

NEWS RELEASE



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WASHINGTON STREET RE-OPENS OCT. 12

Great news for drivers in downtown Phoenix -- Washington Street between Fifth and Third streets re-opens to vehicles and pedestrians Thursday, Oct. 12. Washington Street will have two unrestricted lanes of travel allowing easier westbound access through downtown. In addition, the dip allowing Washington Street to pass under the old Civic Plaza Hall C bridge has been eliminated. Metro Light Rail construction continues on the northern half of the street until the end of the year.

The opening of Washington Street is another milestone in the Phoenix Convention Center expansion project, currently in Phase Two. Washington was closed May 30 to facilitate demolition of the original North Building and Hall C bridge, as well as excavation to prepare for construction of a new, larger building in its place. The new North Building, scheduled for completion in early 2009, will feature a 190,000 square-foot exhibition hall; 90,000 square feet of meeting rooms; a 45,000-square-foot ballroom and a second 310,000-square-foot lower level exhibition hall connected underground to the West Building, which opened in July 2006.

The existing South Building remains open and fully operational during Phase Two.

When fully complete, the client-friendly convention center will feature a total of three distinct exhibition halls, three ballrooms, conference center, public art, wireless Internet service, ergonomic seating, "green build" and urban design, Hummer-sized freight elevators, approximately 900,000 square feet of rentable space and more than 2 million square feet total.

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WASHINGTON STREET RE-OPENS

ADD 1-1-1

The expanded Phoenix Convention Center will rank as one of the top 20 convention centers in the United States with the capacity to host 80 percent of all the conventions in the nation.

The voter-approved \$600 million expansion is a cooperative effort between the city of Phoenix and the state of Arizona. Phoenix voters approved \$300 million in funding for the project in 2001; the Arizona State Legislature approved matching funds in 2003.

A map showing current walking routes surrounding the convention center is available at www.phoenixconventioncenter.com and Copper Square Ambassadors – roving concierges equipped with maps, business directories, dining guides, downtown event schedules and two-way radios – are available to assist with directions as well.

For more information, visit www.phoenixconventioncenter.com or call 602-262-6225.

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