



City Council Report

Date: November 17, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director
Subject: Fiesta- Downtown Chandler Transit Corridor Study Funding Agreement
District 3

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this item is to request that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into the Fiesta- Downtown Chandler Transit Corridor Study Funding Agreement between the City of Mesa, the City of Chandler and Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (METRO). The agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$687,500 and will cover all costs associated with the study.

Background

In 2012, Valley Metro completed a high capacity transit study (Arizona Avenue High Capacity Transit Long Range Study) for the Arizona Avenue/Country Club Road corridor. This study and the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Transit Framework Study both found the corridor generally centering on Arizona Avenue/Country Club Drive between Germann Road in the south and Main Street in the north to have potential future demand for high capacity transit service connecting with major employment centers and other regional destinations.

Discussion

The cities of Chandler and Mesa desire to continue planning for transit improvements along the Arizona Avenue/Country Club Drive corridor, extending from Main Street in

Mesa to downtown Chandler; connecting Chandler to assets in the Fiesta District such as Mesa Community College and Banner Desert Hospital and the light rail station at Sycamore. The study will develop transit service scenarios, capital improvement options and land-use scenarios for the corridor in the short-, mid-, and long-term. Outcomes from the study may include recommendations for high capacity transit (e.g. light rail transit or bus rapid transit), parallel and intersecting bus service, bus/rail fleet needs, park-and-ride locations, and other capital improvements. In addition, the study will provide operating and capital costs for recommended improvements.

The City of Mesa, City of Chandler and METRO propose to enter into a funding agreement where the two cities will provide up to \$687,500 for METRO consultant and agency costs associated with this planning study. The planning study will take approximately 24 months to complete.

Fiscal Impact

Total cost for the planning study shall not exceed \$687,500, with the City of Chandler initially funding all study costs. The City of Mesa shall reimburse the City of Chandler forty-six and nine tenths percent (46.90%) of the total study costs or \$322,438.

The timeline for reimbursement is dependent on passage of a future countywide transportation sales tax beyond Proposition 400. If countywide transportation sales tax beyond Proposition 400 passes, Mesa will reimburse Chandler on or before January 1, 2027. If a countywide transportation sales tax does not pass then Mesa will reimburse Chandler on or before January 1, 2034.

Coordinated With

This Project agreement has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City of Chandler, and Valley Metro Rail, Inc.