



NAIPTA MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2019

TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Board

FROM: Bizzy Collins, Transit Planner

SUBJECT: Update on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

In November 2018, Mountain Line initiated the development phase of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project to study potential long-term improvements to bus service from Woodlands Village to the Flagstaff Medical Center (see attached map). BRT is a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a **faster trip** and an **improved experience**. As a result of Mountain Link, our first BRT that opened in 2011, system-wide ridership increased 66% in the first year alone and, in subsequent years, spurred economic development along the Mountain Link corridor. Mountain Line anticipates similar results with the second BRT.

The purpose of the BRT Project Development Phase, as identified in the 2016 Spine Route Study, is to identify, evaluate, and select a strategy and set of transit and multimodal transportation improvements to achieve the following goals:

- Enhance transit & multimodal mobility in Flagstaff to make it more compelling
- Connect neighborhoods and activity centers and improve local mobility
- Support economic development goals
- Strengthen the downtown core and transit connections to key activity centers
- Create an environment that will sustain over the long term

A team of agency stakeholders was created to advise staff on technical aspects of the project. Over the past three meetings, stakeholders have provided critical feedback on the project's purpose and need, alignment alternatives, and selection criteria to screen alternatives.

An Open House was held on August 6 for the public to learn more about the project and provide feedback to guide the development of the BRT. Project aspects that were presented include the purpose and need, route and configuration alternatives under consideration, and potential benefits of the project for the community. A survey was available for those who were not able to attend the open house. A BRT webpage is available on Mountain Line's website for the duration of the project.





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Additionally, Susan Eddy, our Federal Transit Administration Project Manager, came and toured the BRT route on August 7th and 8th. Staff received positive feedback for the BRT during her visit.

With goals and selection criteria thoroughly vetted by stakeholders and the public, the next step is to screen the BRT alignment and configuration alternatives. Screening results and the identification of the recommended alternative will be the focus of the next stakeholder meeting in September and brought to the public for review this winter.

The BRT Project Development phase will be completed by September 2020, if not sooner. A final deliverable is a report that Mountain Line can submit to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for evaluation, rating, and approval for funding under the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. Local funding details of the BRT will also be a deliverable and would be identified in future Mountain Line budgets should the project proceed.

The budget for the BRT Project Development Phase is \$2.2 million, of which 80% is funded by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant. The project is included in our agency's FY2019 and FY2020 budgets.



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Attachment: BRT Alignment Alternatives

