



# SOUTH CENTRAL EXTENSION/ DOWNTOWN HUB

TITLE  
LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION  
TYPE



JULY 2019

# SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT RAIL

## Preserving the Legacy. Connecting Communities. Enhancing Lives.

### What are the benefits of light rail?

- Light rail connects thousands of people to education, entertainment and employment by providing an affordable and convenient transportation alternative.
- Many of the economic benefits of the project will remain in the South Phoenix community. Area residents will be given priority position for jobs associated with the project, and at times, careers that extend beyond the life of construction.
- Light rail reduces traffic congestion and air pollution throughout the Valley.

### Why is light rail being built in South Phoenix?

- Families and individuals along the South Central corridor need and deserve infrastructure improvements and additional public transportation options for convenient access to work, school and more. Voters approved the extension in 2000, 2004 and in 2015. Prop 104, known as Transportation 2050 plan, received 75% approval from voters who live along the South Central line. The Phoenix City Council approved the route in 2013, acceleration of the project in 2016 and roadway design in 2014 and again in 2018.
- Light rail has proven to generate economic prosperity for historically underserved communities in metro Phoenix. Light rail makes the unique offerings of South Phoenix more accessible to others, attracting new customers, businesses and jobs to area.
- The South Central community has a great opportunity to benefit, for current and future generations, from this major public infrastructure investment.

### How will businesses be supported during construction?

- Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix provide business assistance before and throughout construction, in the form of business assessments, special events, customized signage, marketing/social media assistance, and accounting/financial planning.
- Valley Metro has staff available 24/7 to inform and answer questions from business owners and to respond rapidly to any emergencies that may arise from construction.

### What about traffic flow?

- Currently, the plan is for two lanes — one in each direction, that will run between Watkins Street and Baseline Road on Central Avenue, to maintain traffic flow at current volumes. Light rail expands capacity by carrying passengers each day to and from the area and bringing additional potential customers to the area.
- The two-lane design achieves a pedestrian-friendly environment that includes sidewalks, shade and dedicated bike lanes.
- The two-lane design includes bus and pullouts to keep vehicles moving when buses are stopped as well as allows for emergency vehicle access.

### What is the construction timeline?

- Construction will begin in downtown Phoenix in fall 2019 and is scheduled to begin on additional portions of the project in early 2020. The extension is expected to open in 2023.

### Will the City up-zone or down-zone my property once light rail is built?

- The City has no plans to rezone property along the corridor without the consent of the property owner. Rather, the process to rezone property is initiated by the property owner.

### Will there be a tax increase to maintain operations for the South Central Extension?

- No. In August 2015, Phoenix voters approved the Transportation 2050 plan that provides a dedicated revenue source for bus service, light rail service and street improvements through 2050.

### How can I stay updated on the project?

- Join the email distribution list by contacting one of the Community Outreach Coordinators.
- Visit [valleymetro.org/southcentral](http://valleymetro.org/southcentral) and follow us @valleymetro.
- Visit us at the South Central Extension Community Office 5040 S. Central Ave., Phoenix



/valleymetro



/valleymetroconstruction

#### Julie Cruz Gilfillan

Community Outreach Coordinator  
jacruz@valleymetro.org  
O: 602.495.8274

#### Julie Smith

Community Outreach Coordinator  
jmsmith@valleymetro.org  
O: 602.744.5563

#### Victoria Bray

Downtown - I-17 Bridge Business Assistance Coordinator  
vbray@valleymetro.org  
O: 602.495.8284

#### Flor D. Mason

I-17 Bridge - Baseline Business Assistance Coordinator  
fmason@valleymetro.org  
O: 602.523.6032