



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, April 1st, 2024 at 3:00 PM
4TH Floor Conference Room, Public Works Building
201 N Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – 5 minutes

Those present were:

Members

Suzanne Schafer Ward 3 Vice-Chair
Nicole Feldt City Manager
Gene Caywood City Manager
Riley Merline Ward 1 Chair
Margot Garcia Ward 6

Those absent were:

Members

Kevin Hampton Ward 4
Lisa Shipek Ward 2

Others

Allen Benz, Public
Mike Milczarek, Public
Davita Mueller, Sun Tran
Ian Sansom, City of Tucson
James Castaneda, City of Tucson

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

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

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

Chair Riley Merline

NO ACTION TAKEN

4. **TTAC Member Check-In with Appointees** (Informational) – 5 minutes

Chair Riley Merline

NO ACTION TAKEN

5. **Complete Streets Coordinating Council (CSCC)** Update – 5 minutes

Chair Riley Merline

NO ACTION TAKEN

Complete Streets Coordinating Council Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, starting at 5:30 p.m.

6. **Plan Tucson Update** – 5 minutes

Vice-Chair Suzanne Schafer

NO ACTION TAKEN

Plan Tucson Future Growth Scenario Mapping Activity: <https://www.plantucson.org/future-growth>

Upcoming Events:

- Virtual Community Forum
- May 14, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
- Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUHiz5HtomEXF3l5Bp5ZPm7Ed2FDCxyZ8PYCJA-Hm3Zz9UZg/viewform>
- In-Person Community Forum
- May 18, 2024 from 10 am to 12 pm at the Ward 2 Office
- Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwp9MCFL8pJ57eCJ3p-A-yiGkq_pljgbq63FI9umtw_azd1A/viewform

Background

At the Study Session on March 5, 2024, staff presented Mayor and Council with additional information to help inform the conversations regarding fare-free transit, including the following: ridership trends by mode, Sun Tran service adjustments for public schools, ridership estimates for the University of Arizona (UA), Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), and Pima Community College (PCC), fare collection scenarios, and key activities and a timeline needed for fare implementation.

Discussions ensued and the Mayor and Council requested additional data to help guide in the decision-making process for transit funding:

- Public Comments and Responses
- Pre-Pandemic Fare Structure
- Pre-Pandemic Pass Sales
- Funding Options

Transit Fares In-Place Prior to the Suspension of Fares			
Sun Tran/Sun Link/Sun Shuttle Single Trip	Fare	Sun Tran/Sun Link/Sun Shuttle Period Passes	Fare
Full Fare Cash	\$ 1.75	Full Fare 1-Day Pass	\$ 4.00
Full Fare Stored Value (on a SunGO Card)	\$ 1.60	Full Fare 1-Day Ticket at Sun Link stops (Cost includes ticket fees)	\$ 4.50
Economy Fare Cash (w/ SunGO ID and Card - Senior/Disabled/Low Income)	\$ 0.75	Full Fare 1-Day Ticket at all other locations (Cost includes ticket fees)	\$ 4.40
Economy Fare Stored Value (on a SunGO ID and Card - Senior/Disabled/Low Income)	\$ 0.75	Discounted 1-Day Ticket (Non-profit agencies only. Cost includes ticket fees)	\$ 2.45
Express Fare	\$ 2.35	Full Fare 3-Day Pass	\$ 10.00
Up-Charges for Express Service		Full Fare 30-Day Pass	\$ 48.00
Full Fare to Express Fare	\$ 0.60	Economy 30-Day Pass (Senior/Disabled/Low Income)	\$ 22.50
Economy Fare to Express Fare	\$ 1.60	Express 30-Day Pass	\$ 64.00
Full Fare to Sun Shuttle Deviated and Dial-a-Ride Services*	\$ 1.45	Annual Pass	\$ 480.00
Economy Fare to Sun Shuttle Deviated and Dial-a-Ride Services*	\$ 0.85	SummerGO Youth Pass (During summer vacations and for ages 6-18 only)	\$ 45.00
*Green Valley/Sahuarita Dial-a-Ride only.		College Semester (UA/PCC)	\$ 192.00
Sun Van		College Annual (UA/PCC)	\$ 480.00
Regular Fares — One-Way	\$ 3.20	College Semester Express (UA/PCC)	\$ 256.00
Low Income Fares — One-Way	\$ 1.60	College Annual Express (UA/PCC)	\$ 608.00
Optional Service			
Full Fare One-Way	\$ 6.00		
Low-Income One-Way	\$ 4.00		

Organization/Agency	FY19 Sun Tran Pass Sales
Gen Pass Sales Outlet (Fry's Food)	\$ 1,057,591
TUSD	\$ 879,298
University of Arizona	\$ 837,438
Other Community Organization	\$ 350,329
Pima County	\$ 289,708
Behavioral Health Organization	\$ 235,462
Non-Public School	\$ 162,528
City of Tucson Department	\$ 118,022
Other Business	\$ 116,225
Healthcare Organization	\$ 107,095
State Organization	\$ 84,963
Raytheon	\$ 42,696
Pima Community College	\$ 31,398
Gen Pass Sales Outlet	\$ 24,983
Tucson Electric Power	\$ 21,993
Federal Agency	\$ 9,204
Local SD (Except TUSD)	\$ 4,697
Regional Jurisdiction	\$ 2,833
Total	\$ 4,376,463

Pre-Pandemic Pass Sales

Notes:

- Sun Tran partnered with Fry's Food, as a passthrough, to sell bus passes to the public, the amount listed for Fry's Food represents those sales.
- The University of Arizona subsidized half of the amount of bus pass sales for students, faculty, and staff. For FY19, the actual contribution by the UA was approximately \$419K.

Funding Options			
Type	Description	Feasibility Consideration	Currently Viable for Transit Services?
Transportation Utility Fee (TUF)	A financing mechanism to treat municipal transportation needs as a utility for which users of the system pay a fee based on their use of the system.	1. Based on a review of the ARS, there are currently no allowances for the authorization of an assessment of a transportation user tax/fee on real property of a municipality in Arizona.	No
Public Utility Tax (PUT)	A tax which is levied uniformly to all utility ratepayers based on utility charges.	1. Mayor and Council has the capacity to increase the Public Utility Tax (PUT). 2. The current PUT is at six percent (6%); any increase to this rate would position the City at amongst the highest PUT imposition in the state. 3. Regressive tax, with greatest impact to fixed and low-income households. 4. Tucson Code Section 19-1000(c) requires any franchise payments from the utility to be credited toward the PUT.	Maybe

Funding Options			
Type	Description	Feasibility Consideration	Currently Viable for Transit Services?
Impact Fees	A fee assessed on new developments to help fund a proportionate share of the cost of infrastructure needed to serve that development.	1. Current ARS prohibits the ability of municipalities to use impact fee revenues to fund any public service provided by the municipality, including transit services.	No
Special Taxing District	Certain subsections of the City may vote to create special improvement to help fund municipal improvements.	1. Transit is not included as an authorized use of these special taxing district.	No
Access Agreements	Agreements between municipalities and private businesses to assist in funding transit operations.	1. These public-private partnerships can play a key role in ensuring the sustainability of fare-free transit operations as they allow for the recouperation of farebox revenue and help lessen the burden on the General Fund.	Yes

Funding Options

Rental Car Tax

- The Arizona Constitution prohibits municipalities, including the City of Tucson, from imposing a citywide tax on rental cars.
- Pima County can impose a rental car surcharge, since it acts as a Sports Authority District; all collections must be used for County sports facilities.

Hotel/Motel Surcharge

- The City of Tucson currently imposes a hotel tax, "Transient Rental Tax," (6.0%) and an additional Hotel/Motel Surcharge (\$4.00/night).
- Mayor and Council can increase both the Transient Rental Tax as well as the Hotel/Motel Surcharge in the manner that is compliant with ARS 9-499.15.
- Any increase to the Transient Rental Tax (Tucson Code 19-66(a)), which is currently at 6.0%, must be used for the promotion of tourism, per state statute (ARS 9-500.06(c)).
- Any increase to the Hotel/Motel Surcharge (Tucson Code 19-66(b)), which is currently at \$4.00/night, has the flexibility to be used for any general fund purpose.
 - It is worth noting that every \$1.00/night collects approximately \$2M.

Funding Options

Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF)

- Via the Arizona Lottery, prior to fiscal year 2012 two funding mechanisms were in place:
 - LTAF I – non-Powerball receipts
 - LTAF II – Powerball receipts
- From FY2007 through FY2011, the City of Tucson received over \$10.7M from LTAF I and II.
- During the 2011 AZ Legislature session, to fill the State's budget shortfall, the AZ Legislature repealed the LTAF program, leaving the City of Tucson and many other jurisdictions at a significant financial loss.
- Maricopa County re-established funding through a claim failed against ADEQ.
- During the Nov. 14, 2012, Mayor and Council Study Session, the City Council voted unanimously in favor of seeking to reinstate LTAF funding; however, those efforts never materialized.

8. **Sun Van Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) Update** – 20 minutes NO ACTION TAKEN
Ian Sansom and/or Davita Mueller, Shawn Mangan

Sun Van COA

- The Sun Van Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) objectives are to:
 - Evaluate existing Sun Van service, policies, and procedures
 - Identify opportunities for improvement to Sun Van and create a more equitable, effective, and efficient transit system
 - Propose recommendations for future Sun Van service changes or expansions to better serve the community.
- Sun Van COA complements Sun Tran COA

COA Project Team & Timeline

- Partnership between City of Tucson, RATP Dev, and TMD



- Project Timeline



What is Sun Van?

- Shared-ride, public transportation service for people who have a disability that prevents them from using Sun Tran or Sun Link
- Must be found eligible before using service
- Service provided to/from destinations within ¼ mile of Sun Tran and Sun Link routes during times these services operate
- Premium service offered to destinations and hours beyond requirements when available



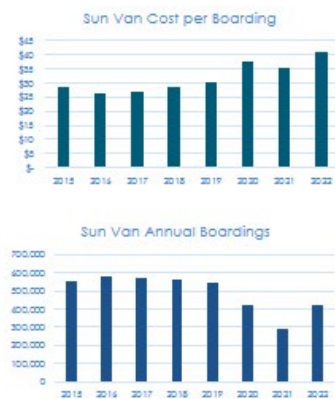
Other Accessibility Investments

- Bus and Streetcar Fleet Fully Accessible
 - Wheelchair accessible
 - Stop announcements
- Sun Link Stations Fully Accessible
 - Level boarding
 - Accessible service information
- ADA Bus Stop Improvements
- Vehicle Operator Accessibility Training
- Accessible Rider Training



Recent Sun Van Trends

- Cost per Boarding has increased 44% between 2015 and 2022
- Annual trips decreased during pandemic, but are approaching pre-pandemic levels



Emerging Mobility Options

- Need for specialized transportation services may exceed traditional Sun Van service
- Identify mobility options for seniors, persons with disabilities, and other transit-dependent populations not currently served by Sun Van or Sun Tran
- Opportunity for new service options including expanded Sun OnDemand microtransit and transportation network companies (Uber, Lyft)



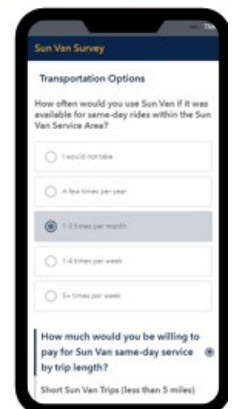
Community Meetings & Survey

- We want to hear from you about:
 - What Sun Van is doing well and where we can improve
 - Your mobility needs that are not being met
 - What transportation providers you would use and how often
 - What you would be willing to pay for new mobility services
- Survey results will be summarized and used to develop draft recommendations for Sun Van and other mobility improvements



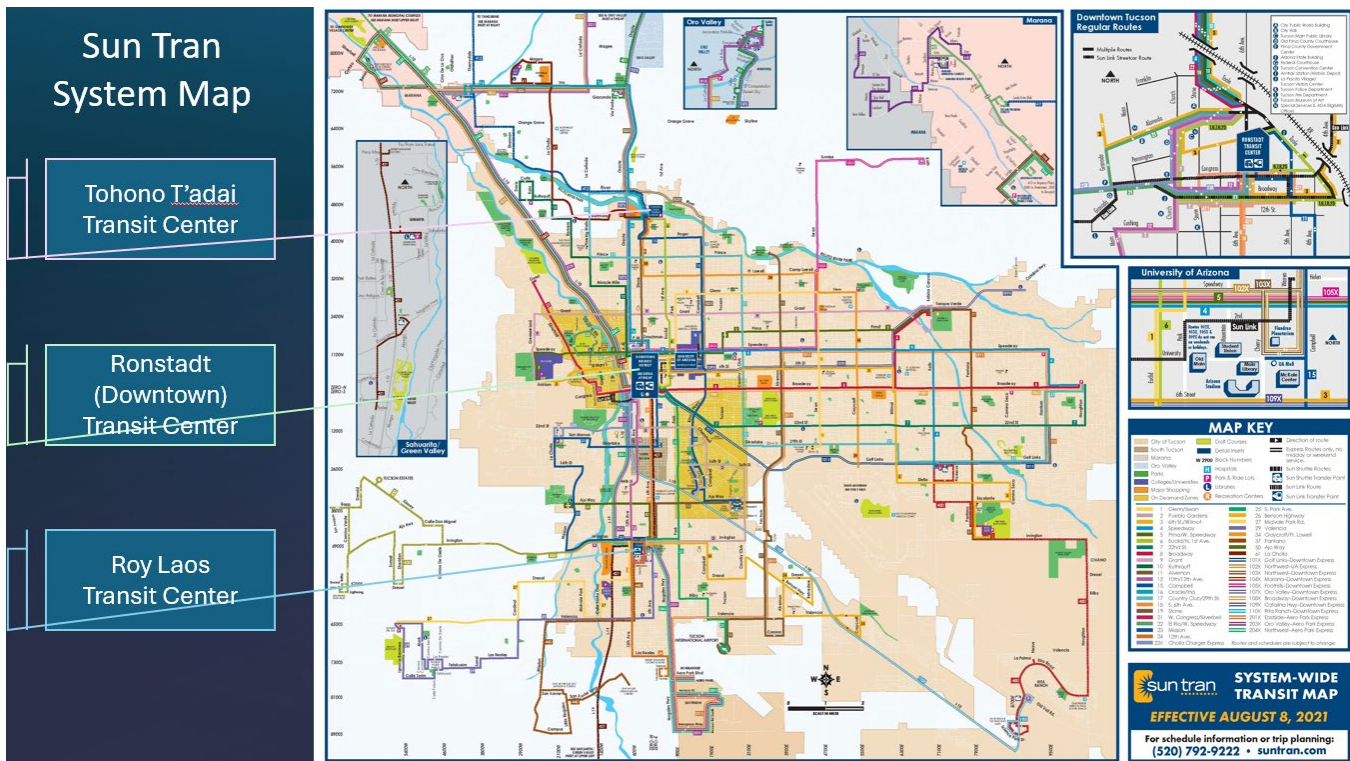
Getting Involved

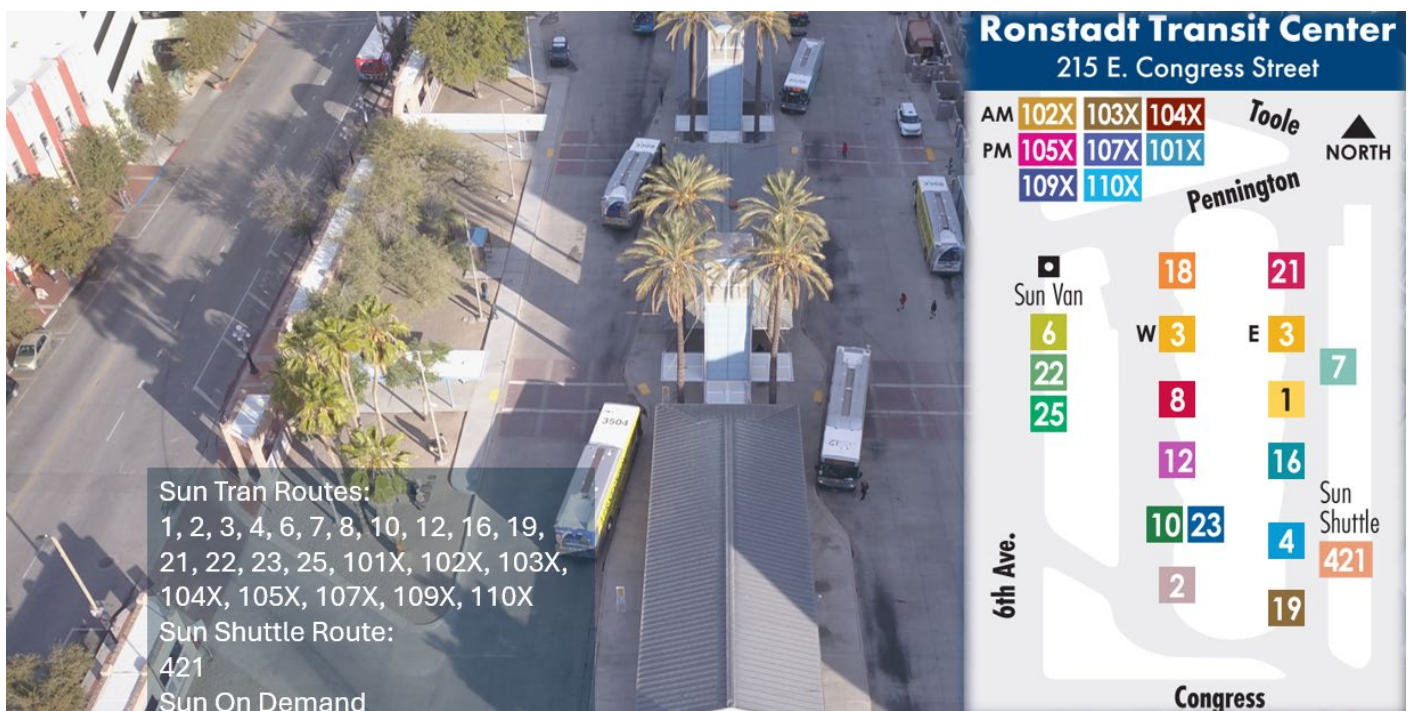
- **Visit Our Website**
suntran.com/sunvancoa/
- **Take Our Survey**
 - Provide feedback with our ten-minute survey
- **Review Recommendations**
 - Outreach in June 2024



9. **Transit Centers in Tucson – 15 minutes**
Davita Mueller

NO ACTION TAKEN





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| <p>10. Motion Discussion and Vote on Sun Tran COA Recommendations – 15 minutes
<i>Chair Riley Merline</i></p> <p>11. Call to the Audience (Second) – 5 minutes
<i>Chair Merline</i></p> <p>12. Possible Future Agenda Items – 5 minutes
Recently proposed items:
-Invite Mayor Regina Romero to a TTAC Meeting
-Capital Project at the Ronstadt Transit Center</p> <p>13. Adjournment.</p> | <p>Ongoing items:
-COA Update
-Tucson Rapid Transit Update
-Tucson Norte-Sur Update
-Transit Fares Update</p> | <p>Past proposed items:
-Climate Action Plan in relation to transit with Manisha Bewtra
-22nd St Bridge Project update
-Drexel Bridge Project update</p> | <p>NO ACTION TAKEN</p> <p>NO ACTION TAKEN</p> <p>NO ACTION TAKEN</p> |
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