



City Council Report

Date: May 7, 2018
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager
From: Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director
Subject: Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Study
Districts 1, 3 and 4

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this item is to request that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into the Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Study Funding Agreement between the City of Mesa and Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (METRO). The agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and will cover all of Mesa's share of costs associated with the study.

Background

The City of Mesa and the City of Tempe are requesting an evaluation of potential future streetcar system extensions to serve key regional activity centers, downtowns, campuses, employment destinations and emerging multi-unit residential developments.

Discussion

The study will identify feasible future streetcar system extensions connecting downtown Tempe with points of interest and emerging transit corridors in Mesa. Immediately east of the Tempe Marketplace is the Riverview District in Mesa that includes Sloan Park and Wrigleyville West, a rapidly re-developing area of Mesa that attracts thousands of trips daily. Dobson Road has shown strong potential as a north-south transit corridor serving west Mesa, with the potential to connect to light rail and three major regional land uses along Southern Avenue including the Fiesta Mall, Mesa Community College and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

While the study is to be conducted over the course of two (2) years, the study outcomes are intended to inform a future regional funding initiative for transit capital investments in both cities and identify steps to develop the transit components of a multimodal system.

The study area is defined as the area bounded by State Route 202 (Loop 202) to the north, Country Club Road to the east, Baseline Road to the south, and Priest Drive to the west.

Fiscal Impact

The total cost for this planning study is not to exceed \$600,000. Mesa's share of the study is \$300,000. This was included in the FY 17/18 adopted budget.

Coordinated With

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