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ISSUE 06

# EN ROUTE

A PHOENIX PUBLIC TRANSIT  
DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



**City of Phoenix**  
Public Transit Department

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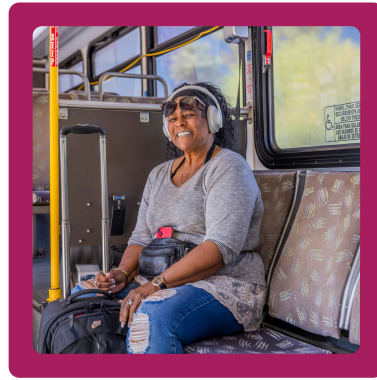
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Public Transit Colleagues and Friends,

It's warming up out there and Phoenix Public Transit is gearing up for a busy summer.

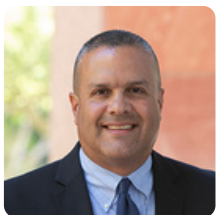
Spring brought the NCAA Final Four to the City of Phoenix with more than 132,000 basketball fans using our public transit system to get to and from events. It was a very successful weekend, and we are proud of the work done to ensure a safe and easy ride for all passengers.

We are excited to share news about these noteworthy moments, including –

- The topping out of the east tower of the new Central Station redevelopment project. We continue working with the developer and the Community and Economic Development department to keep this project moving forward.
- The completion of the South Central Downtown Hub (SCE/DH) light rail project projected to open in 2025.
- The first of 20 new hybrid-electric buses hitting the road on one of our routes! This is only the beginning for our goal of achieving a zero-emission fleet.

We will keep you posted on some of the major milestones coming up in public transit. Stay safe and stay cool.

Sincerely,



*Jesús Sapien*

Director, Public Transit

# TRANSIT UPDATES

## Final Four Successes

From April 5 – April 8, 2024, the City of Phoenix welcomed more than 130,000 basketball fans for the NCAA Final Four. The City of Phoenix sponsored free rides to and from basketball events around the city.



## Topping off Ceremony for Central Station

On May 23, 2024, the City of Phoenix celebrated the completion of the east tower of the new central Station in downtown. City leaders, along with the project team, celebrated the milestone by signing their names onto a structural beam at the top of the building. Those in attendance also received a tour of the construction site.



## Fare System Upgrades

The new fare system is here! Beginning this summer, riders will be able to utilize the Copper Card as a reloadable fare option. New fare vending machines are being installed at light rail stations across the Valley as well as on buses. Riders can purchase a Copper Card and use the new Pay-as-You-Go method. New Platinum Passes have also been distributed by employers and other organizations. Learn more at [Fare Technology Modernization | Valley Metro](#).



# COMING SOON

## ATP Transition to VM RideChoice

Beginning July 1, 2024, all Phoenix Public Transit Alternative Transportation Program services will transition to Valley Metro's RideChoice program. Similar to the Alternative Transportation Program, RideChoice uses rideshare transportation providers including Uber, taxicabs, and other wheelchair-accessible vehicles as an efficient travel option. The City of Phoenix is excited to offer this affordable transportation option to qualified residents who need it most. Seniors and people with disabilities will be able to use RideChoice to get to medical appointments, visit family and friends, grocery stores, and pharmacies. Phoenix Dial-a-Ride services will be unaffected by this change. For more information, visit: [valleymetro.org/accessibility/ridechoice](https://valleymetro.org/accessibility/ridechoice)

## Hybrid Buses to Hit the Road

The first of 20 new Hybrid-Electric buses will hit the road this year! Soon passengers will hop aboard a low-emission vehicle to get around the Valley.

## Service Changes

New service schedules began on April 22, 2024! Routes 8, 27, 29, 35, 90, and 106 now have updated service.

Proposed October 2024 service changes for Routes 13 and 77 are open for feedback! From now until June 7, the public can comment on the changes to these routes.

Learn more at [valleymetro.org/servicechanges](https://valleymetro.org/servicechanges).



# FROM OUR PARTNERS



## Appointment-Based Bulk Trash Collection

Phoenix's bulk trash collection program is changing to an appointment-based system starting September 30, 2024.

With the new program, customers will be able to select collection dates available for their address. Each household is allowed up to 4 pickups per year. The new program will provide solid waste fee-paying

customers a convenient way to get bulk trash removed. It will help reduce blight in neighborhoods and prevent trash from piling up during Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays. Appointment-based collection will replace quarterly collection beginning on September 30, 2024. [Read more about the change.](#)

## Phoenix Mayor Launches "Save Water Pledge" to Promote Water Conservation

Mayor Kate Gallego invites you to join the "Save Water Pledge!" The campaign includes simple yet effective measures that Phoenix residents can adopt to reduce water usage, such as fixing leaks, utilizing water-efficient appliances, and adopting smart watering practices that reflect seasonal weather conditions. Residents who sign up for the pledge will receive regular updates and tips on how to conserve water. Sign up at [phoenix.gov/savewaterpledge](https://phoenix.gov/savewaterpledge). Let's secure a sustainable future together!



## Heat Relief

The City of Phoenix is a proud partner of the [Heat Relief Network](#). All 17 [Phoenix Public Library locations](#) serve as cooling centers during regular operating hours. For a list of all Phoenix locations view the [Heat Relief Network Map](#). You can also call 2-1-1 to find cooling centers and other heat relief resources.





**City of Phoenix**  
Public Transit Department

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