



# TRANSIT CONNECTIONS FOCUS GROUP

Strengthening Tucson's Frequent Transit Network through Integrated Transportation Planning including Active Transportation, First-/Last-Mile Connections, and Parking Connections

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## Preliminary List of 'Actionable' Recommendations

(As of June 19, 2018)

### INTRODUCTION

This working document provides the Project Team's initial draft list of 'actionable' recommendations, building from the initial assessment documents presented to the Transit Connections Focus Group on May 17, 2018.

*Use of this Document:* The document is designed for presentation to the Transit Connections Focus Group at the June 21, 2018 meeting for discussion and initial prioritization of the Goals and Recommendations. It will be reviewed and refined over the next three Focus Group meetings.

A report will ultimately become the tangible product of this process and presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration. This working document is organized as a draft report. It begins with Background information, including the formation of the Focus Group, Mayor and Council guidance on developing actionable recommendations, the characterization of an ideal connected transit system and related goals, and the method used in developing and revising this preliminary list of Goals, Recommendations, and Potential Strategies and Tactics.

### BACKGROUND

#### **Formation of the Transit Connections Focus Group:**

The Focus Group was created to provide feedback to TDOT staff on proposed actionable items for Mayor and Council consideration aimed to support the success and growth of the Frequent Transit Network (FTN). The focus on pedestrian and bicycle connections to the Frequent Transit Network embodies the efforts undertaken as part of the Focus Group process. Accordingly, the group was named the Transit Connections Focus Group. The purpose of the process is to "strengthen Tucson's Frequent Transit Network through integrated transportation planning including active transportation, first-/last-mile connections, and parking connections."

Three Focus Group meetings have been held to date, including a Field Observations Tour that involved actively using the FTN system and documenting observations.

#### **Mayor and Council Guidance:**

On August 8, 2017, the Mayor and Council discussed creating an 'Integrated Transportation Planning Focus Group'. The direction provided to staff at that time focused the efforts of this focus group on enhancing the Frequent Transit Network, and developing 'actionable' recommendations that:

- Build from the **Transit Vision (the Frequent Transit Network)** developed as part of the Tucson region project work performed by renowned transit expert Jarrett Walker in 2014;
- Consider the **pedestrian and bicycle connections** with high-use bus routes;
- Identify strategies for how to **increase ridership**;

## **Transit Connections Focus Group: Preliminary List of ‘Actionable’ Items**

Working Document for June 21, 2018 Focus Group Meeting Discussion on Initial Goals and Recommendations

- Recommend locations of **high capacity transit routes**, such as bus rapid transit (BRT) and modern streetcar;
- Consider how parking **revenues** can support the Transit Vision; and,
- Consider ways to **expedite implementing pilot programs** (e.g. future bus routes)

### **An Ideal for a Well-Connected Transportation System & Related Goals**

At the first Focus Group meeting, characteristics that make up well-connected community were discussed. In subsequent meetings, many of these characteristics continued to be mentioned and a broader concept of an ideal Well-Connected Transportation System began to emerge. Central to this concept is the tenet that the system and all its connections are planned, built, and operated so that it “*is easy to say “yes” to using transit.*” Furthermore, this ideal Well-Connected Transportation System can be described as having:

1. A diversity of frequent, fast-moving, interconnected transit routes and mobility options;
2. High quality and well-located connections for all users that are “seamless,” easy to use, and safe;
3. Services that are consumer-focused and equitable to – and are accessible by – all people, regardless of race, age, and physical ability; and,
4. Prominence and recognition as a mode of transportation equally important as automobiles.

This ideal system is itself an overarching goal underpinning the discussions and ideas captured as part of this Transit Connection Focus Group process. As such, this concept and the descriptions above are transformed into Goals, to which the resulting ‘actionable’ recommendations developed will help achieve.

### **Methods Used in Preparing Revised Recommendations**

This Preliminary List of ‘Actionable’ Recommendations contains 18 Recommendations and 63 Potential Strategies and Tactics, organized by the Goals to which they most closely relate. The revised recommendations presented on the following pages were based on a compilation of almost 300 comments, observations, and ideas documented from the following meeting materials:

- Aug. 8, 2017 Mayor and Council Meeting Materials: Attachment B: Initial staff recommendations for *‘Ideas to Better Integrate Transit, Parking, And Active Transportation In Future,’* shared with the Mayor and Council as part of meeting packet and provided to the Focus Group members at the first meeting
- Feb. 22, 2018 (Meeting #1): Transit Connections Focus Group discussion notes
- Apr. 19, 2018 (Meeting #2): Field Observations Tour notes collected from Focus Group members and Project Team
- May 17, 2018 (Meeting #3): Initial Project Team Assessments List, distributed at meeting
- May 17, 2018 (Meeting #3): Transit Connections Focus Group input collected

A master list of the almost 300 comments was created, then organized by topic. Each topic area’s comments were reviewed and synthesized into representative Recommendations (strategic objectives), and Potential Strategies and Tactics (actions).