

Other Commonly Asked Questions

Why light rail?

Light rail is essential to a balanced transportation plan and helping to serve the more than two million people moving to the Valley in the next 12-15 years. It supports 45,000 riders each day, connecting them to work, school and entertainment. It helps to spur job growth and economic development, while also providing community-wide health benefits.

Phoenix voters approve of this mode, having voted to initiate and expand light rail on three separate occasions in 2000, 2004 and 2015. The Phoenix City Council has also heard the public’s feedback with dozens of council actions that support the design and development of light rail.

Why continue to invest in light rail?

We need all modes — including rideshare and autonomous vehicles — to support our quick growth and limited real estate. High-capacity transit is and will be the most effective way to move large numbers of people in finite spaces. We’ve doubled our capacity along Central Avenue with the addition of light rail, despite having removed two automobile lanes. Valley Metro is partnering with the private sector and tech companies to innovate how we move around this Valley, now and into the future.

How are businesses supported during light rail construction?

After the success of six previous rail projects in metro Phoenix, Valley Metro has learned how to customize a business support plan that is active before and during construction. It can consist of business assessments, rebates, special events, customized signage, marketing/social media assistance, accounting/financial planning, in addition to staff being available 24/7. “Considerate” construction is also part of the plan, which entails maintaining business access, safe routes for pedestrians and localized hiring and spending.

Is light rail safe?

Yes, Valley Metro Rail is safe. In fact, it’s safer than traveling in an automobile. Since the inception of our Respect the Ride program in late 2017, we’ve increased our security staff by 30% and have seen a decrease in security incidents by more than 30%. The Respect the Ride code of conduct welcomes all riders on board with the expectation of respectful behavior towards fellow passengers, staff and property.

**STAY
INFORMED**



The light rail initiative will be voted on by Phoenix residents on August 27, 2019.

For more information, visit valleymetro.org/august27ballot to subscribe to the email list or follow @ValleyMetro on Facebook or Twitter.

Valley Metro Just the Facts

INFORMATION ON THE ANTI-LIGHT RAIL BALLOT INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPACTS



What is the anti-light rail initiative?

An initiative was filed with the City of Phoenix in November 2018 to amend the city charter to terminate “the furtherance of any light rail extension or any other fixed rail line transit system” in Phoenix. It also seeks to “redirect the funds” to finance infrastructure improvements in South Phoenix and throughout the city. This initiative is specific to the City of Phoenix; however, it could have repercussions on the future of transportation funding in the region.

What is the status of the initiative?

The Phoenix City Council referred the initiative to the August 27, 2019 citywide ballot. There is a legal challenge focused on election law concerns from the Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors.

What projects could be affected by the initiative?

The initiative seeks to terminate the construction of Phoenix light rail extensions, including:

- South Central Extension/Downtown Hub
- Northwest Extension Phase II
- Capitol/I-10 West Extension
- Any future fixed rail investment, including streetcar or commuter rail

What happens to the funding for projects affected by the initiative?

The initiative seeks to redirect City of Phoenix Proposition 104 (Transportation 2050) funds to finance other infrastructure improvements within South Phoenix and the city. However, Proposition 104 only funds 20–25% of the total cost of building Phoenix’s light rail program. The city could potentially lose upwards of \$5 billion in federal and regional monies dedicated to rail projects to other cities in this region and the U.S.

What are the potential impacts?

In addition to the potential loss of billions in federal and regional rail dollars, the initiative could impact the region’s air quality plan and the federal funds associated with pollution reduction efforts. It could also impact the region’s ability to renew upcoming transportation funding and maintain the system we have today.

What about our streets?

City of Phoenix streets are funded by more than \$8 billion through 2050. Every street will be repaved and a plan is underway to accelerate this program. There are sufficient dollars to fund both streets and transit — it doesn’t have to be one vs. the other.

Does work continue on the extensions even with the initiative?

Yes, Valley Metro continues to advance the projects, each in various stages of planning, design and pre-construction. Moving ahead is consistent with the existing policy, which was established by previous voter-approved measures and multiple Phoenix City Council actions. Continued work is also critical to keeping projects in the Federal Transit Administration funding pipeline and maintaining schedule commitments.

Regional Light Rail System
AREAS IMPACTED BY ANTI-LIGHT RAIL INITIATIVE

