



City Of Maricopa Express Transit (COMET)

City Council
Work Session
February 16, 2016



COMET - A Look At Three Elements:

- **Where we've been**
 - - Why does history matter?
- **Where we are today**
 - - What services do we operate?
 - - Why grow the transit system?
- **Where we are headed**
 - - How do we best serve the people?



COMET – Where we've been

- Operated transit service since 2008
- Started as Regional Commuter Service (Maricopa Express –MAXX)
 - Operated for approximately two years
 - Ridership not sufficient to justify cost
 - MAXX Program terminated in 2011



COMET – Where We've Been

- Fixed Route operated for one year, 2010-2011
- Fixed Route converted to Demand Response in 2011
- Service used two 21-passenger buses purchased with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.
- Two failed systems reinforce the need for sustainability



COMET – Where We Are – Types of Service

- Local Demand Response (Mon-Wed-Fri)
- Regional Demand Response (Tues & Thur)
- Limited Demand Response 9:30-1:30
(Tues & Thurs)
- Limited Route Deviation (Fixed Route)
7-9 am & 3-5 pm Monday – Friday
- Service today uses three 6-passenger minivans and two 21-passenger buses



COMET – Where We Are - Ridership

Overall Ridership – On pace for 4,091 trips
30 percent increase over last year

Ridership	
Month	COMET
July	220
Aug	197
Sept	178
Oct	203
Nov	154
Dec	179
Jan	200
Feb	161
Mar	192
Apr	247
May	164
Jun	216
Total	2,311

Jul '14 – Jun '15

Ridership	
Month	COMET
July	226
Aug	294
Sept	339
Oct	307
Nov	244
Dec	252
Jan	
Feb	
Mar	
Apr	
May	
Jun	
Total	1,662

Jul '15 – Dec '15



COMET – Where We Are - Ridership By Type of Service

- Local and Regional Demand
Response: 71 %
- Limited Local Demand Response: 16 %
- Limited Fixed Route 13%

*We increased service for seniors and disabled by twenty percent this year.

COMET – Where We Are - Return On Investment

- In FY 14/15 Transit Budget: \$233,911
In FY 15/16 Transit Budget: \$281,239
Increase in Transit Budget: \$47,328
- Represents a 20.2 percent budget increase this year
- Ridership on pace to increase by 30.2 percent this year
- Cost vs Benefit is at council discretion



COMET – Where We Are Headed

Population Growth

- MAG modeling projects population of 142,000 by 2040, over 600,000 by buildout
- Sun Corridor Region projected population is 6 million at buildout
- Multimodal Transportation will be a necessity in the future – Transit leads the way

COMET – Where We Are Headed - Growing The Transit System

- We have great Age-Friendly Awareness in Maricopa
- Seniors and Disabled have special transportation needs
- Need to continue the Demand Response for the foreseeable future
- Need to grow the Fixed Route to accommodate all other population segments



COMET – Where We Are Headed

Growing the Transit System

- Demand Response – Users love it, but it is least efficient means of transit
- Continued pressure from ADOT and FTA to transition to Route Deviation Service (fixed-route)
- Sustainability remains a critical component



COMET – Where We Are Headed - Strategy For Coming Months

- Continue Local and Regional Demand Response at current levels
- Work on transit infrastructure
 - Acquire Right Of Way for Bus Stops
 - Install Bus stop signs
- Work through budget process for Bus Shelters
- Aggressively advertise and market once bus stop signs are in place



COMET – Where We Are Headed - Next Year and Beyond

- Continue Demand Response
 - Increase Fixed Route Service by 7.8 percent in FY16/17
 - Acquire and install 12 bus shelters
 - Transit Study in FY16/17 (ADOT Funded)
 - Explore Regional Connections to Valley Metro and Central Arizona Regional Transit in FY17/18
- * Improvements subject to council approval

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