

EYE ON TRANSIT



City of Phoenix
Public Transit Department

NORTHWEST LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION OPENS

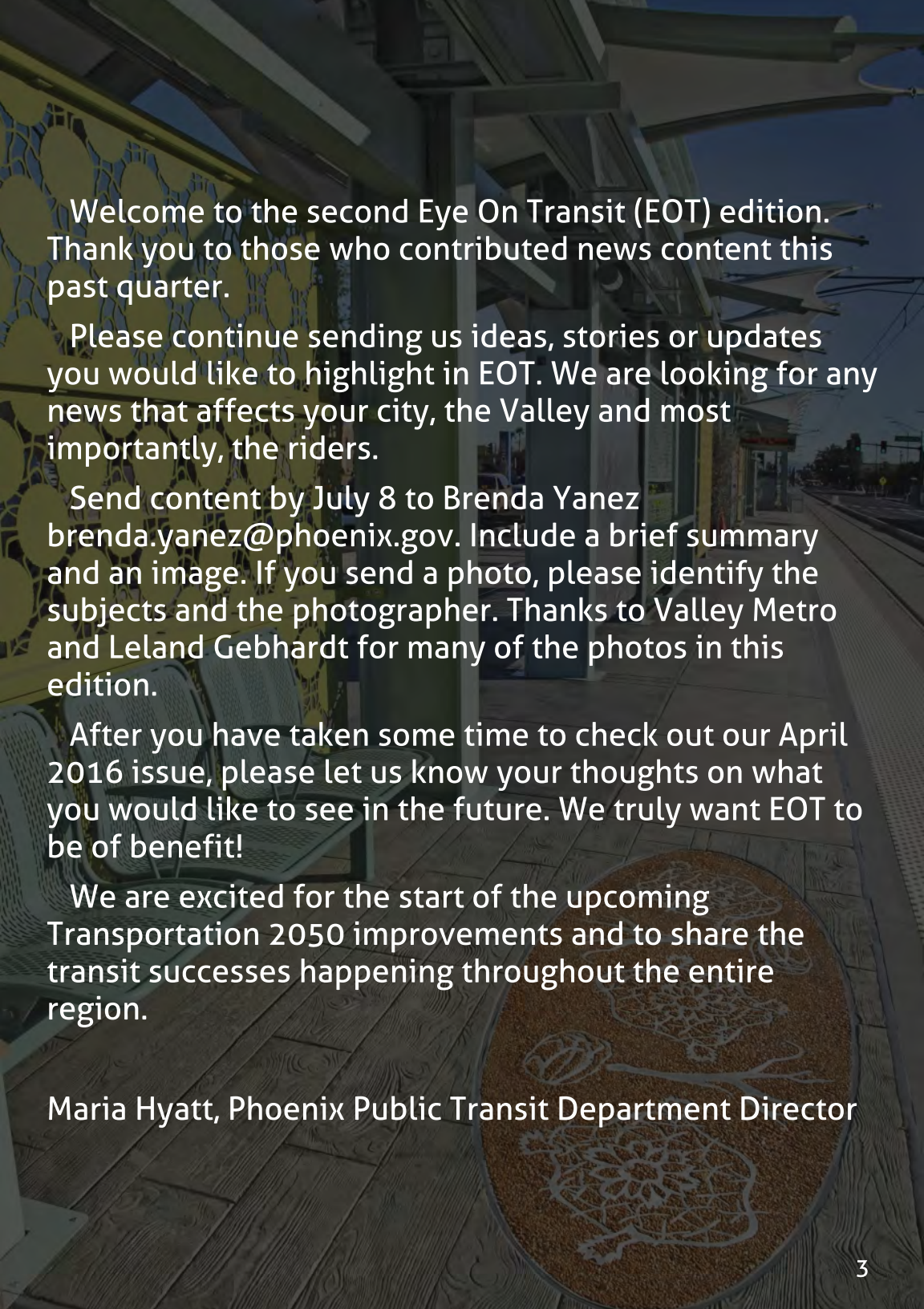
Community members celebrate arrival of
new miles in Phoenix.

More on p. 4



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A photograph of a modern transit station platform. The background shows a decorative wall with a pattern of yellow and blue circles. In the foreground, there is a large circular artwork on the floor, featuring a stylized tree or branch design in white and brown. The platform has a wooden floor and a metal railing. The text is overlaid on the image.

Welcome to the second Eye On Transit (EOT) edition. Thank you to those who contributed news content this past quarter.

Please continue sending us ideas, stories or updates you would like to highlight in EOT. We are looking for any news that affects your city, the Valley and most importantly, the riders.

Send content by July 8 to Brenda Yanez brenda.yanez@phoenix.gov. Include a brief summary and an image. If you send a photo, please identify the subjects and the photographer. Thanks to Valley Metro and Leland Gebhardt for many of the photos in this edition.

After you have taken some time to check out our April 2016 issue, please let us know your thoughts on what you would like to see in the future. We truly want EOT to be of benefit!

We are excited for the start of the upcoming Transportation 2050 improvements and to share the transit successes happening throughout the entire region.

Maria Hyatt, Phoenix Public Transit Department Director

Northwest Light Rail Extension opens with a community fair celebration

Transit users rode the new Northwest Light Rail Extension service March 19 during the official opening of the new segment, which launched with a World's Fair-themed community event.

More than 2,100 riders received free commemorative passes to ride the light rail and bus for the day. Many more community members attended.



The \$327 million project started Jan. 2013 after leaders set aside Phoenix and Prop. 400 funds to further the project and open it as soon as possible. Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton said the new 3.2 miles of service on 19th Avenue will connect more Phoenix residents to jobs, education and opportunity, as well as

Northwest Light Rail Extension...roll the videos

The first ride.



Riding the new light rail extension.



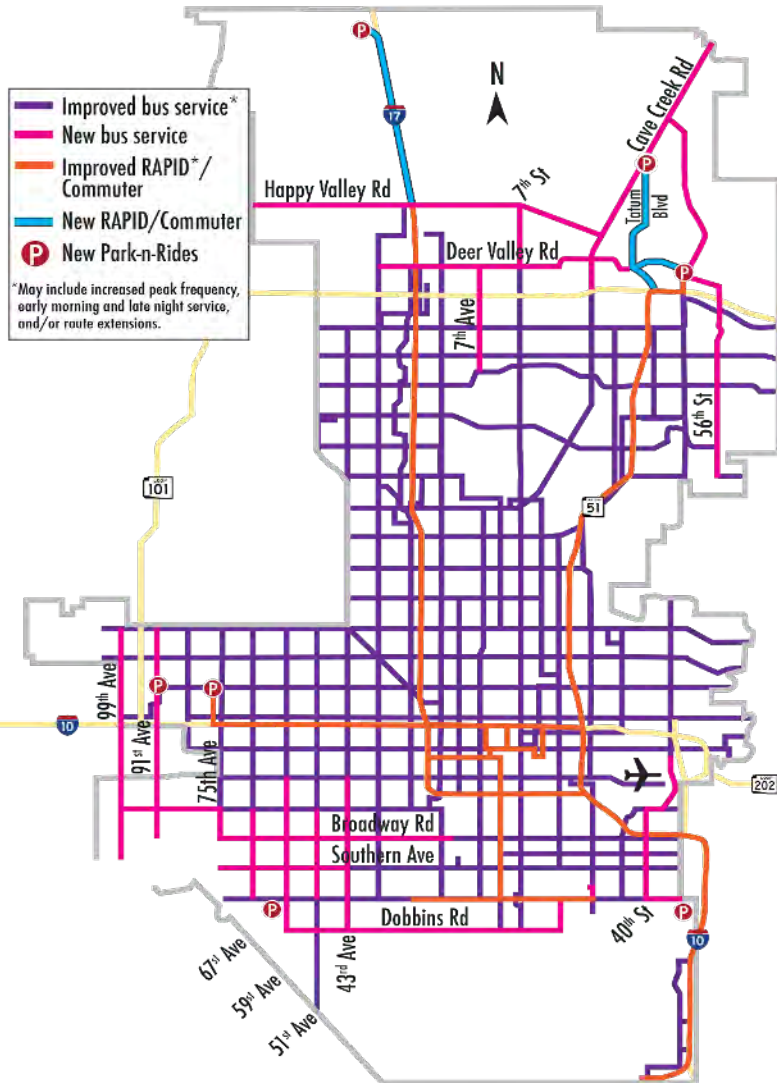
Celebrating new community connections.



Public Transit staff volunteered their time to activate 3,500 passes for the Northwest Light Rail Extension community fair and official opening of the light rail.

The free passes were handed out during the community recognition event for the 19th Avenue stations at Montebello, Glendale, Northern, Dunlap avenues as well as the bus.

Volunteers activate NW Light Rail Extension commemorative passes



- Improved bus service*
- New bus service
- Improved RAPID*/Commuter
- New RAPID/Commuter
- New Park-n-Rides

*May include increased peak frequency, early morning and late night service, and/or route extensions.



Longer bus service hours coming soon

April is here and in our transit-centric world, that means one thing - regional service updates.

A slate of new routes and frequency improvements across the Valley start April 25, 2016.

City of Phoenix bus and Dial-a-Ride enhancements will help riders connect to destinations more efficiently.

PHOENIX

- Route 1 – Washington/Jefferson
Eastbound passengers board at Central Avenue and Van Buren Street.
- Route 10 – Roosevelt/32nd Street

In coordination with the new Route 32 in Phoenix, the route operates from Central Avenue and Van Buren Street to Roosevelt Street and 32nd Street



New Phoenix buses hit streets

The Phoenix Public Transit Department has ordered 120 new buses to serve the city's local routes, the first order for new 40-foot buses since late 2013.

The buses, built in California by the Gillig Corporation, use compressed natural gas (CNG) and have a fuel range of at least 400 miles, which means most of the new buses would not require daily refueling. Passengers also benefit from an enhanced air conditioning system that includes two units to cool the bus both front and back simultaneously.

Each Gillig bus costs \$520,000 and is paid for with both federal and county (Prop. 400) funds. This investment means less repair and maintenance, and the city has a more efficient fleet to service those that depend on daily bus service.

Five to eight buses arrive each week now through July, and as they do city staff will inspect each one to ensure all equipment is in working order, as well as install the farebox.



A blue and purple bus is parked at a station. The bus has the number 512 on its side. The background shows a large, modern building with a glass and steel facade. A white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing several paragraphs of text.

New CAD/AVL bus system in the works

We all know software or updates on our phones and computers may be outdated in just a few years, sometimes even months. Imagine keeping your current computer or phone for more than a decade.

Phoenix buses have a Computer-Aided Dispatch Automated Vehicle Location system that is 14 years old. That's quite the return on the initial investment.

A request for a proposal (RFP) went out in March 2016, which means in about two years we anticipate getting a new CAD/AVL system for the region's buses.

The CAD/AVL system allows us to know the location of each vehicle and how each bus route performs according to schedule.

Today, the company that manufactures the system no longer supports the technology. Updates and fixes are time-consuming and costly.

New features will include additional vehicle performance capabilities.

One example – if something is wrong with the engine, the driver could call the Operations Control Center (OCC) and the OCC would have access (via installed computer software) to view the vehicle's internal parts and assist in diagnosing the issue.

Study helps Valley Metro and member cities better understand transit users

Click image to enlarge slides

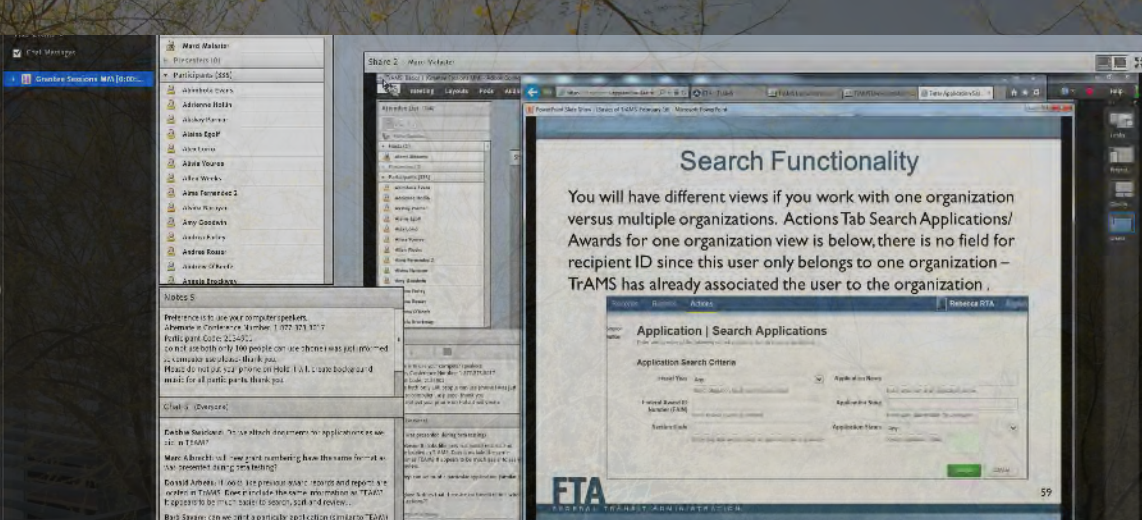
WHO ARE OUR PASSENGERS AND HOW DO THEY USE OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM?

An Analysis of Valley Metro 2014-2015 Origin and Destination Study

Valley Metro and member cities collaborated to gather travel behavior data from transit users in the new Valley Metro 2014-2015 Origin and Destination Study. The results help Valley Metro and member cities have access to accurate information on how passengers use the transit system.

This allows regional planners to better comprehend needs and travel patterns of transit users. The study also meets Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements of a *Before and After* study for the Central Mesa Extension. The number of completed surveys including both bus (12,453) and light rail passengers (9,350) was 21,803.

FTA launches new grants management system



In February 2016 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) officially launched a new grants management system called Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) formerly known as TEAM. It was created to provide greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the award and management of federal grants.

Several city of Phoenix Public Transit staff attended the training webinars during Feb. and March. Staff learned how to use the new system to continue providing region-wide high quality grant management services.

For more information visit: fta.dot.gov/funding

New vehicles coming soon

Vehicles are for nonprofit agencies that serve the elderly and disabled

The city of Phoenix Public Transit staff issued purchase orders for 39 new vehicles on behalf of subrecipients in February 2016. These are part of the FTA Section 5310 programs that provide services for elderly people and people with disabilities and special needs.



Vehicles should be here in approximately three to four months and the order comprises several types including Ford Transits, Braun Entervans and Chevy Express passenger vans.



FAST Act FTA Programs Overview

- State and local government entities that operate fixed route bus service and that are eligible to receive direct grants under 5307 and 5311 may now be direct recipients of Section 5339 funds, regardless of their designated recipient status.
- Two discretionary components have been added to the program
 - A bus and bus facilities competitive program based on asset age and condition
 - Low or no emissions bus deployment program (\$55M each year).
- A new pilot provision allows designated recipients in in urbanized areas between 200,000 and 999,999 in population to participate in voluntary state pools to allow transfers of formula funds between designated recipients from FY 2016 through FY 2020.
- Allows states to submit statewide applications for bus needs.
- The minimum state allocation under the Formula was raised to \$1.75M from \$1.25M; the territory allocation was unchanged.

CROSS CUTTING PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS AND CHANGES (Highlights)

- Multiple states and providers may purchase capital assets through cooperative interstate procurements.
- Created a pilot program to allow nonprofit organizations to enter into cooperative procurement contracts.
- Under the new procurement procedures, transit agencies can lease equipment or facilities such as low- or no-emission components.
- Finally, the FAST Act established a Joint Procurement Clearinghouse to allow grantees to co-purchase rolling stock within a system that helps them identify procurement partners.
- The FAST Act phases in an increased domestic content percentage (Buy America) requirement for rolling stock, as follows:
 - FY 2016 & FY 2017: more than 60% domestic content
 - FY 2018 & FY 2019: more than 65% domestic content
 - FY 2020 & beyond: more than 70% domestic content
- Buy America waiver denial process requires FTA to certify the availability and quality of the domestic sources for the product in the denied waiver.
- For purposes of qualifying for the General Public Interest Waiver for Small Purchases, the FAST Act defines a Small Purchase as a purchase of \$150,000 or less.
- Period of availability
 - Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grants – 6 years
 - Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Capital Investment – 4 years
 - Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – 3 years
 - Section 5337 State of Good Repair – 4 years
 - Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities – 4 years

3

FAST Act updates

In-depth FAST ACT FTA programs overview provided in summary on left.

The recently-passed five-year federal surface transportation authorization law, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act includes federal policy changes to highways, transit and federal passenger rail programs.

In transit specifically, formula and bus grants will have an \$800 million increase in the first year and \$200 million on top of that every year after.

Within that:

- \$104 million average annual increase for Urbanized Area Formula grants (5340 funding is combined with 5307)
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program – \$274 million annual average
- \$28 million for Research & Development Demonstration and Deployment grant
- State of Good Repair- first year is \$340 million increase and more than \$40 million on top of that every year
- Bus and Bus Facility Formula program - \$355 million annual average
- Bus and Bus Facility Discretionary program – approximately \$300 million annual average
- Bus and Bus Facility No/Low Emissions Discretionary program - \$55 million annually



The Federal Transit Administration requires each transit agency to inventory transit assets (such as buses, transit facilities and equipment), provide preventive maintenance information and report on intentions to upkeep and extend the life expectancy of assets.

TAMPs, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, are an important management tool that connect processes and stakeholders to

Transit Asset Management Plan at work

A much-needed major renovation began at the South Transit Facility in fall 2015. The South Transit Facility was built in 1982, and houses and supports 200 buses.

The facility is used to maintain the Phoenix bus fleet, which services the central corridor of the region.

Upgrades for this 20-month project include (check out pictures to the right):

- Roofing replacements
- Upgrade/replacements for mechanical and electrical equipment
- Replace fire alarm and methane detection systems
- New entrance, perimeter

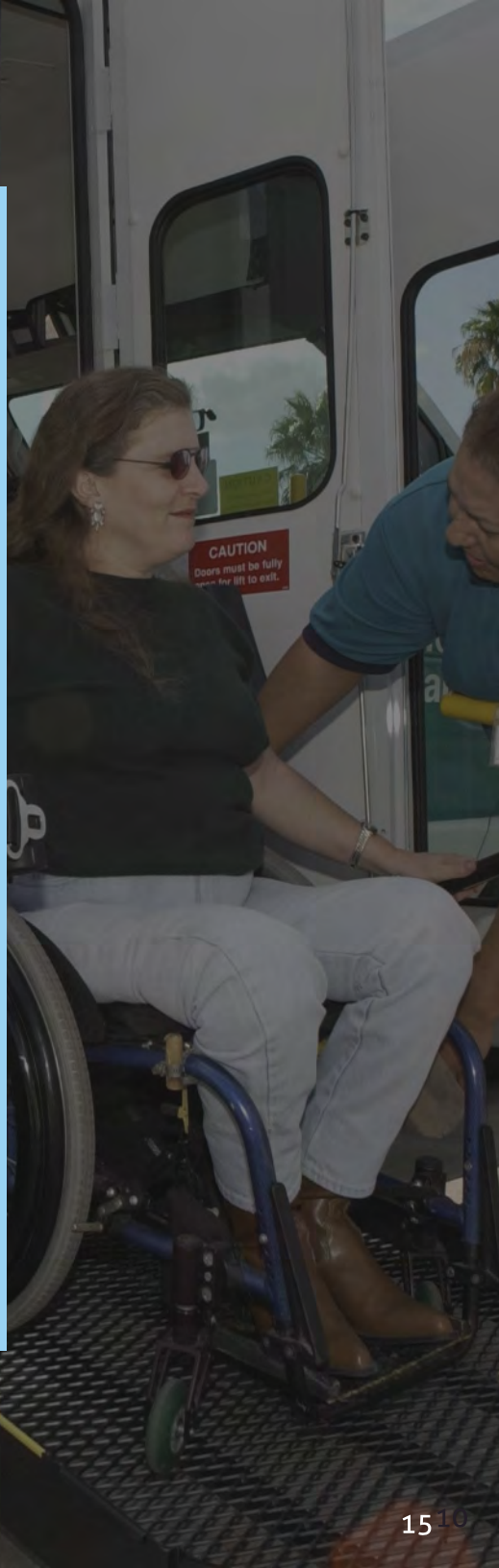


City of Phoenix and Valley metro lead Title VI/ADA training

Thanks to city of Phoenix Public Transit Department Civil Rights and Operations staff and Valley Metro efforts, transit contractors and contract administrator staff received professional training for Title VI/ADA Customer Complaint Investigations.

The training in Phoenix on April 7 included information such as how to conduct a proper civil rights complaint investigation. The goal was to improve investigator consistency and better address customer discrimination claims.

The collaboration between the two organizations also will produce a similar training for Phoenix Public Transit Department and Valley Metro staff April 20.



Phoenix Public Transit hosts National Transit Institute workshop



Transit agencies receiving funds from FTA must comply with the Department of Transportation (DOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations. Those involved in the application and administration of the DBE requirements should understand best practices to encourage more participation by DBEs.

The three-day National Transit Institute DBE training held in March focused on providing working knowledge of the U.S. DOT DBE regulations. Attendees were given the necessary tools to design and implement a DBE program in their organization.

Other topics included setting annual DBE goals, accounting for and reporting DBE participation and disputes, and appeals under DBE requirements.

For more information contact city of Phoenix Regional DBE/EEO Compliance Specialist Susan Sweeden at 602-534-2667 or susan.sweeden@phoenix.gov.



Valley transit leaders kick off conference

SWATA (South West Transit Association) *Freedom through Transit* conference attendees heard the latest news in transportation from transit leaders including city of Phoenix Public Transit Director Maria Hyatt, Valley Metro's Interim CEO Scott Smith, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Transportation Director Eric Anderson and Mesa Mayor John Giles.

Highlights from the event included a discussion panel where leaders talked about upcoming plans and goals for [Transportation 2050](#).

Attendees also had access to the latest transit technology and products.

Transportation expo a success

Leaders from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) city of Phoenix, Valley Metro and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport networked and conducted presentations to educate Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Transportation expo attendees about opportunities available in the industry.

Highlights included

- Transportation 2050 overview by city of Phoenix Public Transit Director Maria Hyatt and city of Phoenix Engineer / Assistant Director of Street Transportation Kini Knudson
- A presentation by Valley Metro Director of Planning and Accessible Transit Wulf Grote and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Special Projects

Friends of Transit conference focuses on a balanced regional transportation plan



The Friends of Transit 14th Annual Conference on Feb. 19 gave attendees a unique perspective on the future of transit. Arizona State University students presented their vision for transit in a Reimagining Transportation contest. Audience members voted on the best presentations and winners received bragging rights, money and the opportunity to network with the Valley's top transit leaders.

Additionally, conference participants heard from Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix Councilwoman Kate Gallego, who received the Friends of Transit Person of the Year award, and author and former transit director Gabe Klein.

Phoenix attends Central City South Community Fair



Several city of Phoenix departments including Housing, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, Phoenix Workforce Connection and Public Transit assisted in hosting the Annual Central City South Community Connection Fair on March 5.

The free, non-profit *Connecting All Ages*-themed fair had more than 500 attendees at Matthew Henson Park and featured information booths (Public Transit even brought a new bus), entertainment, door prizes, a Kids Zone and free refreshments.

Phoenix hosts first NACTO workshop



Phoenix hosted its first National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) design workshop March 4. The training included a morning seminar and an afternoon design challenge.

NACTO Director of Designing Cities Initiative Matthew Roe presented on topics that focused on urban-friendly transit prioritization techniques, on-street stop and station design, efficient and safe intersections, bus rapid transit and walking and bikeway design.

City of Phoenix staff

Phoenix invited to present Transportation 2050 plans at Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS)

City of Phoenix leaders presented on the progress of the Transportation 2050 plan at the T2050 WTS Advancing Women in Transportation luncheon March 3.

Public Transit Director Maria Hyatt and City Engineer Kini Knudson spoke to more than 50 attendees about the plan components including street and facility improvements, the expansion of light rail transit and enhanced bus and Dial-a-Ride service.

Valley Metro receives 2016 Innovative Transportation Solutions award

Valley Metro, in partnership with the cities of Mesa and Phoenix, were presented with the WTS Innovative Transportation Solutions Award for their business assistance programs during the construction of the Central Mesa and Northwest Phoenix extensions March 12.

The annual event, which occurred at the Desert Botanical Garden, included more than 170 individuals from the local and regional transportation industry.

The WTS Metro Phoenix Scholarship and Awards Ceremony is conducted annually to award scholarships to young women in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields and give special recognition to individuals and organizations making an impact in the transportation industry.



Phoenix transportation plan outreach receives award



The city of Phoenix Public Transit and Street Transportation departments along with Arizona State University received an AzTA/ADOT Excellence Award for “Outstanding Transit Innovation” at the 29th annual Transit Conference held April 10-13 in Flagstaff.

