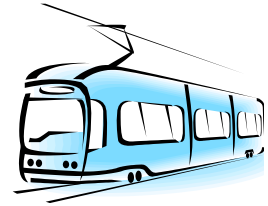


LIGHT RAIL UPDATE



Two transportation plans have been passed in recent years by voters in Glendale and in Maricopa County that deal with light rail transit in our city. The first was the passage of a local ½ cent transportation tax by Glendale voters in 2001 that identified a large planning corridor of light rail into downtown Glendale. The second vote was the continuation of a regional ½ cent transportation tax (Prop. 400) in 2004 that identified a light rail corridor into downtown Glendale in year 2017. Over the last few years that funding schedule has changed due to economic conditions.

The first change occurred in 2009 that pushed the timeframe for completion from 2017 to 2019. In 2010, the project completion was further pushed out to 2026 as part of the most recent regional budget adjustments. This year the project completion date remains at 2026 pending results of regional transportation tax projections expected to come out in October.

Glendale Corridor Study

In 2008, Glendale City Council directed staff to re-evaluate light rail alternatives in Glendale since significant development along the Loop 101 had occurred from when the original corridor to downtown Glendale was adopted by voters in 2001.

Glendale staff has secured federal funding to explore the feasibility of extending light rail corridors toward the Glendale's Sports and Entertainment district. This 15-month project started in 2010 and examines several corridors. One concept keeps the corridor coming into downtown Glendale. Another concept extends the original corridor to the sports venues near Loop 101. A third concept extends the proposed Phoenix West corridor from I-10 near 79th Avenue to the Sports and Entertainment District along Loop 101.

The study will address federal funding prospects for these alternative corridors and identify a preferred corridor to move forward. Federal funding for light rail is extremely competitive as it provides 50% of the funding and we must put forth the best project if we hope to get any funding for light rail. The conclusion of study is expected at the end of the year.

Regional Project Development

- Phoenix is in the final planning stages of connecting light rail from downtown Phoenix and the State Capitol area to 79th Avenue and I-10. Most of this connection will be along I-10 and provides a commuter option for West Valley residents to get into downtown Phoenix. This project is scheduled to be completed in 2021 and would have to be completed before a light rail line out to Westgate City Center via the Loop 101 is to become a reality.

- The Northwest Extension (Metrocenter) Phase I (to Dunlap) LRT project has been pushed back from 2012 to 2023 with Phase II (to near Metrocenter Mall) of this project being pushed back from 2018 to 2026 primarily due to lack of Phoenix local transportation revenue. Currently this project is nearly all locally funded with Phoenix transit tax dollars. This first phase of this project would have to be complete before an extension to downtown Glendale would ever be realized.
- The Central Mesa and Tempe South corridors have completion dates of 2016. The Central Mesa extension will add 3.1 miles to the end of their line and terminate near the Mesa Temple. The Tempe South corridor has been selected to be a modern streetcar system along Mill Avenue.
- The Glendale corridors and both phases of the Northwest corridors are heavily dependent on Phoenix and Glendale local transportation funding as they require local funds for match and federal funds. Other corridors use regional Prop. 400 funds for a local matching source along with federal funds.