



City Of Maricopa  
Express Transit (COMET)  
Services

City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 5, 2015



# COMET – Today's Services

- Demand Response – Mon, Wed, Friday
  - 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Regional Shuttle – Tuesday, Thursday
  - 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Charter Shuttles (Great American Fourth, Salsa Festival)
- Special Shuttles (New Years Eve Shuttle, Summer Shuttle)



# COMET – Existing Service Limitations

- Demand Response - Least efficient transit system
- Low number of passengers per trip
- Cost per hour is high/riders per hour is low (poor FTA-rated efficiency)
- Small fleet – Two 21-passenger buses
- At or near scheduling capacity today



# COMET – Target Populations

- Central Arizona College Students
  - -Current enrollment: 500
  - -Plans to expand to 5,000 students over next 10 years
- Pinal County Public Health Clinic
  - -Over 9,000 documented visits last year
  - -High rate of impoverishment
- Both Populations have a high propensity to use public transportation



# COMET – Target Populations

- Maricopa seniors (55 + years old)
- Recent Community Engagement Survey
  - 39 percent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with public transportation
  - Seniors comprise 13.1 percent of the Maricopa population
  - Likely an advertising issue
  - Advertising ineffective with current capacity



# COMET – New Service Recommendation

- New Demand Response Service
  - Tues and Thurs 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- New Limited Fixed Route Service
  - Monday through Friday
  - 7:00 am – 9:00 am 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
  - Complete cycle once per hour
- No additional funding requested
- No cutbacks in any other area of transit service



# COMET – New Service Recommendation

- Three new minivans approved and funded last year will be delivered late April, early May 2015
- Will use minivans for Demand Response
- 21-Passenger buses will be used for fixed route, regional service



# COMET

## Age-Friendly Committee Recommendation

- On April 20, 2015, The Age-Friendly Committee made a formal recommendation for the proposed new COMET services to go forward to the Transportation Advisory Committee for consideration and recommendation and then to Council for approval.



# COMET

## Age-Friendly Committee Suggestions

- Rider Palm Cards for easy reference
- Post the Route Map in all Vehicles
- Punch cards or ride coupon booklets
- Consider adding The Copa Center as a fixed route stop
- Bicycle racks on the vehicles
- Easy-to-find signs at all stops



# COMET Proposed New Services

- City Council approved expanded transit service funding in 2014.
- Seeking Council approval only for change in hours for Tuesday and Thursday Demand Response
- No additional funding requested
- No cutbacks in any area of existing transit service



Questions???



# Contact Information

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