



TEMPE SOUTH

TEMPE SOUTH HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT STUDY

NOV 2009

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The METRO Tempe South High Capacity Transit Study is an evaluation of high capacity transit alignments and technologies in Tempe and Chandler. The Tempe South study area is bound by the Tempe Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad to the west, Loop 101 (Price Freeway) to the east, Loop 202 (Red Mountain Freeway) to the north, and Loop 202 (Santan Freeway) to the south.

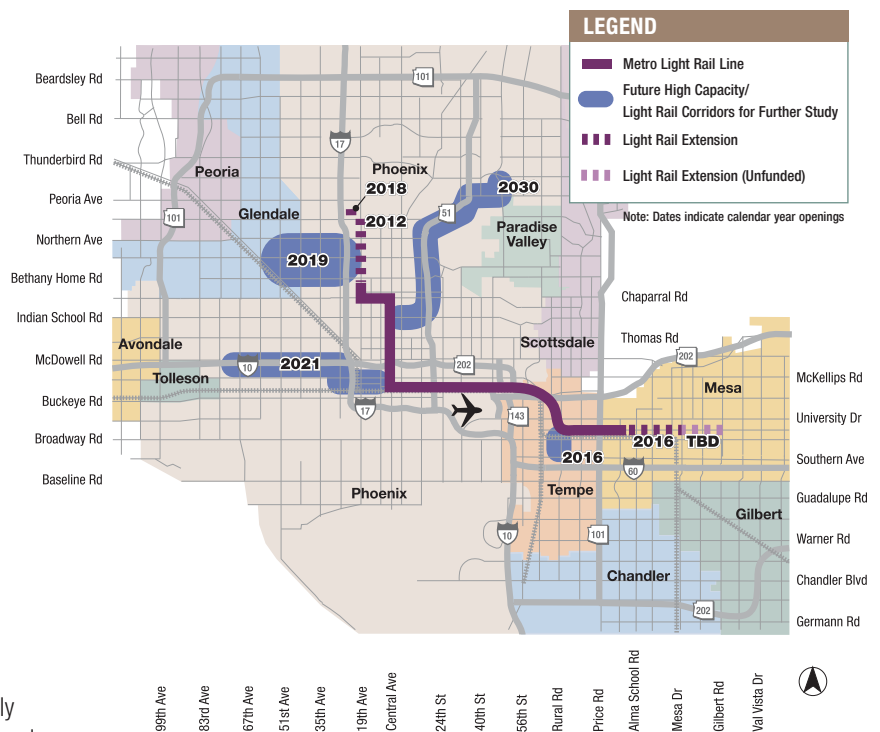
The study began in January 2008 with four alignments and 11 transit options. Based on an evaluation of cost, travel demand, regional transit connectivity, economic development opportunities, environmental issues, and public input, the study has shown that the two highest-performing high capacity transit alternatives are the Mill Avenue Modern Streetcar and Rural Road Bus Rapid Transit. The project team is continuing to evaluate these alternatives and plans to recommend a locally preferred alternative for public consideration in spring 2010.

TRANSIT OPTIONS

Modern streetcar and bus rapid transit are both forms of high capacity transit, but differ in their physical and operating characteristics. Modern streetcars are electric rail systems that typically operate at street level in urban environments, usually in mixed traffic to reduce cost. They can operate safely and efficiently in existing travel lanes and are compatible with on-street parking and areas with high pedestrian traffic. They also function as high capacity urban circulators, whereby passengers take multiple short trips throughout the day within a dense urban corridor. Typically, modern streetcar operations would have station stops more frequently than on the existing 20-mile light rail starter line. Modern streetcars are also used effectively as a tool to focus economic development.

Bus rapid transit (BRT) is a form of advanced bus service that combines many of the advantages of rail transit with the flexibility of buses. BRT typically has less frequent stops, traffic signal priority and operates frequently throughout the day. BRT can operate in semi-

Regional Transportation Plan Transit Corridors



exclusive right-of-way and mixed traffic on urban streets. By providing dedicated lanes to bypass traffic congestion, BRT can provide travel time savings, flexibility in using the existing roadway network and can serve a variety of travel patterns.

FUNDING

The Tempe South High Capacity Transit corridor is included in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Transportation Plan and is funded by Proposition 400, which is a half-cent transportation sales tax extension approved by Maricopa County voters in 2004.

MOVING FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

METRO and the cities of Tempe and Chandler are continuing to evaluate the two high capacity transit alternatives for the Tempe South corridor – Mill Avenue Modern Streetcar and Rural Road Bus Rapid Transit. In addition, the project team is developing a timeline for project implementation, including the time necessary to complete an application for federal funding. The next project milestones will be the adoption of a locally preferred alternative (LPA), followed by environmental documentation. The LPA will be presented to the community at a series of public meetings tentatively planned for spring 2010.

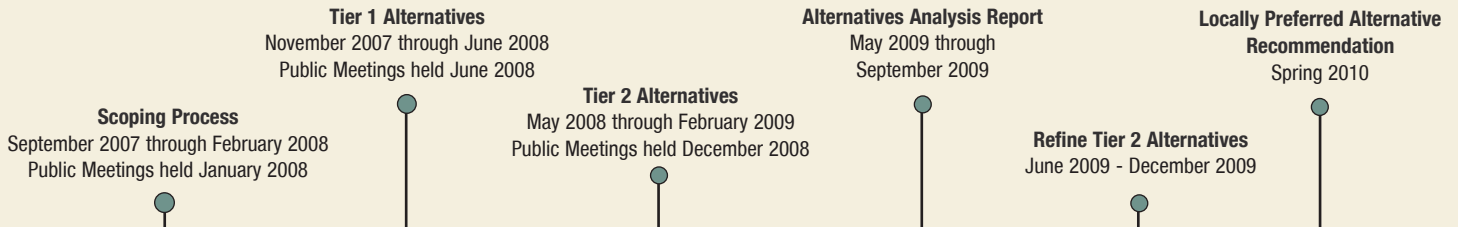


Streetcar in Portland, OR



Bus Rapid Transit in Mesa, AZ

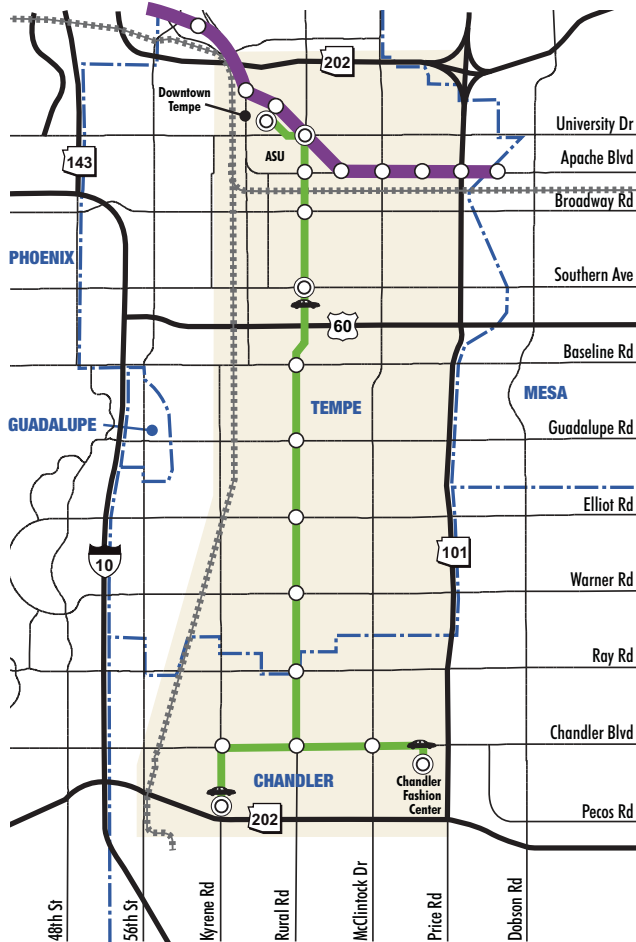
PROJECT MILESTONES*



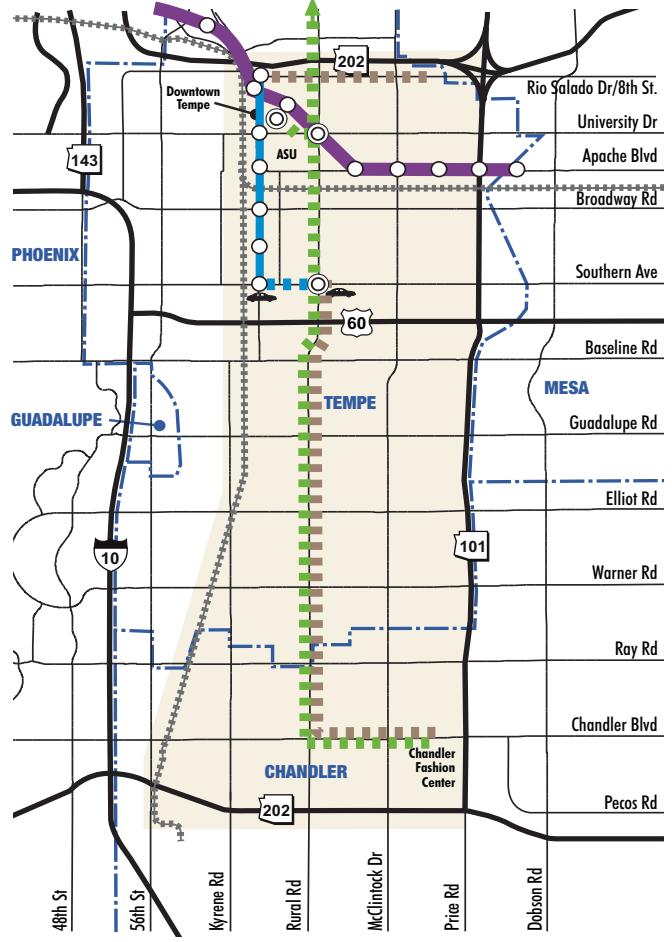
*Dates are approximate.

Tempe South Preliminary Recommendations

Bus Rapid Transit - Rural Rd.



Modern Street Car - Mill Ave.



LEGEND

- Light Rail Starter Line
- Bus Rapid Transit-BRT
- Modern Streetcar-Phase 1
- Station
- Study Area
- BRT Defined by Regional Plan
- Modern Streetcar-Future Phase
- Transit Center
- Union Pacific Railroad(UPRR)
- Possible Future Transit Connection

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information or to be added to the Tempe South mailing list, please contact:

Carla Kahn at 602-744-5552 or ckahn@metrolightrail.org.

Additional information and updates can be found on the study website:
www.MetroLightRail.org/tempe

To receive information in alternative formats call 602-254-7245/TTY 602-322-4499.

Para recibir esta información en formatos alternativos favor de llamar al 602-254-7245/TTY 602-322-4499.