

Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension Proposal



MAG Management Committee
November 7, 2012

Mesa Proposal

- Extend light rail from Mesa Drive to Gilbert Road (1.9 miles)
- Remove 16 projects from the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP)
- Reallocate federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) to fund LRT extension
- Mesa will provide necessary financing to match project needs to expected revenue stream
- Payments to Mesa are subject to ALCP schedule changes

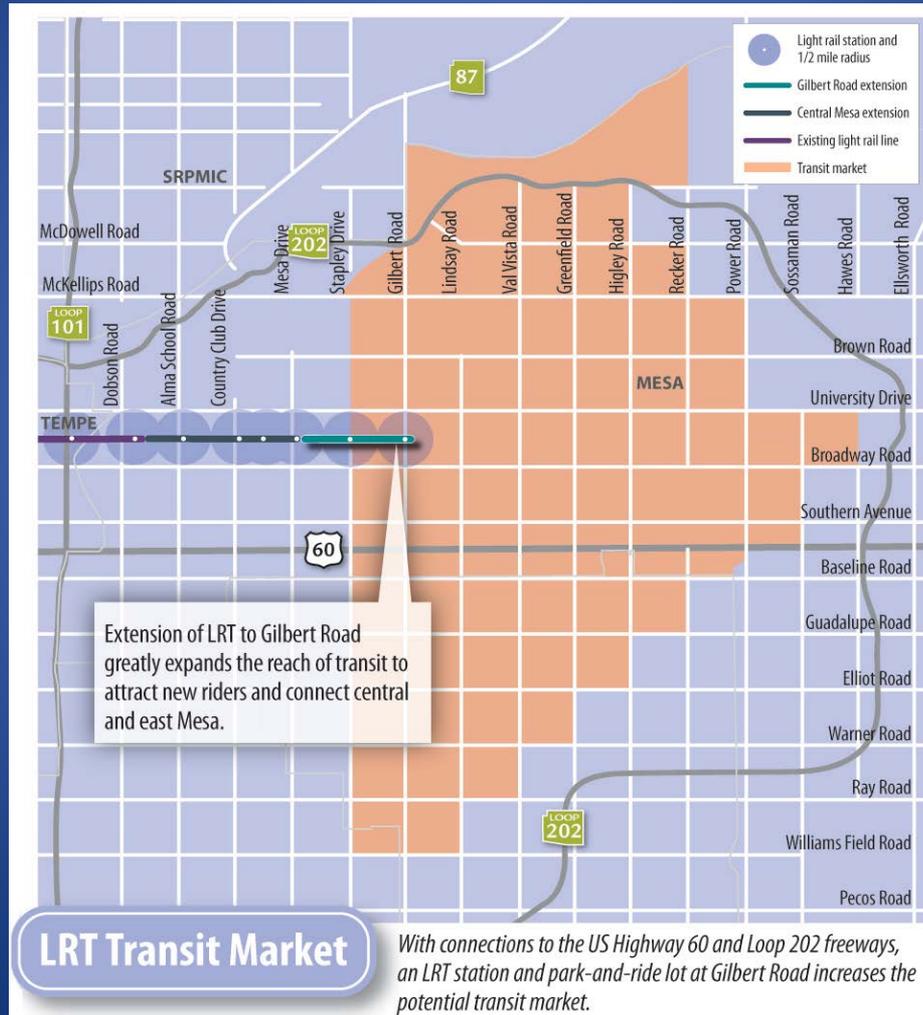
Light Rail Success

- Overall LRT ridership
- Sycamore Station
 - Accounts for nearly 10% of the light rail ridership
 - 16.3% increase in ridership between 2009 and 2011.
 - Largest park-and-ride in the system (802 stalls)

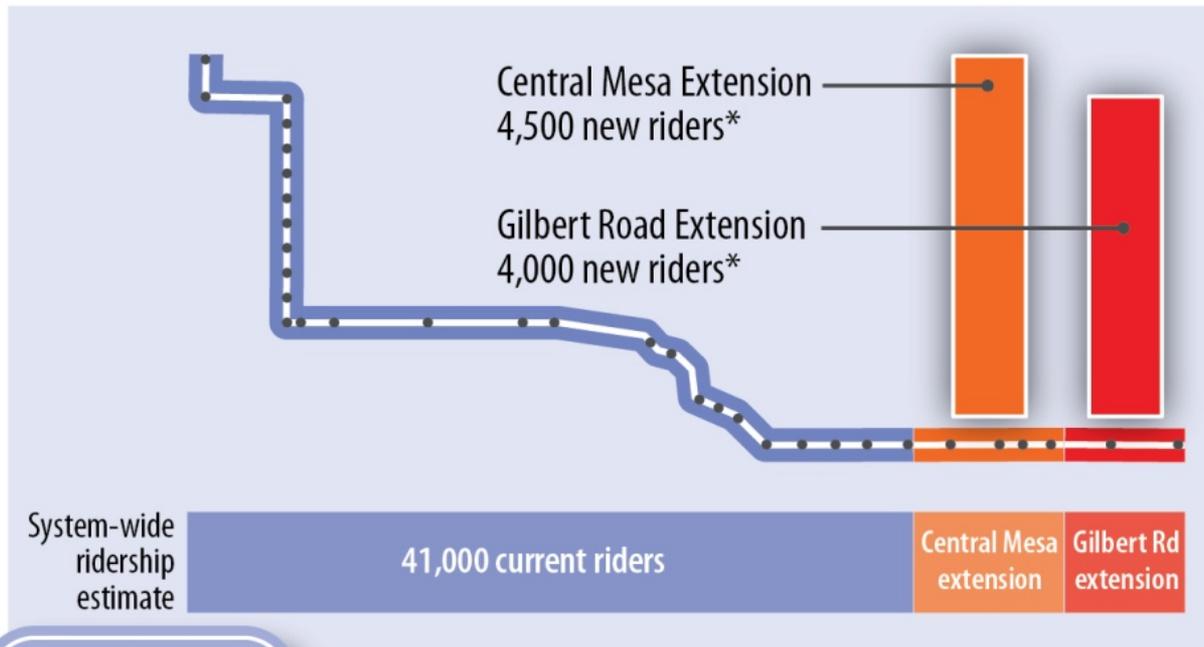
Why is Gilbert Extension a Priority?

- Provides **better use** of limited transportation dollars
- **Increases ridership** in Mesa by 40 percent
- Provides **better access** from L202, US 60, as well as central and east Mesa
- Provides opportunity for **redeveloping** portions of Main Street from just east of Mesa Drive to Gilbert Rd
- Provides a better site for a long-term **park & ride** lot at Gilbert Road
- Improves **transit access** for nearby residents with access to growing regional LRT system

Where are the riders coming from?



Average Daily Ridership



* Denotes anticipated number of new riders added to the light rail system in Mesa.

Ridership forecasts based on travel demand modeling results, Central Mesa Extension Project, 2009

Ridership

Identified Funding Approach

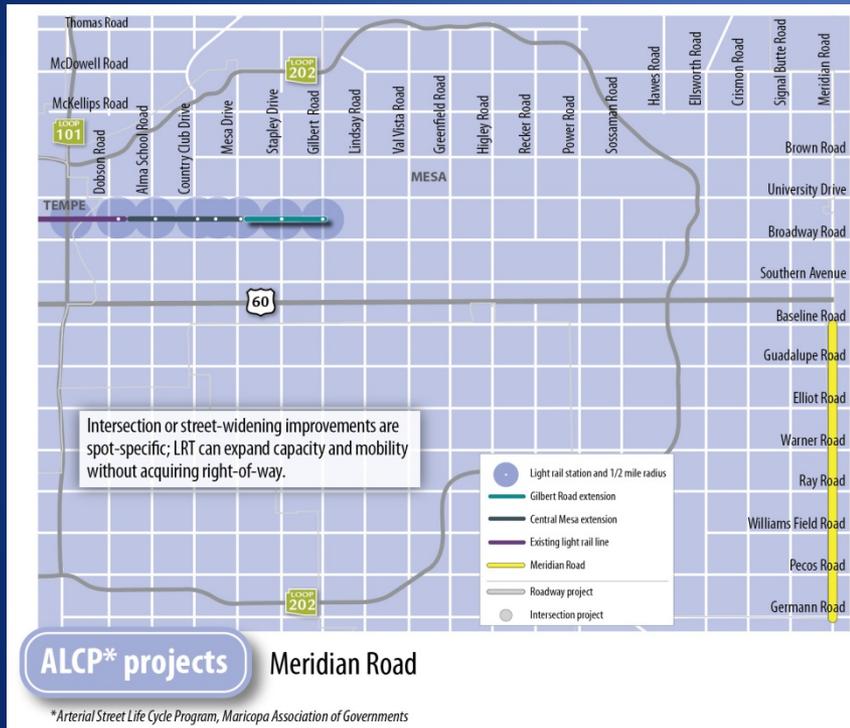
- Regional sales tax funds cannot be moved between programs but federal funds can be moved.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds can be used for transit projects.
- Mesa has identified federally funded, Mesa ALCP street projects that are low priority or are unlikely to be completed.
- Mesa will issue financing since project funding requirements and schedule of federal funds are not aligned.
- Payments to Mesa will be subject to ALCP schedule adjustments.
- Addition of light rail extension of over one mile triggers RTP Major Amendment Process

ALCP Projects Proposed for Deletion

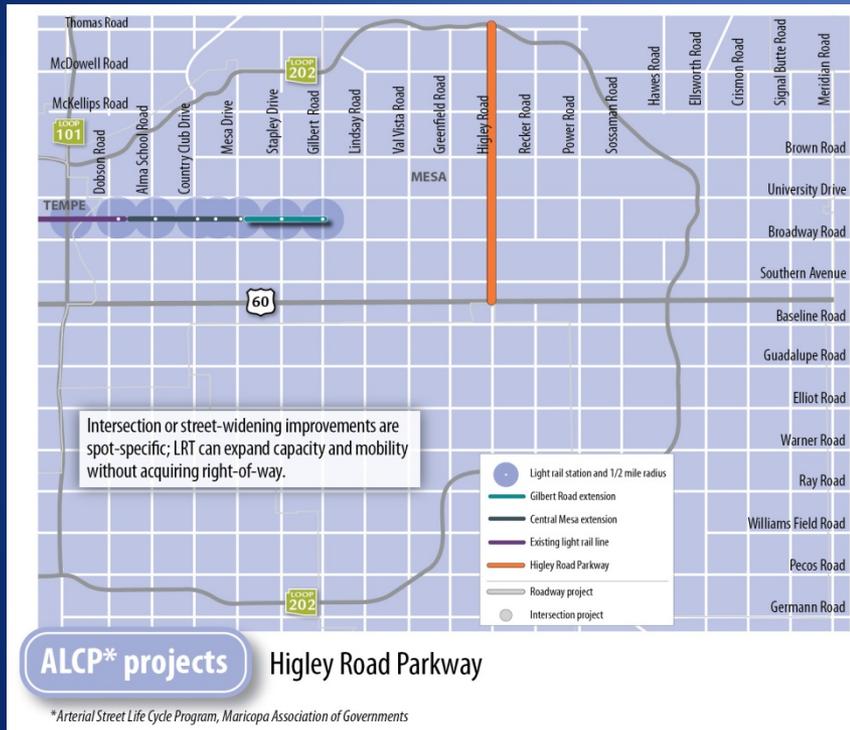
- Projects completed or will be completed by developers
- Projects deemed not feasible or not warranted.
- Projects not needed now due to economic slowdown

Meridian Road

- The Meridian Road project lies within the jurisdictions of Maricopa and Pinal Counties
- Project is not needed in the planned time horizon due to a change in the rate and pattern of development

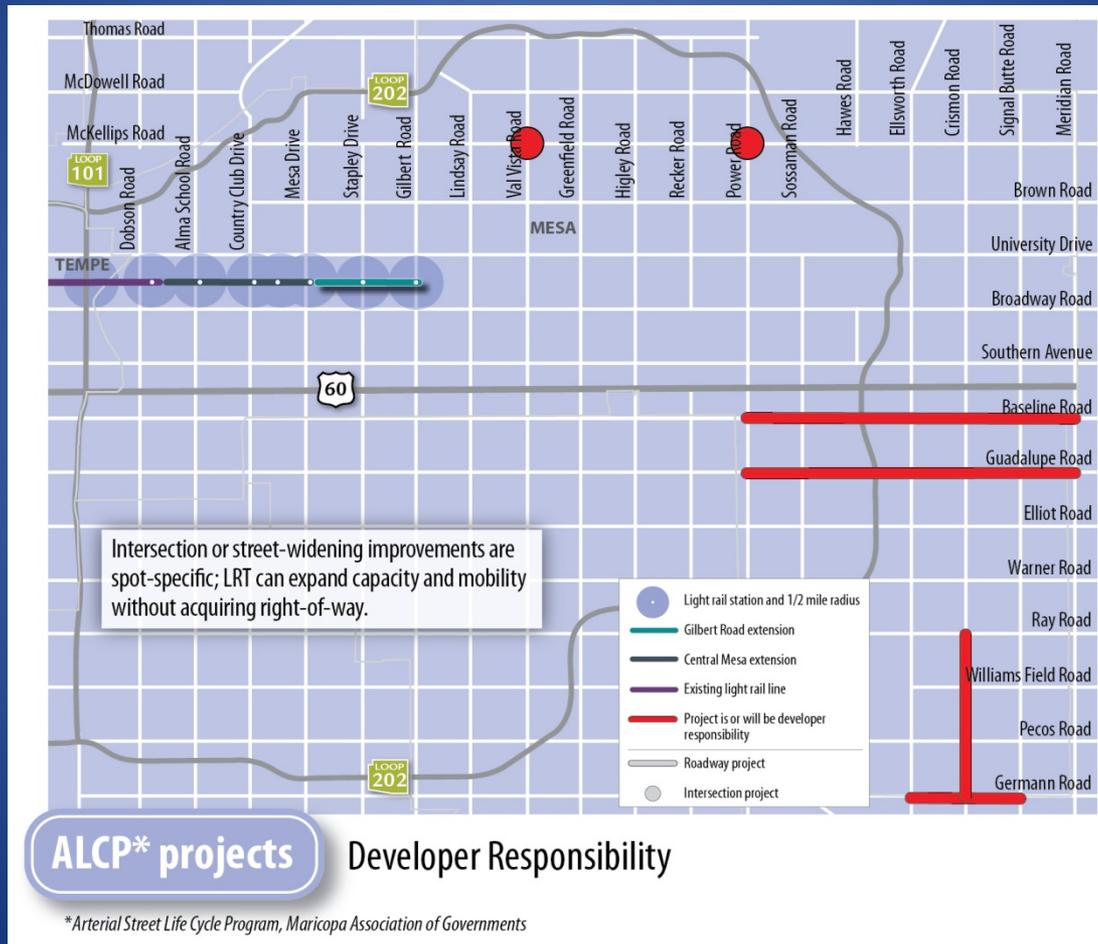


Higley Road Parkway

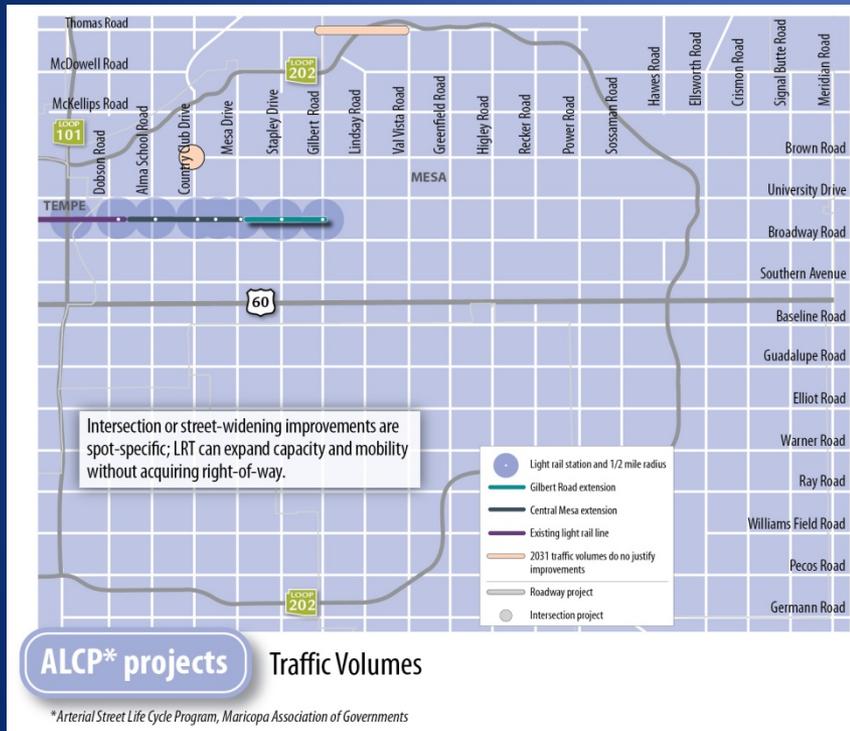


- The project as proposed calls for grade separated intersections.
- These intersections will severely restrict access to businesses on Higley Road.
- Constructability issues and neighborhood impacts makes this project not feasible

Projects Now Developer Responsibility



Projects No Longer Needed

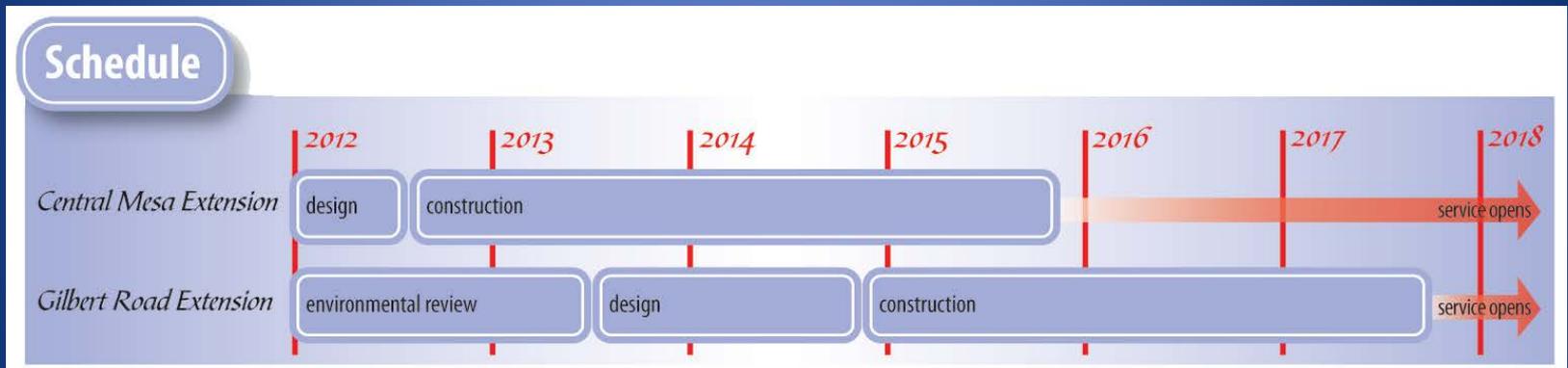


- Cost of these improvements not justified given low projected traffic volume
- Country Club Dr./Brown Rd. Intersection Improvements
- Thomas Rd.: Gilbert to Val Vista

Project Cost Estimate

- Total cost estimate: \$133M
 - \$112M (Construction)
 - \$21M (Interest)
- Mesa's cost responsibility: \$7.2M
 - 5.7% represents local match for federally-funded projects
 - Covered by savings from other projects

Schedule



Prior Actions and Next Steps

- MAG Regional Council approved removal of the ALCP projects and the start of Major Amendment process at October 24th meeting.
- Action in January 2013, following the Major Amendment Consultation, to amend the RTP and TIP to incorporate the changes, pending AQ conformity.
- After AQ conformity finding, action to amend the TIP and RTP in February 2013.