

Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension Proposal



Transportation Policy Committee
October 17, 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

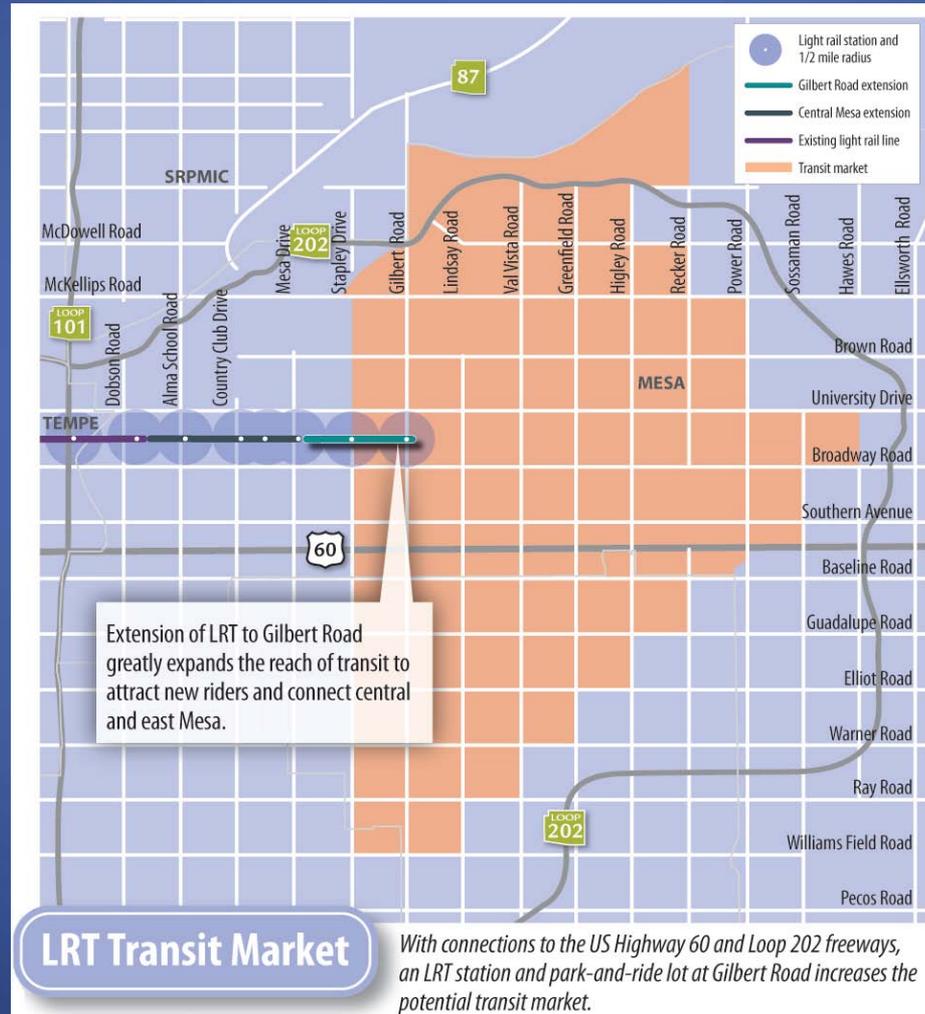
Light Rail Success

- 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)

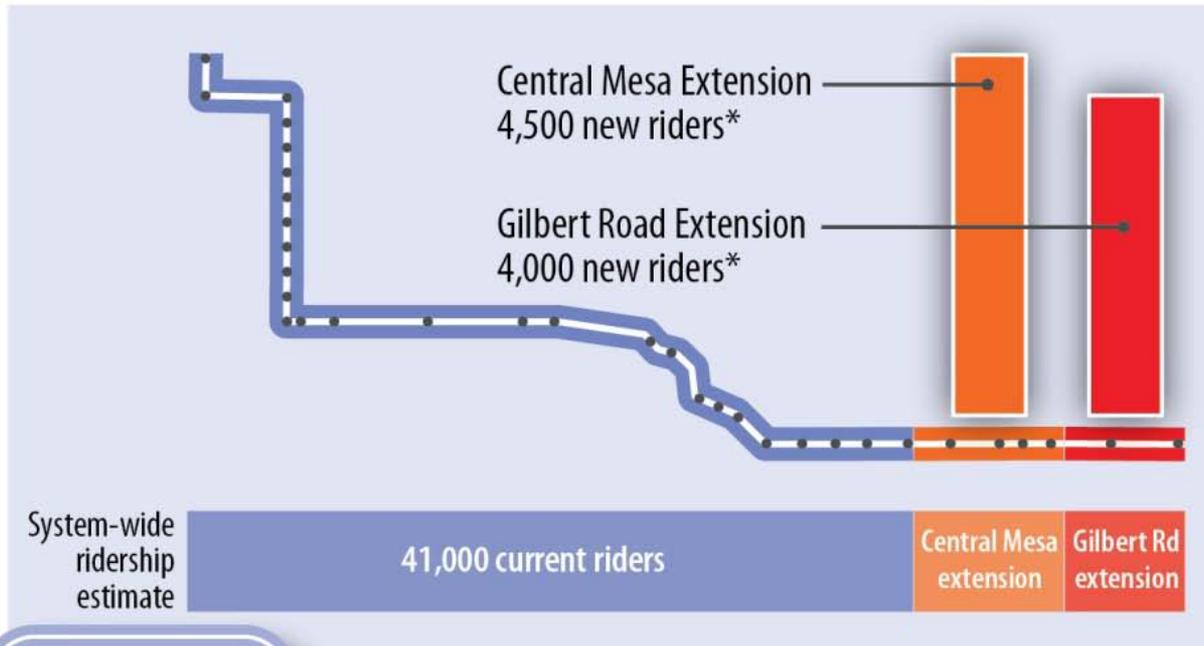
Why is Gilbert Extension a Priority?

- 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

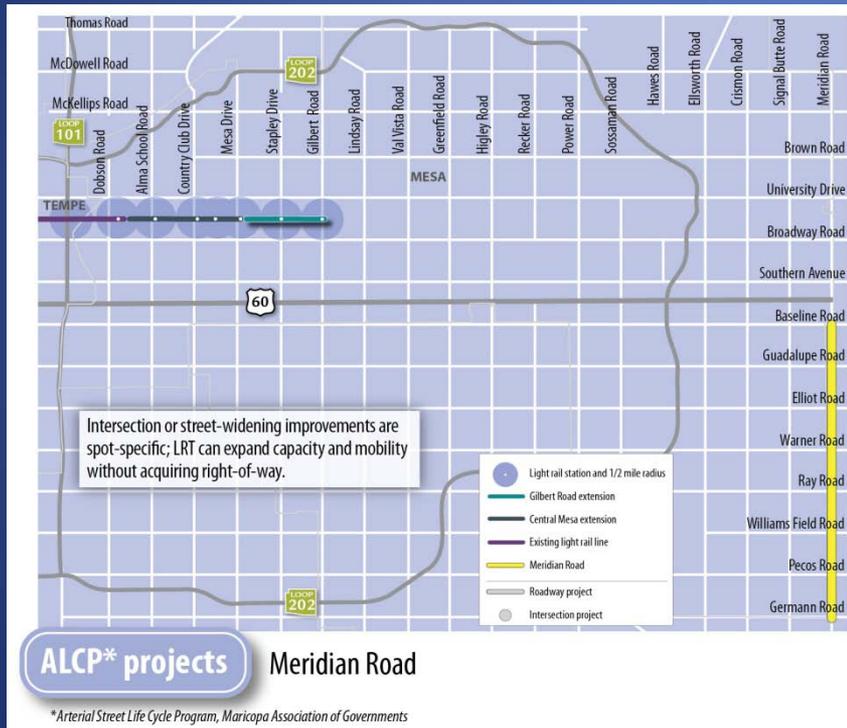
- Regional sales tax funds cannot be moved between programs but federal funds can be moved.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds can be used for transit projects.
- Mesa has identified federally funded, Mesa ALCP street projects that are low priority or are unlikely to be completed.
- Mesa will 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

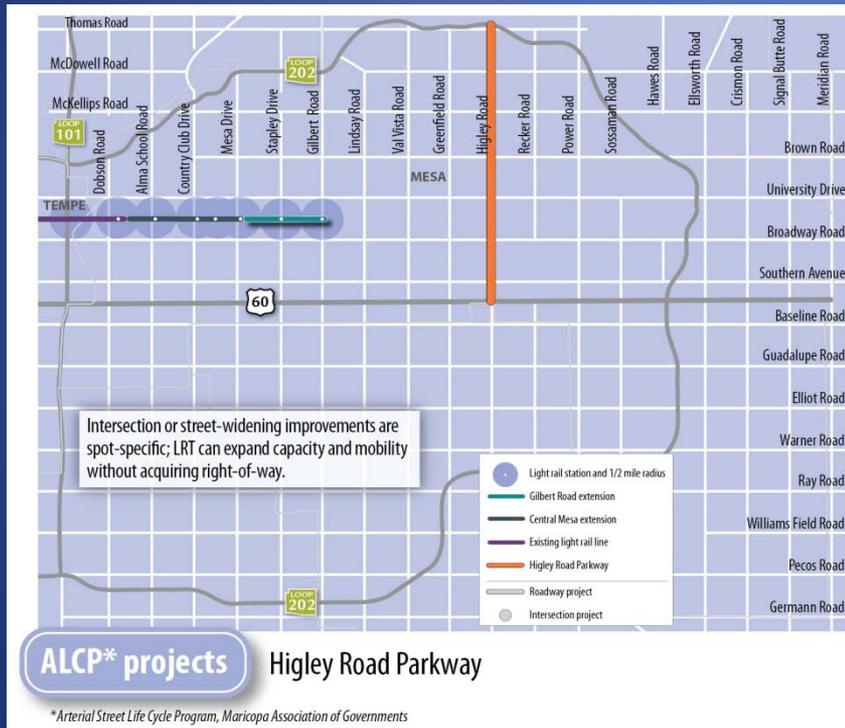
- Meridian Road
- Higley Road Parkway
- Projects Now Developer Responsibility
- Projects No Longer Needed

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

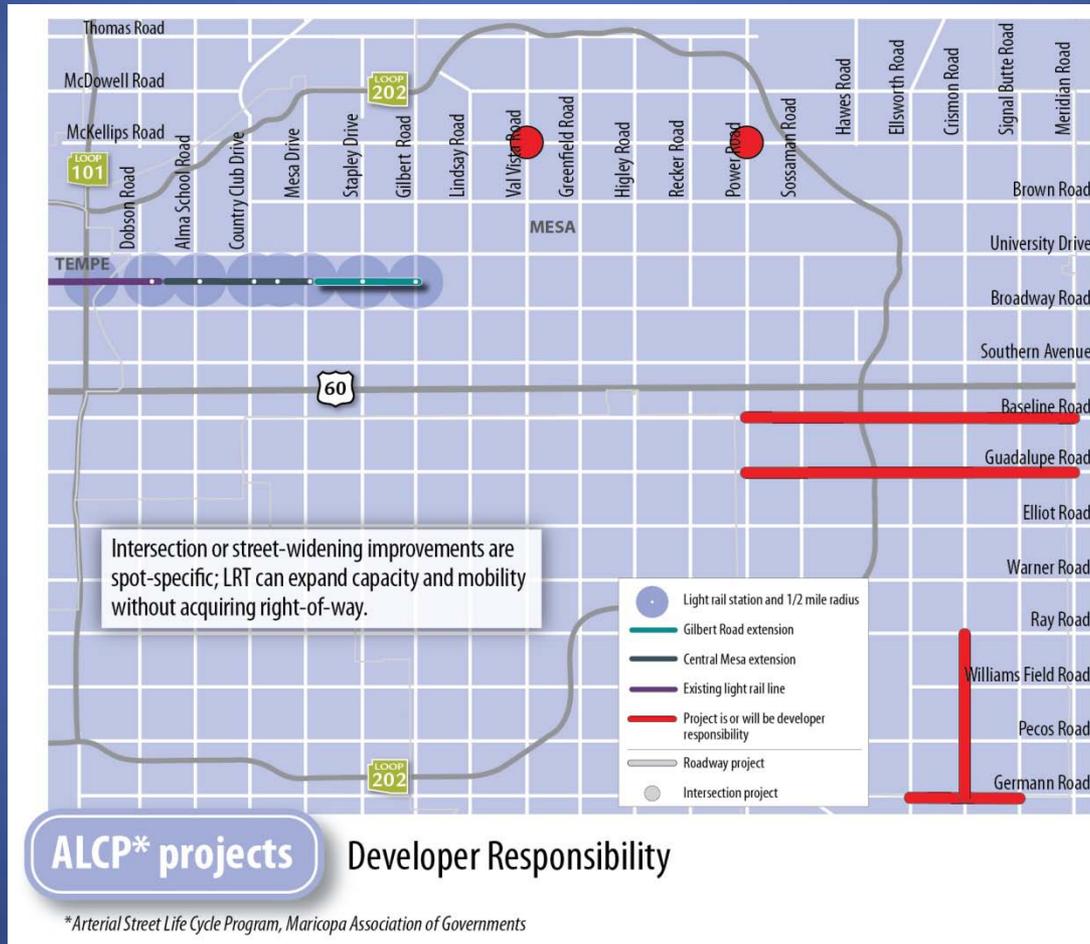


Higley Road Parkway

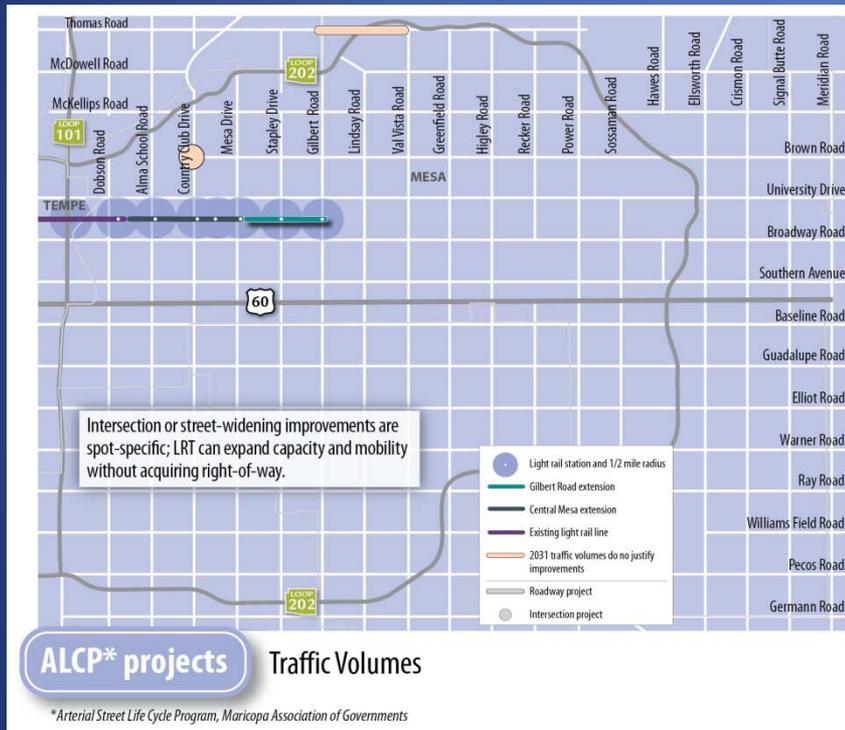


- The project as proposed calls for grade separated intersections.
- These intersections will severely restrict access to businesses on Higley Road.
- Constructability issues and neighborhood impacts makes this project not feasible

Projects Now Developer Responsibility



Projects No Longer Needed

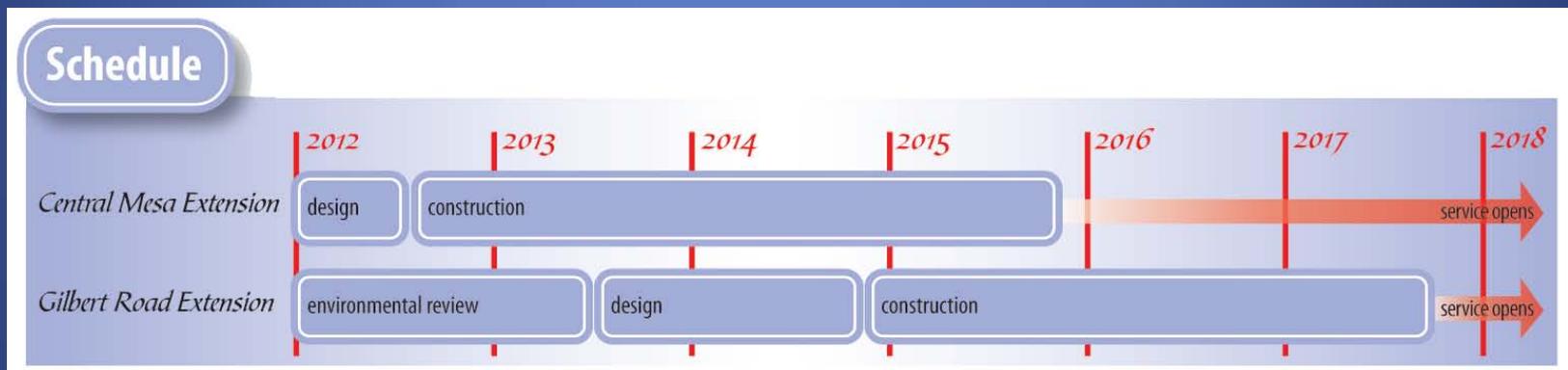


- Cost of these improvements not justified given low projected traffic volume
- Country Club Dr./Brown Rd. Intersection Improvements
- Thomas Rd.: Gilbert to Val Vista

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



Next Steps if Recommended

1. Action by the Regional Council on October 24, 2012.
2. Consultation on the proposed Major Amendment.
3. Presentation of the proposal to the MAG
Transportation Review Committee (October 25, 2012)
and Management Committee (November 7, 2012)
4. Action in January 2013, following the Major
Amendment Consultation, to amend the RTP and
TIP to incorporate the changes, pending AQ
conformity.
5. After AQ conformity finding, action to amend the
TIP and RTP in February 2013.

Requested Action

Recommend approval to (1) remove federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds totaling \$153,366,043 (2011\$) from sixteen (16) Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) projects and use the funding to reimburse costs associated with design, purchase of right-of-way, and construction of a 1.9 mile light rail transit (LRT) extension on Main Street, from Mesa Drive to Gilbert Road; (2) program federal STP funds to reimburse costs associated with the LRT Gilbert Road project which are contingent on federal funding revenue streams and subject to the ALCP financial program; and (3) consult with the State Transportation Board, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the Regional Public Transportation Authority, the Indian Communities, the cities and towns in Maricopa County, and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee, as required by A.R.S. 28-6353, on the proposal to add a 1.9 LRT extension on Main Street, from Mesa Drive to Gilbert Road to the MAG Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update and 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program as appropriate, contingent on the finding of air quality conformity.