

MEMO



To: Tempe City Council

From: Wulf Grote, Director of Planning & Development, Valley Metro
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner, City of Tempe

Cc: Don Bessler, Public Works Director, City of Tempe
Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director - Transportation, City of Tempe

Date: February 19, 2015

Re: Tempe Streetcar

This memorandum provides a summary of the content to be shared with the Tempe City Council on February 19, 2015. Valley Metro and Tempe staff will provide additional information on the following items:

- **Rio Salado Street Configuration** – Staff will ask for Council approval of the proposed dedicated median street configuration along Rio Salado Parkway. A median running alignment has operational, environmental, safety, and cost-saving advantages for the project.
- **13th Street and Mill Avenue** – Per Council direction at the January 8, 2015 Issue Review Session, Valley Metro and Tempe staff will discuss the Council's request for consideration of a reconfigured project at the intersection of 13th Street, and Mill Avenue with a turn eastbound onto 13th Street and the addition of a streetcar stop intended to serve Tempe St. Luke's Hospital. This discussion will include an engineering analysis including streetcar and roadway design, cost implications, effects to streetcar operations, and environmental issues. Current capital costs associated with this reconfiguration is estimated at \$4.1 million (YOE). This cost increases the potential funding gap.
- **Shortened Alignment on Apache Boulevard** – At the request of Council, Valley Metro and Tempe staff will discuss the implications for a shortened project with the route terminating at Rural Road. This discussion will include an overview of the cost differential between the project terminating at the Dorsey Lane LRT station and park-and-ride, along with information on ridership and project design implications. A shortened project is unlikely to qualify for FTA Small Starts funds.

In addition to the items addressed above, staff will provide an update on project financing as value engineering efforts continue to help reduce costs, and outline project activities for the next month.

Summary of Recommendations

Staff is requesting action on the following items:

- Direction on the proposed median-running street configuration along Rio Salado Parkway (refer to attached graphics).
- Direction on the 13th Street and Mill Avenue intersection/stop location. Staff is recommending a stop and alignment connected to Tempe St. Luke's Hospital as part of future phases of Streetcar and that the stop locations of College/Apache and Mill/11th St. remain as the current preferred stop locations, with the Streetcar track following the Apache Curve.
- Support the current Streetcar alignment without a shortened length east of Paseo del Saber or Rural Road to Dorsey Lane LRT station.





