



BACKGROUND

In 2011 Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix initiated a transit study analyzing the opportunity to connect downtown Phoenix with South Central with high capacity transit. The study, called an Alternatives Analysis, included the area from 7th Street to 7th Avenue and Washington Street to Dobbins Road to determine what type of high capacity transit would best serve the community and where the best alignment or route would be located.

The three transit types that were evaluated were bus rapid transit, light rail, and modern streetcar. The route locations that were considered were Central/1st Avenue, 7th Street, and 7th Avenue from the existing light rail system to Baseline Road.

LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

After two years of technical analysis and working with the local community, staff is recommending light rail on Central and 1st Avenues connecting from the existing light rail system at Washington/Jefferson Streets south to Baseline Road.

The study used a wide variety of criteria including ridership potential, land use, economic development, and traffic impacts to analyze options and determine that light rail would best serve the South Central community. With extensive community input, street configurations, proposed station locations, and possible extensions for future studies were also identified and included in the recommendation.

Valley Metro proposes a 4-lane street configuration (2 lanes in each direction) connecting from the existing light rail system in downtown Phoenix to just north of Watkins Street, transitioning to a 2-lane street configuration (1 lane in each direction) at Watkins Street south to Baseline Road. The proposed station locations are at Lincoln Street, Buckeye Road, Broadway Road, Southern Avenue, and Baseline Road. Three additional station locations are identified for further study; Watkins Street, the Audubon Center, and Roeser Road. Staff also identified Baseline Road east and west bound, and south on Central from Baseline to the South Mountain Park area entrance as areas for further study in the future.

NEXT STEPS



8 - 10 YEARS

LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

