

Tempe Streetcar Project
Tempe, Arizona
Small Starts Project Development
Information Prepared April 2013

Valley Metro (METRO) of Maricopa County proposes to build a streetcar for the City of Tempe along Mill Avenue, the major commercial street in Tempe, from Rio Salado Parkway to Southern Avenue. The proposed Tempe Streetcar would include an approximately one-mile, one-way loop through the Tempe central business district (CBD) and an approximately two-mile, double-track extension on Mill Avenue between University Drive and Southern Avenue. The project would operate mostly in through travel lanes with mixed traffic. Five streetcar vehicles would be purchased and a light duty vehicle maintenance facility would be constructed. Streetcar service would operate every 10 minutes during weekday peak and off-peak periods, every 20 minutes on weekday evenings, and every 15 minutes on weekends. Service would be provided on weekdays from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and on weekends from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

The Tempe Streetcar is intended to improve mobility and provide additional transit capacity in the Tempe CBD and the Mill Avenue corridor. The project would connect the Arizona State University campus and nearby residential neighborhoods with the activity centers of Downtown Tempe and Mill Avenue. The project is also intended to encourage redevelopment of underutilized buildings in Downtown Tempe and improve connections to the regional transit network. The Tempe Streetcar would provide access to the Phoenix METRO light rail system at the existing Mill Avenue station.

METRO initiated planning studies for the Tempe Streetcar in 2007, and issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in January 2011. METRO and the City of Tempe selected the Tempe Streetcar as the locally preferred alternative in September 2010. The project was approved into the financially constrained regional long range transportation plan in December 2010. FTA approved the project into project development in April 2013. METRO anticipates completion of the EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact in 2014, initiation of construction in 2015 and start of revenue service in late 2017.