



MINUTES

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Mayor and Council Tucson Transit Advisory Committee and to the general public that the Committee will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public on:

Monday, June 2nd, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Park Tucson Conference Room, 110 E. Pennington St., Ste. 150

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 5 minutes

Those present were:

Those absent were:

Members

-Riley Merline, Ward 1
-Ray Jordan, Ward 2
-Suzanne Schafer, Ward 3
-Mike Sanchez, Ward 4
-Margot Garcia, Ward 6
-Gene Caywood, City Manager
-Diana Moreno, City Manager

Members

-Mike Milczarek, City Manager

Others

Allen Benz, Public
Mikel Oglesby, Sun Tran
Shamara Smith, Sun Tran
Ian Sansom, City of Tucson
Rhett Crowninshield, City of Tucson
Susan Spiess, City of Tucson
Blake Olofson, City of Tucson

2. Approval of Minutes – (Vote) – 5 minutes

The approval of April minutes were tabled until the next scheduled TTAC as May meeting did not meet quorum and April minutes had not been printed, Chair Suzanne Schafer approved the motion.

3. Call to the Audience (First) – 5 minutes

Allen Benz – City and Sun Tran appear to be working on and addressing some of the issues he's seen lately at some transit stops, noting he'll follow up again but nothing specific for now.

4. Updates/Announcements from TTAC Members and Staff (Informational Only) – 10 minutes

Mikel Oglesby provided a brief update on the new transit app which is estimated to be ready in late August. Mikel also provided a brief update on the adopted COA changes and schedule for implementation.

Blake Olofson from Traffic Engineering provided an update on the challenges facing putting in a full traffic signal on Irvington Rd at Laos Transit Center to allow buses to turn left onto Irvington Rd. The primary challenge is budget – the cost is estimated at about \$800k and there isn't funding currently earmarked for this project. Rhett and Blake discussed coming up with a basic design to shop the idea around to try and get funding. Susan mentioned there may be funding available through Tohono O'odham grant but that a proposal would need to be submitted by June 5. Margot, Ray, Suzanne, and Gene all spoke in support of getting a signal here to support the continued presence and improvements at Laos Transit Center, as it serves a critical need for shelter from the weather for riders and efficient transfers.

Ian Sansom gave an update on the Sun Van COA. The draft report is expected to be complete by end of July, and there was discussion about including a longer Sun Van COA update once the report has been reviewed by TTAC, perhaps at a September meeting date.

5. Complete Streets Coordinating Council Update – 5 minutes

Riley Merline provided an overview of the May CSCC. The CSCC had discussions around the proposed Drexel Rd redesigns, and pushed for a 2 lane version over the 4 lane version. Mackenzi and Shamara provided a presentation about transit stops and Complete Streets design. The CSCC voted in support of updating the Major Streets and Routes (MS&R) plan.

6. Route 5 Reevaluation Overview – 5 minutes

Shamara Smith gave a summary of the recent outreach around the proposed Sun Tran Route 5 and Route 22 changes (see PPT included below).

Following the presentation, Gene read through a prepared letter in support of keeping Route 5 that was also sent to the TTAC and Mayor and Council. Among the reasons Gene gave in opposition of eliminating Route 5: the route is one of only a few that cross the city East-West, the route serves numerous schools, including the School for the Deaf and Blind, and serves the Pima corridor, which is a half mile from parallel routes. Gene supports cutting the Route 22 instead of Route 5 which doesn't serve a clear purpose and appears to be a relic from a previous need for a loop around El Rio, and Margot concurred and said that the route also connects to the Udall center which is a cooling center and that many older adults would be impacted by the removal of Route 5. Gene mentioned that ultimately cutting frequency should have been considered rather than cutting an entire route out of the system.

Suzanne asked if there were other proposals and if the TTAC could see those other proposals. Suzanne also asked if there can be thought put into how the City collects, processes, and analyzes public comments, as it seems to mostly be in raw form through comment cards, which are difficult for council to easily process. Suzanne also mentioned the need to emphasize and adequately capture live comments as people make considerable effort to attend in-person events. Margot mentioned there are several methods to collect and organize large numbers of comments for analysis.

Gene called a motion to formally oppose the elimination of Route 5. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Outreach Review
Route 5 & 22
Tucson Transit Advisory Committee
June 2nd, 2025

Proposed Major Service Changes for
Route 5 & Route 22

Full Presentation: <https://www.suntran.com/public-input-meeting-for-route-5-22/>

50 years

sun tran **LINK** **sun van**

Proposed Routes – Route 5 and 22

Legend

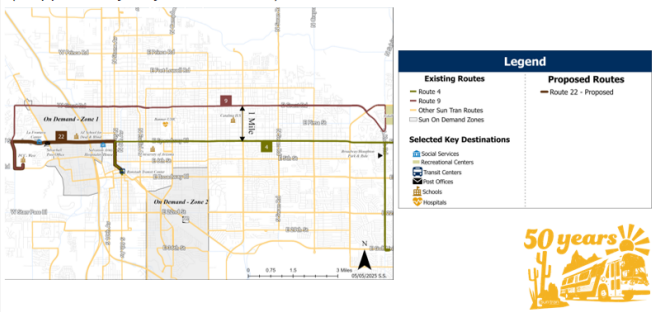
Existing Routes	Proposed Routes
Route 4	Route 22 - Proposed
Route 9	Route 5 - Discontinued
Route 22	Route 22 - Discontinued
Other Sun Tran Routes	
Sun On Demand Zones	

Selected Key Destinations

- Social Services
- Transit Centers
- Post Offices
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Recreational Centers

50 years

Route 5 and 22 (If Approved by Mayor and Council)



3

Outreach Meetings

Nine (9) Public Outreach Meetings (2 virtual)
May 12, 2025 - May 22, 2025

Attendance

Total: 150

- Notice:
- Bus stops
 - Social Media
 - Route & About Newsletter (Sun Tran)
 - Website with comment form

Accepted comments until May 31, 2025

Join Sun Tran for a Public Meeting

Proposed Changes for Routes 5 & 22

Your Voice Matters – Help Shape Transit!

The possible discontinuation of **Route 5** is under consideration, and **Route 22** may be realigned to serve parts of the affected area.

Join Sun Tran for a Public Meeting

Proposed Changes for Routes 5 & 22

Monday, May 12	Tuesday, May 13	Wednesday, May 14	Thursday, May 15	Friday, May 16
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virtual Meeting (Zoom)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virtual Meeting (Zoom)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virtual Meeting (Zoom)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virtual Meeting (Zoom)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Join Sun Tran for a Public Meeting

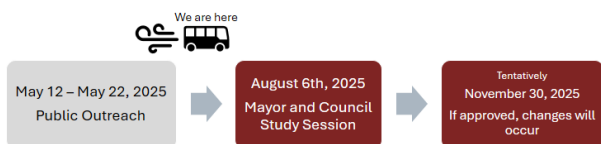
Your Voice Matters – Help Shape Transit!

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4

Timeline



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Thank You!



6

7. Alternative Fuel Strategies – 20 minutes

Mikel Oglesby gave a presentation on the City of Tucson's fuel strategy with an overview of benefits of CNG buses and electric buses (included below).

Alternative Fuels & Fleet Electrification

50 years

Sun Tran, Sun Link, Sun Van

System Data

Sun Tran, Sun Link & Sun Van

Our Team	Total Operating Revenue FY24	Sun Tran System
Sun Tran 565	\$92,295,926	185 Buses
Sun Link 47		3 Transit Center
Sun Van 237		2,095 Bus Stops
		323 Square miles
Operators	Total Annual Ridership	Routes
Sun Tran 344	Sun Tran 15,792,573	Sun Tran 41 Fixed
Sun Link 22	Sun Link 1,671,376	Sun Link 3.9 mile loop
Sun Van 240	Sun Van 506,164	Sun Van-Paratransit
		Sun On Demand
		Microtransit

Alternative Fuel Initiative

The City of Tucson Climate Action and Adaption Plan

Transition 100% of the City's light-duty vehicle fleet to electric by 2030.

Increase the stock of zero-emissions, battery-powered transit to 90% by 2030.

Invest in the charging infrastructure needed to support EVs in the City fleet and provide adequate workplace charging for municipal employees.

Increase awareness and use of personal EVs among City employees.

Sun Tran Alternative Fuel Goals

- Achieve fleet reliability comparable to or better than the current fleet with diesel buses.
- Lower operational cost achieving a 30% reduction in overall operating cost within 5 years of converting to 100% of the fleet being CNG and EVs.
- Transition the remaining 26% of the fleet to CNG & Electric.
- Reduce emissions of pollutants such as NOx to improve public health.
- Partner with Tucson Electric Power and other agency's to reduce energy cost.

Sun Tran will meet our goal of 100% cleaner burning fuel in FY26 in alignment with the City of Tucson's Climate Action Plan!

Performance Advantages



CNG.

- Cleaner Emissions
- Cost Savings
- Reduced Maintenance
- Quieter Operation
- Energy Security

Electric.

- Zero Emissions
- Lower Fuel and Maintenance Costs
- Higher Energy Efficiency
- Quiet Operation
- Smooth and Instant Power

CATEGORY	DIESEL	ELECTRIC	CNG
FUEL/ENERGY CONSUMED	251,810 GAL	19.70/Mi	852,953 GAL
FLEET CONSUMPTION	3.7MPG	30.57 MPGE (EPA ESTIMATE)	4MPG
CO2 GENERATED	3.11 kg	1.69kg	2.59 kg
FUEL COST PER GALLON (AVERAGE)	3.50	.37KWH	.90
FUEL/ENERGY COST PER MILE	.85-.90	.05	.23-.25

Deisel Electric CNG

Data Comparison

Fleet Replacement

Average age of Sun Tran buses is 7.43 years

39 Diesel buses replaced by 39 CNG buses by FY26.

10 Hybrid buses replaced by 10 Electric buses.

"Toward a Cleaner and Brighter Future"

Infrastructure



CNG station project at North facility completion in December 2025.



Electric Infrastructure at Sun Van completed by FY28



Expand Charging infrastructure at the Sun Tran facility to meet the needs of the electrification of the fleet.

Projected Fuel Savings

CNG & Electric fuel sources are significantly less in cost per mile- improving Sun Tran's efficiencies.

Projected fuel savings will allow us to have fewer road calls per miles traveled.

Providing service to the Tucson community while maintaining lower budgetary cost and more efficient fuel sources for our buses.

Cost Savings by Fuel type



50 years

Mikel Oglesby
General Manager
Mikel.Oglesby@tucsonaz.gov




suntran.com



8. Call to the Audience (Second) – 5 minutes

Gene provided a letter and went through the merits for considering Electric Trolley Buses (ETBs) in Tucson. Mikel commented that he had experience with these in Boston and liked the idea, Ray also had positive experience with ETBs in Boston. Suzanne asked how best to move forward, and Gene said it would need council support and asked that TTAC members use the letter as a basis to propose the idea to see if it can gain traction or interest. Mikel mentioned they would need to do a study on feasibility.

Allen Benz reminded everyone that the RTA board is having a meeting this week and it will be livestreamed.

Ray Jordan mentioned that he's lived in other places where buses had clear right of way when pulling out of bus stops or bus bays, and he'd like to see a movement here to improve driver training around bus right of way.

9. Items and Date for Next Meeting(s) – 5 minutes

Items:

- Funding: would like to be briefed on funding items that will go to council in August
- Primavera Presentation: reach out about presentation originally scheduled for May
- Reporting on safety incidents on transit and at transit station, bus stops, and transit centers as well as a presentation on who has jurisdiction over issues at bus stops

Date:

Monday, August 4th, 3:00 pm, Park Tucson

No meeting in July

10. Adjournment