



LEGAL ACTION REPORT

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, December 2nd, 2024 at 3:00 PM
Park Tucson Conference Room, 110 E. Pennington St., Ste. 150

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 3:07 pm

Those present were:

Members

-Riley Merline, Ward 1
-Lisa Shipek, Ward 2
-Suzanne Schafer, Ward 3
-Angie Quiroz, Ward 5
-Gene Caywood, City Manager
-Mike Milczarek, City Manager

Those absent were:

Members

-Margot Garcia, Ward 6
-Nicole Feldt, City Manager
-Mike Sanchez, Ward 4

Others

Allen Benz, Public
Colby Henley, Public
Preston McLaughlin, PAG
Mackenzi Wintermoyer, Sun Tran
Shamara Smith, Sun Tran
Davita Mueller, Sun Tran
Cindy Glysson, Sun Tran
Rhett Crowninshield, City of Tucson
Ian Sansom, City of Tucson
James Castaneda, City of Tucson
Monica Landgrave-Serrano, City of Tucson

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

The approval of minutes was moved, duly seconded, and, hearing no objections, Chair Suzanne approved the motion.

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

Allen Benz wanted to speak about funding issues and how the next budget is due end of June and the sooner we have feedback the better. He mentioned most funding mechanisms are long-term, not short-term, so we should look into the short-term ones that require less effort.

Colby Henley wanted to follow-up regarding the bus shelters on Broadway and the proposed elimination of certain bus stops. He is curious about the potential removal of such bus stops, and what the public process has been to come up with such a decision. Suzanne mentioned there are some bus pullouts without shade.

4. TTAC Member Check-In with Appointees (Informational) – 3 minutes

NO ACTION TAKEN

Riley checked in with Ward 1 Staff, and he talked about a ribbon cutting taking place on December 17 for the new Stone Ave protected bicycle lane.

5. Complete Streets Coordinating Council Update – 3 minutes

NO ACTION TAKEN

Riley talked about the presentation they had on traffic signals and how that can play a role in safety. He also said some funds were allocated to make a number of improvements on the streets near the 22nd St Bridge Project.

Kittle Bus Stop Improvements

August 2023 to October 2024

Phase 1: Shelter Relocations (x31)

Phase 2: ADA Compliant Concrete Additions (x18)



Heat Resiliency Pilot Project

Bus Stop Name	Bus Stop ID #	Ground Temperature Outside Shelter (F)	Ground Temperature Inside Shelter (F)	Ambient Temperature (F)	June 7th, 2024 Time
Prince/Fairview (SE)	13931	145.5	109.5	107.9	12:46 pm
Broadway/Old Spanish Trail (SE)	14545	148.5	111.0	107.9	1:24 pm
Alvernon/22 nd St (NE)	139	137.5	118.0	109.5	1:46 pm
Swan/24 th St (NE)	12603	140.5	115.5	107.9	2:01 pm
36 th St/ Kino Pkwy (NW)	14956	133.5	104.5	106.3	2:26 pm
Silverbell/St Mary's (NE)	12586	142.0	111.5	108.8	2:51 pm



Enhancements: Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Solar-powered lighting, Tamper-proof solar compacting trash receptacles, Native vegetation, Information Kiosks with Call Buttons.

FTA Buses & Bus Facilities Grant



[2024 Federal Transit Administration Buses & Bus Facilities Competitive Program Grant - Sun Tran](#)

AZ	City of Tucson, Sun Tran / Sun Van	BBF	The city of Tucson and Sun Tran will receive funding to replace aging equipment at its Northwest Bus Maintenance Facility and upgrade multiple bus stops. By installing dozens of shelters, adding trees for shade and improving signage through Braille, large print, wayfinding and audible information, the agency will make their system more accessible and equitable.	\$11,385,600
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Feb 2025: COA Stop Changes

Route 3



Route 37



MapTucson: Data Update

Bus Stops

- Inactive Stops Removed
- Shelter Status Updated
- Photos Updated

Routing

- Layer updates for "Sun Tran Bus Routes", "Express Bus Routes", and "Sun Shuttle Routes"

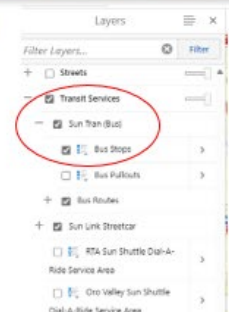


How to See Bus Stops in Map Tucson

Step 1

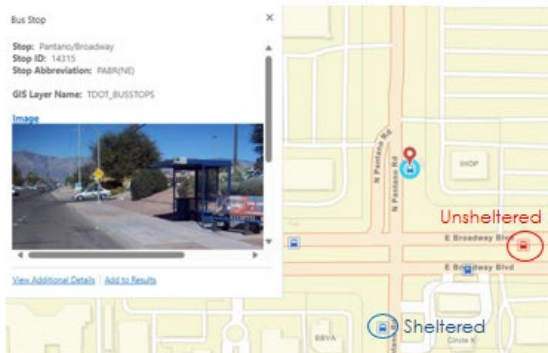


Step 2



Bus Stop Data in Map Tucson

Step 3



Potential Future Projects

- Purchase Advertising benches
- Purchase Trash Receptacles
- Improve Accessibility
- Repaint Older Shelters
- Refurbish Roof Panels



We are taking every opportunity to add vegetation around bus stops.

V. Transit Element	RTA Project Budgets *	Committed Non-RTA Dollars †	Construction Start Period ▲
44. Stone Ave. Bus Rapid Transit	\$70,000	\$70,000	Subject to Grant Funding
45. Current Weekday/Evening/Weekend/Paratransit Bus Service	\$227,000		1st through 4th Periods
46. Bus Frequency/Route and Area Expansion	\$121,000		1st through 4th Periods
47. Current Express/Shuttle Fixed/Dial-a-Ride/Paratransit	\$192,000		1st through 4th Periods
Element Subtotal***	\$610,000	\$70,000	

44. Stone Ave Bus Rapid Transit

- Covers ~ 50% of estimated cost for 5-mile BRT project from Ronstadt TC to Tohono Tadaï TC

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45. Current Weekday/Evening/Weekend/Paratransit Bus Service

- Maintain current service levels for Sun Tran, Sun Van, Sun On Demand

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Element Subtotal***	\$610,000	\$70,000	

46. Bus Frequency/Route and Area Expansion

- Maintains current service levels for Sun Tran
- Incorporates recommendations from Sun Tran COA

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Element Subtotal***	\$610,000	\$70,000	

47. Current Express/Shuttle Fixed/Dial-a-Ride/Paratransit

- Maintains current service levels for Sun Express, Sun Shuttle (regional routes/services)

8. Transit Center Facilities - 10 minutes

ACTION APPROVED BY MOTION

Gene says we need to get M&C now that they are working on the budget. Lisa would like the motion to be more expansive, to other low-cost improvements, a facelift, basic enhancements of the aesthetics. Angie mentioned there could be two phases, immediate repairs in phase one and enhancements in phase two. Gene thinks that stuff ought to work, and that the bathrooms are not working now, that is why he narrowed in on that. He thinks this issue discourages people from using the facility. Angie would like to see a maintenance plan, a maintenance budget, before things get worse. Mike proposes "for interim repairs and increased maintenance" and that the actual cost should be included so that M&C can see how much money it will require. Suzanne says that under current conditions things aren't maintained to an appropriate level and that we want that to be addressed in the budget.

Gene presented the following information to the TTAC members:

“BACKGROUND: The Tucson Transit Advisory Committee (TTAC) continues to receive reports from the public regarding issues at Ronstadt Transit Center. The issues concern the condition of the restrooms – both their cleanliness and reliability of the fixtures (toilets and sinks).

The TTAC understands the reticence of staff to spend large sums on an aging facility that possibly may be replaced sometime soon. However given the continuing issues, the TTAC has concluded that something must be done as soon as possible to rectify the current situation, returning the restrooms to a reliable condition. Thus the TTAC makes the following request:

MOTION: We request the Mayor and Council include funding in next year’s budget specifically designated for interim repairs to the restroom facilities at Ronstadt Transit Center.”

The TTAC revised the motion to the following:

MOTION: We request that staff develop a plan and that the Mayor and Council include funding in next year’s budget specifically designated for interim repairs and increased maintenance to the restroom facilities at Ronstadt Transit Center (and the other two transit centers).

The approval of the motion was moved by Vice-Chair Gene, duly seconded, and, hearing no objections, Chair Suzanne approved the motion.

9. Provide Sun Tran with App Feedback – 15 minutes

NO ACTION TAKEN

Cindy mentioned that she would like to know how people use the app, what they would like to have in an app. The current app is not being supported any longer and that is why there is a need for a new app. For example, the new app should be better at letting people about detours. Likewise, they want to improve the connection between the different transit services so that transfers are easier to identify in the app. Preston mentioned PAG is also working on updating their app and would be happy to partner with Sun Tran. Cindy also said they are working on a survey so that they can find out what riders need. Mike brought up that the app should be able to charge fares in case it is necessary in the future. Cindy wants riders to have real-time information and that they can also provide real-time feedback through the app. Riley said the current app forces you to put in location or address and sometimes you just want to know when the bus will arrive in a general area in a quick manner. Lisa uses Google Maps instead of the app, and she thinks some measures should be taken now to let people know of these changes. Suzanne thinks there should be a way to click a button and see all the information you would see in the Rider Guide, not just a zoomed-in route proposal.

10. Transit Funding Report – 5 minutes James Castaneda

NO ACTION TAKEN

Mayor and Council Study Session on 11/19

Memo to Mayor and Council included updates on potential transit funding mechanisms, separated into 2 categories, “Consider” and “Act Now”:

Consider

- Transportation Utility Fee (TUF)
- Special Taxing District
- Impact Fees
- Rental Car Tax
- Formation of a Metropolitan Public Transit Authority (MPTA)

Act Now

- Partnership Agreements
- Hotel/Motel Surcharge
- Public Utility Tax (PUT)



TTAC DECEMBER 2024

Partnership Agreements

- Primary focus has been engagement with educational institutions including Pima Community College (PCC), Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), and the University of Arizona (UA)
- In addition to a discussion related to funding, there may also be an opportunity for partnerships to add value to transit system in ways such as facilities improvements or rider amenities
- City Manager will continue to keep the Mayor and Council updated on those conversations as they progress



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Hotel/Motel Surcharge

- Tucson currently has a 6% hotel tax rate and \$4/room/night surcharge; revenues for both charges are funneled into the General Fund
- Each \$1 increase in the surcharge yields about \$2M in additional revenues

Jurisdiction	Population (2020 census)	Primary Hotel Tax Rate (%)	Additional Hotel Tax Rate (%)	Total Hotel Tax Rate (%)
Phoenix	1,608,215	2.30	3.00	5.30
Tucson	542,658	6.00	2.68**	8.68
Mesa	504,296	2.00	5.00	7.00
Chandler	276,011	1.50	2.90	4.40
Gilbert	267,931	1.50	2.80	4.30
Glendale	248,403	2.90	5.00	7.90
Scottsdale	241,340	1.75	5.00	6.75
Pecora	190,991	1.80	3.80	5.60
Marana	51,904	2.50	6.00	8.50
Oro Valley	47,070	2.50	6.00	8.50
Salmaria	34,102	2.00	2.00	4.00



Hotel/Motel Surcharge

- Table in MC Memo did not include State, County or other regional assessments, more data available from the [AZ Office of Tourism](#)
- 5.5% for AZ, across all jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Population (2020 census)	Primary Hotel Tax Rate (%)	Additional Hotel Tax Rate (%)	Total Hotel Tax Rate (%)	Total Hotel Tax Rate (%)
				Jurisdiction	County/State/Other
Phoenix	1,608,215	2.30	3.00	5.30	12.57
Tucson	542,658	6.00	2.68**	8.68	14.73
Mesa	504,296	2.00	5.00	7.00	14.27
Chandler	276,011	1.50	2.90	4.40	11.67
Gilbert	267,931	1.50	2.80	4.30	11.57
Glendale	248,403	2.90	5.00	7.90	15.17
Scottsdale	241,340	1.75	5.00	6.75	14.02
Pecora	190,991	1.80	3.80	5.60	12.87
Marana	51,904	2.50	6.00	8.50	14.55
Oro Valley	47,070	2.50	6.00	8.50	14.55
Salmaria	34,102	2.00	2.00	4.00	10.05



Public Utility Tax (PUT)

- Tucson currently has a 6% PUT, broken down into 2 components, 4.5% (all utilities) and 1.5% (telecoms using the right-of-way)
- Last adjusted on 6/7/2016 (effective 7/1/2016), increased from 4% to 4.5%, annual revenue increase is approximately \$1.7M
- Increases the PUT offset franchise fees paid by TEP and SWG

Jurisdiction	Utility Tax Rate [%]	Public Utility (Additional Utility) [%]	Total Utility Tax Rate [%]
Phoenix	2.70	-	2.70
Tucson	2.60	6.00	8.60
Mesa	2.00	-	2.00
Chandler	2.75	-	2.75
Gilbert	1.50	-	1.50
Glendale	2.90	-	2.90
Scottsdale	1.75	-	1.75
Peoria	3.30	-	3.30
Marana	4.00	-	4.00
Oro Valley	4.00	-	4.00
Sahuarita	4.00	-	4.00



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Next Steps

- The amount to cover zero fare revenue collections is included in the budget for FY2025 and in the 5-year financial plan for FY2026 (through June 30, 2026)
- City Manager/Elected Officials will continue to seek out partnerships
- Mayor and Council requested more data on the outcome of the COA(s), will be covered at MC Briefings or on MC Agenda as directed by Mayor and Council
 - COA findings presented at [MC Study Session on 6/4/2024](#)
 - All COA materials are available on Sun Tran's [webpage](#)



TTAC DECEMBER 2024

11. Inviting Mayor Romero to a TTAC Meeting – 5 minutes

NO ACTION TAKEN

Suzanne mentioned that she spoke with Margot and that they think we should dispense the idea for now. In contrast, Lisa thinks it wouldn't hurt to make an invitation, and Mike M. agrees. Therefore, Lisa said she will draft the letter and Suzanne will revise it.

12. Meeting Venue Discussion and Hybrid Option – 5 minutes

NO ACTION TAKEN

Angie prefers the Public Works Building and thinks we should go back to that one. Suzanne has some issues with that space. For now, it was decided the TTAC will meet in the 3rd floor Main Library conference room for the January meeting.

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

Allen Benz mentioned a parking charge component could help fund transit charged per space use, per month, and added to the cost of business licenses, or to increase the parking meter costs.

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

Recently proposed items:

- Transit Budget Update
- Technical Aspects
- Transit Centers
- Downtown Links impact on transit

Ongoing items:

- Sun Tran COA Update
- Sun Van COA Update
- Tucson Rapid Transit Update
- Tucson Norte-Sur Update
- Transit Fares Update
- Performance Metrics

Past proposed items:

- Climate Action Plan/transit
- App and Route Sharing
- DTM and Sun Tran Update
- Capital Project at the Ronstadt TC

15. Adjournment 5:02 pm

For further information, contact: Monica Landgrave-Serrano, (520)-780-0635, monica.landgrave@tucsonaz.gov. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Transit Services at 520 791-5409. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.