

DESTINATIONS

DESTINATIONS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF VALLEY METRO

New Service Begins July 28

While thoughts of summer getaways are swirling in the minds of most Valley residents, Valley Metro is gearing up for a mid-year addition to bus service. Thanks to the 2004 voter-approved funding for a majority of the Regional Transportation Plan, new express bus routes will serve the “four corners” of the Valley beginning Monday, July 28. New routes include:

ROUTE 562—Goodyear—Downtown express/Goodyear park-and-ride to downtown Phoenix

- Weekdays only
- 3 inbound morning trips
- 3 outbound afternoon trips

ROUTE 575—Northwest Valley express/Arrowhead Towne Center to downtown Phoenix (via Loop 101 to I-17)

- Weekdays only
- 3 inbound morning trips
- 3 outbound afternoon trips
- Stops at park-and-ride at 75th Avenue & Beardsley

ROUTE 535—Red Mountain express/Mesa to downtown Phoenix

- Weekdays only
- 2 inbound morning trips begin at Power and McDowell park-and-ride
- 1 inbound morning trip begins at Gilbert and McKellips roads
- Outbound afternoon trips are reverse of morning trips

ROUTE 511—Chandler-Scottsdale Airpark express

- Morning and afternoon trips travel both directions
- Northbound trips will begin at Arizona Avenue and Chicago Street until the Chandler regional park-and-ride (Hamilton Street and Germann Road) opens
- Stops include: ASU Research Park, Scottsdale Community College and the future Scottsdale Transit Center at 90th Street.

The following routes will be regionally funded in July and offer more service:

ROUTE 96—Dobson Road/Mesa Riverview Center to Chandler

- Route extends from Riverview Drive to Snedigar Sports Complex (Basha and Ocotillo roads)
- Service will be offered 7 days a week

ROUTE 61—Southern Avenue/43rd Avenue to Superstition Springs Mall

- Service will be offered 7 days a week

ROUTE 65--Mill/Kyrene

- Service will be extended to Chandler Aquatic Center

For a complete listing of schedule changes, go to ValleyMetro.org.





2008 Great Bike Chase

More than 1,000 Valley residents made the journey from Hance Park to Chase Field to celebrate safe family bicycling on Sunday, April 27. The annual Clean Air Campaign event features pre-ride festivities with energy-friendly snacks, bike check-ups, helmet fittings and entertainment.

Summer campaign hopes to reduce harmful ozone pollution



In March, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the ozone standard in an effort to better protect the public's health.

The new 8-hour standard of .075 parts per million for ground-level ozone (ppm) replaces the standard of 0.08 set in 1997.

To make the public more ozone savvy, Valley Metro has developed a public relations campaign that focuses on reducing the emissions that contribute to ozone formation.

"The equation is very simple. To reduce ozone, we must reduce vehicle trips," said David A. Boggs, Valley Metro executive director. "Do your part and help us all breathe a little easier."

Go to www.ValleyMetro.org for information on how you can reduce ozone this summer.

Valley Metro is a political subdivision of the state of Arizona overseen by a 14-member board of local elected officials. It was created by voters in 1985 with the passage of Proposition 300.

For the hearing and speech impaired, transit, rideshare, and ADA information is available on TTY by calling (602) 495-0936.



2008 Winning Bus Wrap Unveiled

The message is simple, but the design is not. On May 8 the bus displaying the winning entry of the 8th annual bus wrap design contest was driven to its debut celebration at Tempe's McClintock High School. The message, Get On Get There, is featured next to bus-sized faces of three children. Senior Tommy Spencer was the winning artist out of more than 70 entries Valley-wide. For the next year, the wrapped bus will be serving routes in the east valley.

▲ *The winning design wraps a 40-foot bus encouraging youth to give transit a try.*

City by City

Transit updates from across the Valley Metro service area



Avondale Celebrates Biking

The city of Avondale welcomed more than 2,500 residents at its second annual bike safety event during the Avondale Spring Fling festival last March. The outdoor event demonstrated the importance of safe bicycling with a bike rodeo and helmet giveaways. The day of fun also included parade with bikes that competed in a contest to show designs of creativity and safety.

◀ *The Easter Bunny arrives on a Valley Metro bus*

Glendale Opens Valley's Newest Park-and-Ride

Another park-and-ride was added to the Valley's regional system when the city of Glendale opened its new facility in March. An official ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted on March 25 by Glendale's Mayor Scruggs, city council, and members of the citizens' transportation commission.

Popularity of the facility is evident with a weekly average of 600 cars parking at the facility to catch a bus, car-pool or vanpool. "The trend in April and May showed an increase of about 50 additional cars each week utilizing the park-and-ride," said Cathy Colbath, Glendale Transit Administrator. "We also see usage on the weekends."

Express bus route 573 to downtown Phoenix picks up an average of 90 riders each weekday from the park-and-ride, up from an average of 67 riders per day in April. The facility is also served by Route 70 that travels between Luke Air Force Base and South Mountain Community College.

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs describes the regional benefits of the new Glendale Park-and-Ride. ▶





Mayor Dunn invites officials to celebrate the construction of the region's newest park-and-ride.

Chandler Celebrates Park-and-Ride Groundbreaking

On May 12, Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn, city council, transportation commission members and Valley Metro's executive director dug shovels of dirt next to a field of freshly mowed grass declaring this site the Valley's next regional park-and-ride.

"One of the greatest advantages of this site is our goal to become one of the Valley's most connected cities," said Mayor Dunn. "And the long journey to reach that goal culminates today with this groundbreaking that took eight years to complete."

The park-and-ride will be located at the corner of Hamilton Street and Germann Road, just south of the Loop 202 and west of McQueen Road. Sitting adjacent to the Tumbleweed Recreation Center, the park-and-ride will offer 445 vehicle spaces, shaded parking and seating, security, bike racks and drinking fountains.

Bus routes that travel to downtown Phoenix and the Scottsdale Airpark area will serve the facility beginning in December. Chandler anticipates adding neighborhood circulator service in the future.

Scottsdale Trolley Success Leads to Expansion

For the first time ever, two Valley cities are connected by neighborhood circulator bus service. Scottsdale expanded the Trolley service by six miles taking it further south to meet the Tempe Orbit Earth circulator service at Scottsdale Road and Roosevelt Street. According to Scottsdale Transportation Department spokesperson Annie DeChance ridership on the Scottsdale Trolley has increased 113% since the expansion took effect April 27.

Riders can transfer between the two routes to go to Scottsdale's downtown shops and restaurants or reach Arizona State University's main campus, downtown Tempe or the new Tempe Marketplace. Both services are free. Schedule information can be viewed or downloaded at ValleyMetro.org.



Circulators connect popular destinations in Scottsdale and Tempe



Town of Gilbert
Councilmember
◀ LES PRESMYK



Former Phoenix
Councilmember
PEGGY BILSTEN ▶

Presmyk and Bilsten to accept award for regional excellence

Accomplishments made by the Valley Metro Board of Directors in 2007 will be remembered in June as Gilbert Councilmember Les Presmyk and former Phoenix Councilmember Peggy Bilsten receive the MAG 2008 Desert Peaks Regional Excellence Award. As Co-Chairs of the Board, they successfully led the process for developing a strategic plan for the agency, including a new agency mission, vision and goals. The effort paved the way for the Regional Public Transportation Authority to begin the process of becoming a truly regional transit agency.

“This award is a symbol recognizing the importance of regionalizing transit in the Valley for the sake of efficiency and improved service for our passengers,” said Councilmember Presmyk.

The first ever co-recipients of the award, Presmyk and Bilsten will receive the honor at the Arizona Biltmore on June 25.

RPTA and Tempe Partner on Bus Purchase

Combining forces, the Regional Public Transportation Authority and city of Tempe have just completed a successful bid for new buses that will serve local, express and bus rapid transit (BRT) service on arterial streets. Bus rapid transit is a new type of bus service that works as a rubber-tired extension of light rail and will be introduced with METRO light rail on December 27

Up to 379 buses will be delivered over a five year period beginning in 2009. Fueled by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and clean-burning diesel, the 40-foot buses will be environmentally friendly. The buses for BRT will have a more sleek design to complement the METRO and offer unique features such as reclining seats, overhead storage bins, and individual reading lights.

The buses, manufactured by New Flyer, are equipped with an air conditioning system that has been tested and proven to perform in high temperatures. Using an environmentally friendly refrigerant and a radiator cooling system, the buses will operate efficiently while keeping riders comfortable.

Proposition 400 funds, which is the half-cent sales tax that has a portion dedicated to transit, and a federal government match are funding the cost of the new buses.



goAZ.tv features Valley Metro Riders' Alerts

Tune into Channel 95 before you head out the door. The Valley's only all traffic digital cable channel will now include the major riders' alerts that impact Valley Metro passengers. Thanks to a new automated system, Valley Metro customer service staff are able to disseminate information about detours and route disruptions immediately.

The channel, sponsored by KNXV-TV (ABC 15), seeks to provide all transportation information needs including airport(s) and airport parking, bus and light rail, highway and street traffic, event traffic and logistics and updates on all street and highway construction projects.

Light Rail Trains Now Testing

As you drive, bike or walk around the Valley, please be aware that METRO has begun testing light rail vehicles. METRO engineers must check each vehicle before passenger service begins. Look for the test trains in Tempe and Mesa, traveling through the Mill Avenue District, Arizona State University, and along Apache Boulevard.

- Light rail is quiet; always listen for bells and look for flashing train headlights.
- Pedestrians, use the crosswalk and obey all signals.
- Never drive, bike, walk or skateboard in the track way.
- Obey the traffic signals; turn only with a green arrow.

For more information on light rail safety, visit www.metrolight-rail.org/safety.

METRO's grand opening festivities are December 27-28, with regular service beginning December 29. The new service will offer connections at each station to Valley Metro bus service.



Destinations is the official newsletter of Valley Metro. It is published with a circulation of approximately 6,000 copies. We welcome your letters, comments, and suggestions.

Destinations is also available on audiotape. If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving **Destinations** in that format, please call Valley Metro at (602) 262-7433.

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