



101 N. 1st Ave. Suite 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85003
valleymetro.org
602.253.5000

Valley Metro News Release

Contact

Hillary Foose
Director, Communications & Strategic Initiatives
602.322.4468
602.697.1705

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Federal Transit Administration Allocates \$100 Million to South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub

PHOENIX, AZ—The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a \$100 million federal funding allocation to the [South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub](#) yesterday. The funding is provided through FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program. The South Central Extension allocation is one of twelve rail projects nationwide receiving CIG allocations. The FTA has identified over \$500 million in potential federal funding for the South Central Extension project, subject to the completion of a full funding grant agreement between FTA, Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix in 2020.

From FTA's [news release](#), U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao shares:

"These federal grants to Arizona, California and Washington will improve mobility and the quality of life for those who depend on public transit every day."

The CIG Program provides funding for major transit infrastructure capital investments nationwide. Grants are project specific. Projects accepted into the program must go through a multi-year, multi-step process according to requirements in law to be eligible for consideration to receive program funds.

About the South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub

With the voter-approved [Transportation 2050](#) citywide transportation plan, the timeline for the [South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub](#) is advanced by 11 years. The extension will connect to the light rail system in downtown Phoenix and travel south to Baseline Road. With nine new stations and art elements, the 5.5-mile expansion links South Phoenix to other areas of the Valley. The project includes a transit hub in downtown Phoenix, which supports improved access to education, entertainment and

employment centers around the Valley. Valley Metro is collaborating with 18 artists to design art installations throughout the extension. Construction activities begin in 2019.

About Valley Metro

Valley Metro provides eco-friendly public transit options to residents of greater Phoenix and Maricopa County including the planning and operations of a regional bus system and the development and operations of 26 miles of light rail. In Fiscal Year 2018, total ridership for the system was 67 million passengers. Six high capacity transit extensions are under construction that will create a 50-mile system by 2030. Valley Metro also offers transit options including alternative transportation programs for seniors and people with disabilities, commuter vanpools, online carpool matching, bus trip mapping, bicycle safety and telework assistance. Two Boards of Directors set the policy direction for the agency with the intent of advancing the regional public transit system. In October 2017, the Boards approved a [“Respect the Ride”](#) Code of Conduct, focusing on creating a safe and positive rider experience, while also discouraging disruptive, intrusive, unsafe or inappropriate behaviors in a public setting. Get the latest news by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or visiting [valleymetro.org](#).

About Transportation 2050

In Aug. 2015, Phoenix voters approved Proposition 104, now Transportation 2050 (T2050), a 35-year citywide transportation plan. T2050 is overseen by the Citizens Transportation Commission and includes improved frequency on local bus service, new light rail service and stations and major street improvement projects. Funding for T2050 comes from a 7/10ths of a cent city sales tax that started Jan. 1, 2016. Over the life of the plan, the funds are estimated to generate about \$16.7 billion, or more than half of the plan’s overall cost. There will be an additional \$14.8 billion in federal and county funds, passenger fares and other sources. For more information, visit the city of Phoenix [T2050 page](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).

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