters along bus routes, on-board bus announcements, digital signs, Valley Metro Customer Service, newsletters, and Valley Metro e-communications (My Emma email).

- Public Transit and Valley Metro continue promoting social distancing for essential transit

trips only including passenger limits, rear-door boardings, and urging riders to use a mask or cloth face cover.

- COVID-19 preventive measures remain in place including hand sanitizer on buses, visual fare inspections, driver's area separated with plexiglass, and enhanced cleanings for transit vehicles as well as throughout the transit environment.

- Public Transit staff is working to identify procurement options for a permanent bus operator shield which will serve as an added health measure. The solicitation document is being developed, with a plan for issuance in May.

- As of April 11, light rail is operating on an adjusted schedule Monday-Saturday. The first full trip on light rail begins around 4:45 a.m. with the last trip starting at 11 p.m. Adjustments include 15-minute frequency 5 a.m.- 6 p.m. with no late night service on Friday and Saturday. Sunday service remains the same.

Phoenix Public Transit is dedicated to serving our customers, supporting a diverse community and carefully managing our resources.

It's our hope that you and your loved ones are staying healthy as we look forward to better times. Let us know if there is anything we can do to assist.

Jesús Sapien,
Phoenix Public Transit Director

Phoenix Public Transit



Update on Phoenix Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

The Phoenix Public Transit Department has launched a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) website to provide information and obtain input about the new service coming to Phoenix. The BRT team is reevaluating the corridors in the Transportation 2050 (T2050) plan and identifying other potential corridors for consideration, as requested by Phoenix's Citizens Transportation Commission and City Council. The selection has been narrowed down to the following six routes for potential BRT corridors.

- Camelback Road and 24th Street
- Indian School Road and 24th Street
- Thomas Road and 44th Street
- McDowell Road and 44th Street
- 19th Avenue and Van Buren Street
- 35th Avenue and Van Buren Street

The next step is for the team to work with the community to gather input regarding the potential corridors. The team will use the input along with transit performance and forecasted ridership to further narrow options for three routes for further development. For more information, visit Phoenix.gov/BRT.

City of Phoenix

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Phoenix BRT Bus Rapid Transit

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Program Overview

BRT 101

Phoenix Bus Rapid Transit Program

In 2015, Phoenix voters approved Proposition 104, creating the 35-year street and transit plan known as *Transportation 2050* or *T2050*. **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** was identified as a key component of T2050 to continue expanding our city's high capacity transit network.

Phoenix Police Transit Unit Assist Light Rail Rider

On April 19, 2020 Phoenix Police Transit Unit Officers were on a call for service in the area of 19th Avenue and Bethany Home Road near a Valley Metro light rail platform. The officers were approached by a wheelchair-bound transit rider requesting assistance. The rider asked if the officers could push him over to the light rail platform, and without hesitation Transit Officers assisted the community member and provided a safe passage to the light rail platform. This act of kindness was caught on video and viewed over 5,000 times.



PHX Public Transit
@PhoenixMetroBus

Big [#ThankYou](#) to our [@PhoenixPolice](#) [#TransitUnit](#) who assisted a rider at 19th Ave and Bethany Home Rd. He needed to get to the [@ValleyMetro](#) light rail platform and our team was there to help. [#StrongerTogether](#) [#HelpingOthers](#) [#PhoenixPublicTransit](#)



Phoenix Police @PhoenixPolice · Apr 20

Officer Collins and other Transit Unit Officers saw this man attempting to cross the street to get to the Light Rail platform. Without hesitation, they helped him. That simple act of kindness is what the men and women of the Phoenix Police Department believe in.



0:04 5.8K views

7:01 PM · Apr 20, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



joe morris
@thatsjustjoe101

Replying to [@PhoenixPolice](#)

Thank you for Protecting and Serving.

7:08 PM · Apr 20, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



♥ **Dawn** ♥
@Happy258366

Replying to [@PhoenixPolice](#)

I work right there! Thank you for this small act of kindness ❤️

10:37 AM · Apr 22, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



Girlyrose Delarea
@GirlyroseD

Replying to [@PhoenixPolice](#)

Awesomeness Job 🙌🙌🙌 OFFICERS

7:48 PM · Apr 21, 2020 · [Twitter for Android](#)

The City of Phoenix and Valley Metro Participate in ADOT DBE & Small Business Expo

The 2020 DBE & Small Business Transportation Expo was held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the Glendale Civic Center. The event aims to attract new DBE-eligible businesses to work on various local transportation projects. ADOT partners with the Phoenix Public Transit and Street Transportation departments, Valley Metro, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to host the event. This free annual event is open to all businesses seeking to work with public agencies. Markus Coleman, Light Rail Administrator, Candace Huff, Special Projects Administrator for Sky Harbor, Kini Knudson, Street Transportation Director from the City of Phoenix and Jesse Gutierrez, Deputy State Engineer at ADOT participated in a panel discussion and were available to answer business owners' questions.

The Capitol/I-10 West Light Rail Extension Update

The Capitol/I-10 West light rail extension project will connect the existing system to the 79th Avenue/I-10 park and-ride in phases. Phase I will connect downtown Phoenix to the State Capitol area, and Phase II will extend light rail along I-10 to 79th Avenue. Valley Metro's design and community relations team has presented an update on the project and requested feedback from representatives from the cities of Avondale, Buckeye, and Goodyear. The team will continue to work with the community to garner feedback on the route. System designs being presented include route options between downtown Phoenix and the State Capitol, and the possibility of extending the system to Desert Sky Mall.



Valley Metro Lit Tempe Town Lake Bridge Blue to Honor First Responders

On April 15, 2020 Governor Doug Ducey announced Arizona's participation in lighting buildings and structures with blue lights as a symbol of support and gratitude for frontline medical workers and emergency responders during the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Light Arizona Blue' was seen throughout the state including the Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix City Hall and the Water Tower in Gilbert. Valley Metro participated by illuminating the Tempe Town Lake Bridge in blue.

Similar campaigns to thank frontline workers have taken place around the world. Sites such as the Freedom Tower in New York City, Niagara Falls, and the Super Dome in New Orleans were all lit in blue for this recognition. Disney World also turned the Cinderella Castle blue and is streaming a firework show in solidarity.



In addition to the Light Arizona Blue campaign, Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix participated in the *Sound the Horn* national campaign to show gratitude and respect to the millions of transit workers across the nation. At noon (MST) on April 16, transit agencies simultaneously sounded two, one-second horn blasts from each vehicle in service at the time.



Continued Construction Work on the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub Light Rail Project

South Central Extension/Downtown Hub construction activities are taking place in the downtown Phoenix area and along Central Avenue. The project is actively working to relocate third-party utilities at several major intersections in downtown Phoenix.

A five-week schedule of construction activities is available on the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub website. Valley Metro also launched a smartphone application called 'Construct VM' in late January. The app is available for iOS and Android devices and provides construction updates on the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project.





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[Phoenix.gov/publictransit](https://phoenix.gov/publictransit)

[Phoenix.gov/T2050](https://phoenix.gov/T2050)

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Eye on Transit Newsletter

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