



**SEPTA
Norristown High Speed Line Extension Draft EIS
Community Working Group Agenda**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (7 p.m.)
Upper Merion Township Building**

- I. Welcome & review of last meeting**
 - a. FEIS

- II. Discussion/Presentation**
 - New Starts Program
 - Funding
 - Q&A

- III. Wrap-up**
 - What KOP Rail-related topics would you like to discuss at future meetings?

- IV. Next Steps/Action Items**
 - Other Comments/Questions

- V. Next meeting**



**Community Working Group
Meeting #12 - Summary**

Meetings Schedule

CWG meetings will be held at the Upper Merion Township Building and will begin at 7 p.m. Below is the schedule of the next meeting. Future meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every other month unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 20th – Valley Forge Room

Meeting #12 Summary

Location: Upper Merion Township Building, Valley Forge Room

Date: Wednesday, April 18th

Time: 7 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendees:

KOP Rail project team members-

Emily Watts, McCormick Taylor
Bert Cossaboon, McCormick Taylor

CWG members-

Joan Grunwald
Mark Vondra
Ron Ginnona
Vivian Peikin
Pamela Hale
Sue Groff

The CWG held its twelfth meeting in April 2018. The goal of the meeting was to talk about the New Starts Federal Grant Program. New Starts is under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and is a federal grant program which appropriates approximately \$2.3 billion per year for light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit (BRT) projects. In order to enter into the New Starts program, a project development process must be followed. SEPTA is currently in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) phase, which will also include a Record of Decision (ROD). Recent recipients of the grant program include South Central Light Rail in Phoenix, Purple Line in Bethesda, and METRO Blue Line Extension in Minneapolis.

The attached PowerPoint provides details to those topics.

Other items for discussion:

- None

KOP Rail

Community Working Group

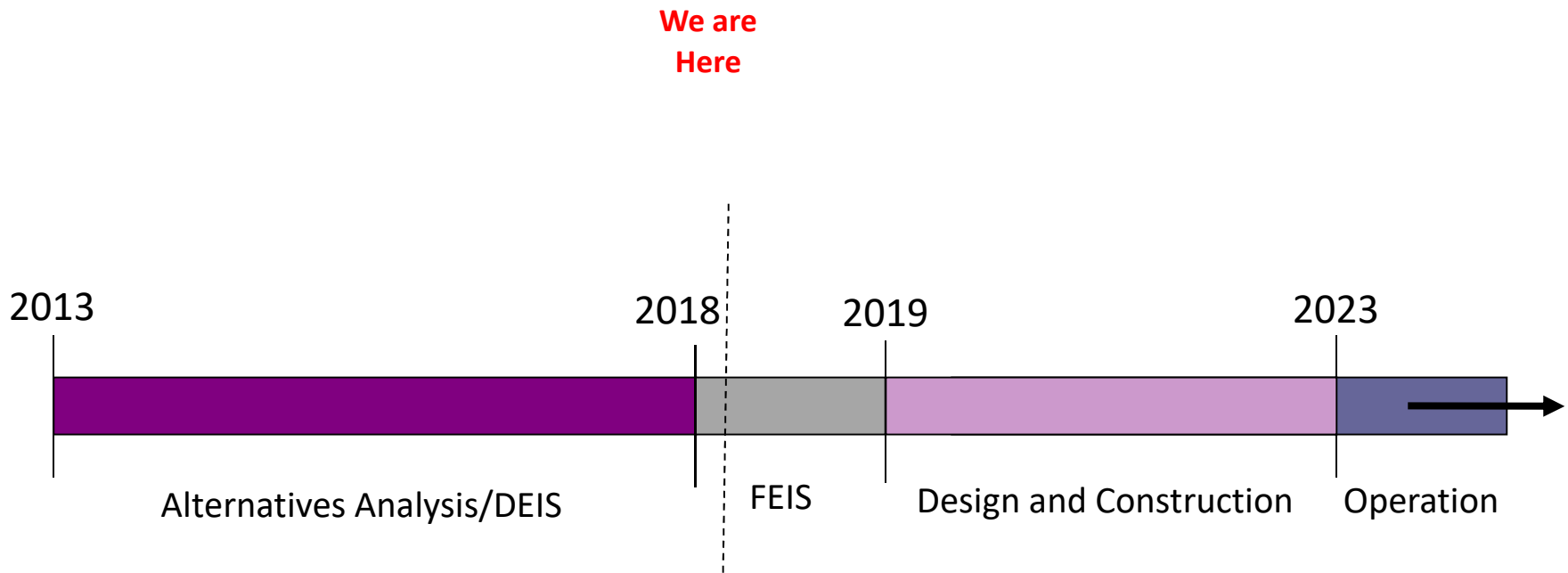
April 18, 2018



Agenda

- Project updates
- New Starts Program
- Q&A
- Next meeting

KOP Rail Progress



What is the New Starts Program?

- New Starts is under Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- A discretionary and competitive federal grant program which appropriates approximately \$2.3 billion per year in federal funding.
- The program is specifically for light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit (BRT) projects.

Determining Eligibility

Each project must meet the following requirements:

- Total project cost is equal to or greater than \$300 million or total New Starts funding sought equals or exceeds \$100 million
- New fixed guideway system (rail or BRT)
- An extension to an existing system

Project Development Process

- Project must follow a multi-year, multi-step process including the following three milestones:
 - Complete environmental review process, including evaluation of alternatives.
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
 - Selection of the locally preferred alternative (LPA)
 - PECO/PA Turnpike – 1st Ave
 - Adoption into the long-range transportation plan
 - The LPA has been adopted into DVRPC's recently updated long-range plan.



Project Rating

- FTA uses a point system to rate the project.
- A project will receive points for positive impacts to the local community, economy, environment, and transportation network.

- Project justification:
 - Mobility
 - Environmental benefits
 - Congestion relief
 - Economic development
 - Land use
 - Cost effectiveness (cost per trip)

Funding Recommendations

- Successful projects will sign a funding agreement with the FTA.
- New Starts may cover up to 80% of the project, but typically FTA will cover 50% or less.
- SEPTA will engage PFM Financial Advisors for the 20-year financial plan, with a kick off anticipated in late April.

Final Checklist

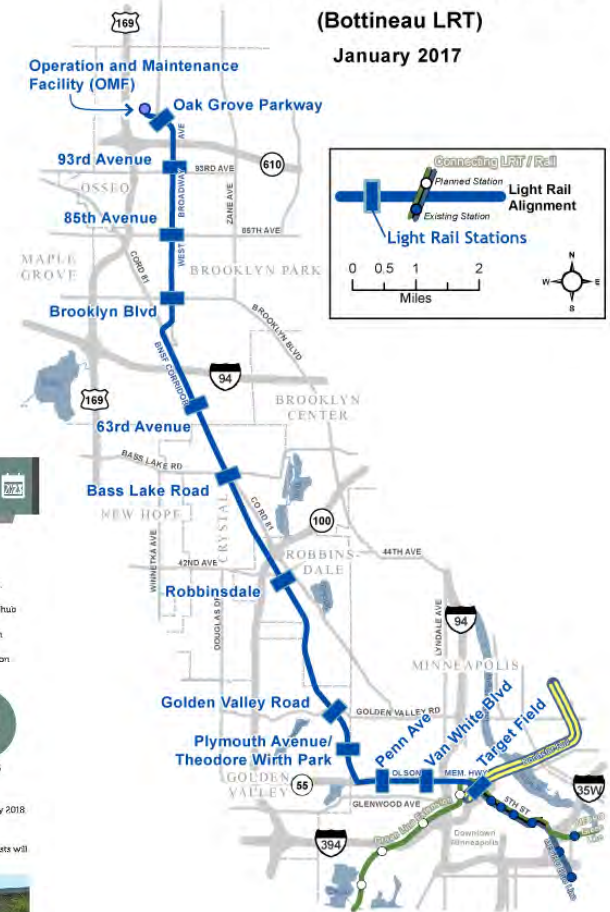
- Completed the planning, project development, and environmental review processes.
- Met project readiness requirements.
- Received a “medium” or higher overall rating.
- Met all other federal requirements.



Recent Recipients

- Recent recipients include
 - South Central Light Rail Extension, Phoenix Arizona
 - Maryland National Capital Purple Line, Bethesda, MD
 - METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT), Minneapolis, Minnesota

METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT) January 2017



Phoenix and Metro's courses are growing and the success of riders and our regional economic future. Metro's expanding network is needed to meet the growing demand for transit in the Phoenix area. The Purple Line, a new rail line, will provide a new mode of transit, providing a sustainable and reliable alternative to driving.

Direct, reliable transit from New Carrollton to Bethesda

The Purple Line will encourage economic development with connections to business districts and retail centers in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and other areas of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Connecting People and Places

The Purple Line will provide a new mode of transit, providing a sustainable and reliable alternative to driving. The Purple Line will encourage economic development with connections to business districts and retail centers in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and other areas of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Purple Line Connectors with MTA's MARC and DC Metrolink

• MARC Line	• Purple Line
• DC Metrolink	• Purple Line

The Purple Line will connect with MTA's MARC and DC Metrolink services.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION

PROJECTS

FACT SHEET / 0.5018 valleymetro.org/outreach

About the Project

The six-mile South Central Light Rail Extension will connect with the current light rail system in downtown Phoenix and operate south to Baseline Road. The project includes a transfer hub in downtown Phoenix. The expansion adds new stations, track and art elements to the project.

In January 2016, the Phoenix City Council approved advancing the opening date of the South Central Light Rail Extension from 2034 to 2023. The advancement is funded through Transportation 2050, a 35-year multi-modal transportation plan approved by Phoenix voters in August 2005.

PROJECT STATUS

- Design elements continue to advance with community input.
- Phoenix City Council and Valley Metro Rail Board approved project expansion in late 2017. Expansion includes a transfer hub into downtown Phoenix.
- Canvassed alignment to meet community members and gain valuable input.
- Public meetings in January 2018 gathered community input on initial design.

6 MILES / **11 STATIONS** / **14 ARTISTS**

NEXT STEPS

- Survey work to gather utility data, will continue through early 2018.
- A community office will open in early 2018. It provides an additional way to meet with project staff.
- A public meeting to view art concepts and meet with the artists will be held in February 2018.

Valley Metro
@valleymetro

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Additional Resources

- FTA New Starts

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/about-program>

- South Central Light Rail – Phoenix


<https://www.valleymetro.org/project/south-central-extension>

- Purple Line – Bethesda

<http://www.purplelinemd.com/en/home>

- METRO Blue Line Extension – Minneapolis

<https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension.aspx>

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- Questions?
 - Next meeting

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2018

Thank you!