

South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub Project

Phoenix, Arizona

(February 2021)

Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (Valley Metro) is responsible for the development and operation of the region's high-capacity transit system, and is proposing to construct the South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub Project (the Project). The Project is an approximately 5.5-mile southern extension of Valley Metro's light rail system between downtown Phoenix and the South Mountain Village Core via Central Avenue and 1st Avenue. The Project includes eight stations, one special use platform, additional trackwork in downtown Phoenix, expansion of the existing Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), purchase of 14 light rail vehicles, and construction of a park and ride lot with a total of 110 parking spaces.

Service is planned to operate in both the opening year and the horizon year from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. on weekdays and 5 a.m. to 3 a.m. on weekends. Trains will operate approximately every 12 minutes for most of the weekday, every 20 minutes during late night and early morning hours and every 15 to 20 minutes on the weekends.

The forecasted ridership on the Project, using current year inputs of population and employment, is 7,900 daily linked trips. This number is expected to grow to 13,000 daily linked trips by the horizon year of 2040.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$1,345.09 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding amount is \$ 529.83 million.

Status

In November 2013, Valley Metro completed an alternatives analysis and with the City of Phoenix selected light rail as the locally preferred alternative (LPA). In June 2015, the LPA was included in the region's fiscally-constrained long range transportation plan. The project entered New Starts Project Development in November 2015. An Environmental Assessment was published in November 2016, and the project received a Finding of No Significant Impact from FTA in January 2017. In October 2018 and December 2019, FTA determined that adjustments to the project scope and design would not cause significant environmental impacts that were not previously evaluated. In April 2019, FTA approved the project into New Starts Engineering.

The method of project delivery is Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the light rail extension and Design-Build for the OMC expansion. The projected Revenue Service Date for the project is August 5, 2026. City of Phoenix/Valley Metro and FTA entered into an FFGA in January 2021. All design is completed and approximately 84% of the construction contracts have been awarded with about nine (9) percent of physical construction also completed.

Section 3005 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act (Pub. L. 114-94; Dec. 4, 2015) authorizes FTA to award discretionary Federal capital investment funds for design and construction of the South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub Project, which is a New Start Project. Through FY 2021, Congress has appropriated a total of \$297.71 million for the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
Source of Funds	Total Funding (\$million)	Appropriations to Date
Federal:		
Section 5309 CIG Funds	\$ 529.83	\$297.71 million in total appropriations through FY 2021
FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Funds	\$102.47	
FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds	\$5.53	
Local:		
City of Phoenix Proposition 104 Sales Tax Revenues and Bond Proceeds	\$427.26	
Maricopa County Proposition 400 Public Transportation Fund Excise Tax Revenues	\$280.00	
TOTAL	\$1,345.09	

NOTES: The Source of Funds and Total Funding numbers are as established at the signing of the FFGA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

South Central Light Rail Extension/Downtown Hub Project Phoenix, Arizona Project Map

