

Rideshare Review

A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare

November/December 2022



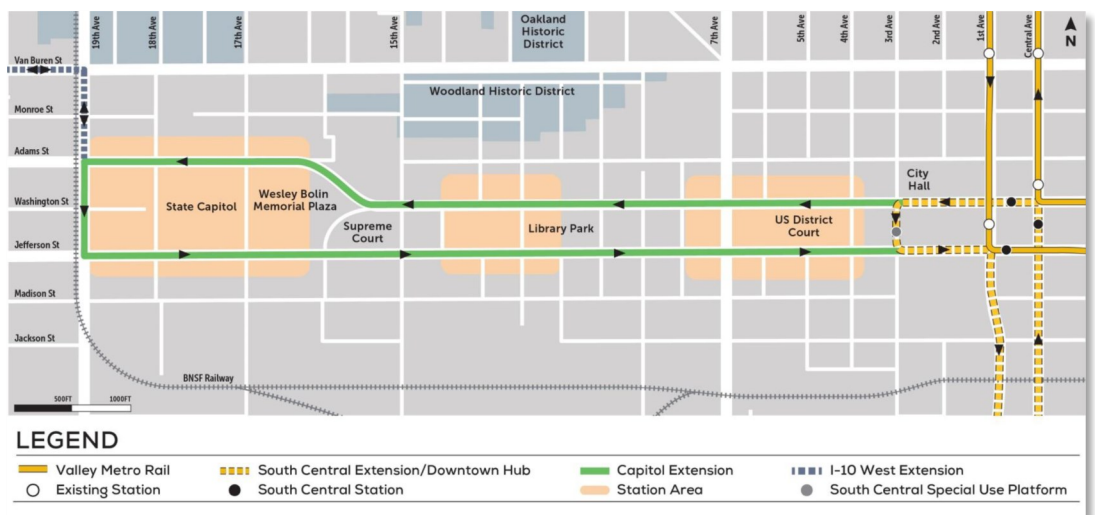
Light rail extension planned for Capitol Mall

Capitol Mall Light Rail Extension is expected to open in 2024

State employees have frequently commented, “I would love to ride the light rail to work, but it doesn’t come all the way to the Capitol.” Soon, this is going to change. Valley Metro is planning to extend the light rail along Washington St. and Jefferson St., granting thousands of employees a more accessible transit option for their commute. This will also bring more people to the historic and cultural locations in the area, and may stimulate more mixed-use development. The Capitol Mall Light Rail Extension (CAPEX) is expected to open in 2024; Capitol Rideshare will continue to offer [Platinum Passes](#) to State employees to subsidize the fare cost.

CAPEX will run 1.4 miles west on Washington Street to 19th Avenue, where it will turn around and head east on Jefferson Street, with three stops in both directions. This track will connect to the existing light rail through the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub, which is currently being constructed, and will connect to a future I-10 West Extension. The project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase, where the focus is developing early construction plans, providing cost estimates, and identifying potential future technical issues. Following this phase will be the environmental assessment, with the final design and construction coming afterwards. Visit the project page at valleymetro.org/capex to sign up for project updates and public meeting notices. Information regarding other extensions and projects can also be found on Valley Metro’s website.

Capitol Extension Light Rail Route; opening slated for 2024



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Apply for the Platinum Pass transit card, ride FREE through June 30, 2023

The state-subsidized Platinum Pass allows employees to take light rail, local buses and commuter buses to and from work at a discounted rate. To encourage more employees to use transit and help offset rising gasoline costs, Capitol



Rideshare launched a pilot program offering a fully subsidized Platinum Pass. To sign up for the Platinum Pass program, please visit the [Capitol Rideshare website](#) to learn more about the program and download the application (applications should be returned to the employee's human resources contact for processing; Capitol Rideshare staff cannot process Platinum Pass applications). Please allow two weeks to receive the card, which is mailed to the employee's home address.

Previously, the state's Platinum Pass program provided a 50% subsidy and employees' half was paid via a payroll deduction, usually the second pay period of the month. Capitol Rideshare staff will publicly announce when a cost-sharing model will return, providing no less than 30 days' notice. Please be sure to watch the Capitol Rideshare website for updates regarding this program.

Mowing Down Pollution: Receive a voucher to help replace gasoline mowers and lawn equipment

To improve air quality and reduce air pollution produced by gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD), in partnership with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), created the Mowing Down Pollution Program. This lawn and garden equipment replacement program, available to residents of Maricopa County, provides up to \$200 in vouchers (\$150 toward the purchase of a new electric or battery-powered lawn mower and \$50 toward the cost of a lawn and garden device) when the old working gasoline-powered equipment is recycled. Vouchers must be used at participating Home Depot locations. To learn more about the program and learn if you are eligible to participate, please visit the program website, cleanairmakemore.com/lawn.

Get festive with the Mesa Santa Express and Merry Main Street!

The Mesa Santa Express will run from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on December 9 – 10 and 16 – 17. The ride will begin at the [N Mesa Drive/E Main Street Park and Ride](#). Enjoy a 20 minute round-trip ride with Santa in a festive light rail car along [Merry Main Street](#), where there will be an ice rink, 40-foot tall Christmas tree, food trucks, and a marketplace. Riders are encouraged to dress up or wear festive pajamas. Arrive early! Seats are first come, first served. Valley Metro asks riders to request a commemorative ticket upon arrival. This is a free community event, but canned food drive donations will be accepted. Participation on the first weekend is highly encouraged, as families often get turned away on the last night. Please visit www.mesasantaexpress.com for additional information.



Congratulations to our RideAmigos contest winners!

Capitol Rideshare launched the RideAmigos monthly contests in June 2020 and employees are logging trips, earning and redeeming points to enter contests for prizes! **Remember, remote work days count as alternate modes—so log those remote work days!** Below are lists of Commuter Club members who entered the contests and were randomly selected as gift card winners via the RideAmigos gamification module.

October winners	Agency	November winners	Agency
Alicia Floyd	Dept. of Health Services	Julie Ryberg	House of Representatives
Cory Homuth	Land Department	David Almaraz	Dept. of Economic Security
Fran Parmenter	AHCCCS	Karen Eatherly	Dept. of Transportation
Daniel Lukose	Dept. of Transportation	Gwyndolynn Gentry	Attorney General's Office
Michelle Carella	Dept. of Revenue	Gavin Gutierrez	Supreme Court
Angelica Martinez	Dept. of Child Safety	Alexis Fawley	Dept. of Public Safety
David Schahn	Dept. of Administration	Maria Morales	Dept. of Economic Security
Christy Kramer	Dept. of Administration	Judy Leung	Dept. of Economic Security
Barbara Sullinger	Dept. of Transportation	Margaret Healey	Dept. of Economic Security
Michael Tenczar	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Richard Mackelprang	Dept. of Economic Security
Stacy Marchelli	Dept. of Health Services	Lucinda Feeley	Dept. of Health Services
Alexis Fawley	Dept. of Public Safety	Nanci Sexton	Dept. of Child Safety
Donna Auguste	Dept. of Economic Security	Gerardo Rodriguez	Corporation Commission
Wayne Miller	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Ed Pollak	Dept. of Economic Security
Sandra Tiller	Dept. of Economic Security	J. Herron-Ulmer	Dept. of Transportation
Andrea Golfen	Dept. of Education	Laurie Sherrill	Dept. of Environmental Quality
Leah Almond	Dept. of Transportation	Danette Hernandez	Dept. of Economic Security
Naomi Moreno	Dept. of Revenue	Desiree Fizer	Dept. of Revenue
Ben Black	Dept. of Transportation	Nathaniel Snyder	Dept. of Liquor Licenses & Control
Michael Scheller	Dept. of Economic Security	Erica Johnson	AHCCCS

Members of [Commuter Club](#) are eligible to join the fun and start redeeming their points for the chance to win a gift card (\$10 or \$25)! Here's how it works:

1. Log your alternate modes and collect your points.
2. Once you have at least 100 points, scroll to the bottom of your dashboard to your My Rewards section. Click on RideAmigos Sign Up and Trip Logging Points.
3. Under your points total, click on Show Details and Inventory.
4. The dashboard expands to show you the awards available to you and the points required to enter the drawing.
5. Click on the drawing you wish to enter. If you have the points available, you can redeem points for up to three entries. Example: If you have a points balance of 300 and each entry is 100 points, you can redeem the balance of your points for three drawing entries.

Start redeeming your points today—and if you haven't started logging your trips, get started! You can log previous trips up to 30 days! If you need help learning how to log trips, please visit the FAQs linked posted on [Capitol Rideshare's RideAmigos information page](#).

Coordinator's Corner

The Annual Travel Reduction Survey is right around the corner!

In January, Capitol Rideshare staff will be reaching out to you to update the employee counts for the upcoming annual Travel Reduction Survey. You will be asked to review the information exported from HRIS to confirm the employee count by location. The employee/location counts **must be as accurate as possible to ensure accurate survey results**. You will need to note if your agency has had address changes in 2022. Capitol Rideshare staff also will provide a survey schedule and updated training prior to the survey launch. Staff will provide support throughout the survey process to ensure each coordinator has a successful survey administration.

Please do not cancel transit cards when employees transfer agencies

Please do not cancel a Platinum Pass if the employees are transferring to another state agency unless an employee requests it. The transit passes will transfer with them to their new agencies. If the employee's pass is canceled, they must apply for a new pass and pay the replacement fee. Capitol Rideshare will end up paying the fare costs for both passes, which may exceed the monthly cap of a single pass. Please refer to ADOA's [HRIS training resources webpage](#) for related information; please email Central.Payroll@azdoa.gov if you have any questions.

Coordinator resource page

Resources for coordinators [are available online](#) and include information about the coordinator's role and responsibilities, virtual new hire packet and travel reduction survey administration.

Capitol Rideshare is administered by the Arizona Department of Administration Human Resources Division; it is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through the Maricopa Association of Governments and by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

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Reminders & Notes

Subsidized vanpool as a commute option

[Vanpool](#) may be an option for a larger group of employees that live greater distances from their work sites. If you live at least 15 miles away from work, you are eligible to participate in a vanpool. Capitol Rideshare will pay a monthly subsidy to cover the lease cost for state employees; employees will be responsible for paying their portion of the fuel costs. Valley Metro, through a contract with Enterprise, provides vans to registered groups. [Valley Metro's vanpool video](#) and the [Valley Metro vanpool webpage](#) provide additional details about participating in the vanpool program (this is not a door-to-door service; vanpoolers meet at a designated area, usually a park and ride location).

Ride-matching for carpool and vanpool

Employees who are seeking a carpool partner or an open seat in an established vanpool should create a profile on the Capitol Rideshare RideAmigos platform as well as the Valley Metro ShareTheRide.com platform. This will allow employees to seek and reach out to rideshare partners whose routes and schedules match their own.

Emergency Ride Home: Enroll now in Commuter Club for this benefit

Employees who use an alternate mode at least twice per week—carpool, transit, telework, compressed work week, electric vehicle, biking or walking—are eligible for free membership in Commuter Club. This includes an emergency ride home (ERH) from work, up to twice per fiscal year, for unexpected emergencies. Note: you must have a Lyft account to self-dispatch the ERH; Capitol Rideshare provides a Lyft voucher credit to pay for up to \$50 for an emergency ride. Visit the [Commuter Club page](#) to learn more.

Valley Metro 2022 holiday schedule

Employees who take transit are advised to review the Valley Metro 2022 [holiday service schedule](#).



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RIDESHARE**

Ride smarter. Breathe easier.