

Rio East-Dobson Streetcar Extension

Mesa Transportation Advisory Board
Tuesday, July 16, 2024



2024 RAISE Grant Award

- \$15.9M
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
 - No local match
 - Funds preliminary engineering and environmental assessment phases

Steps to Prioritize Future Investment



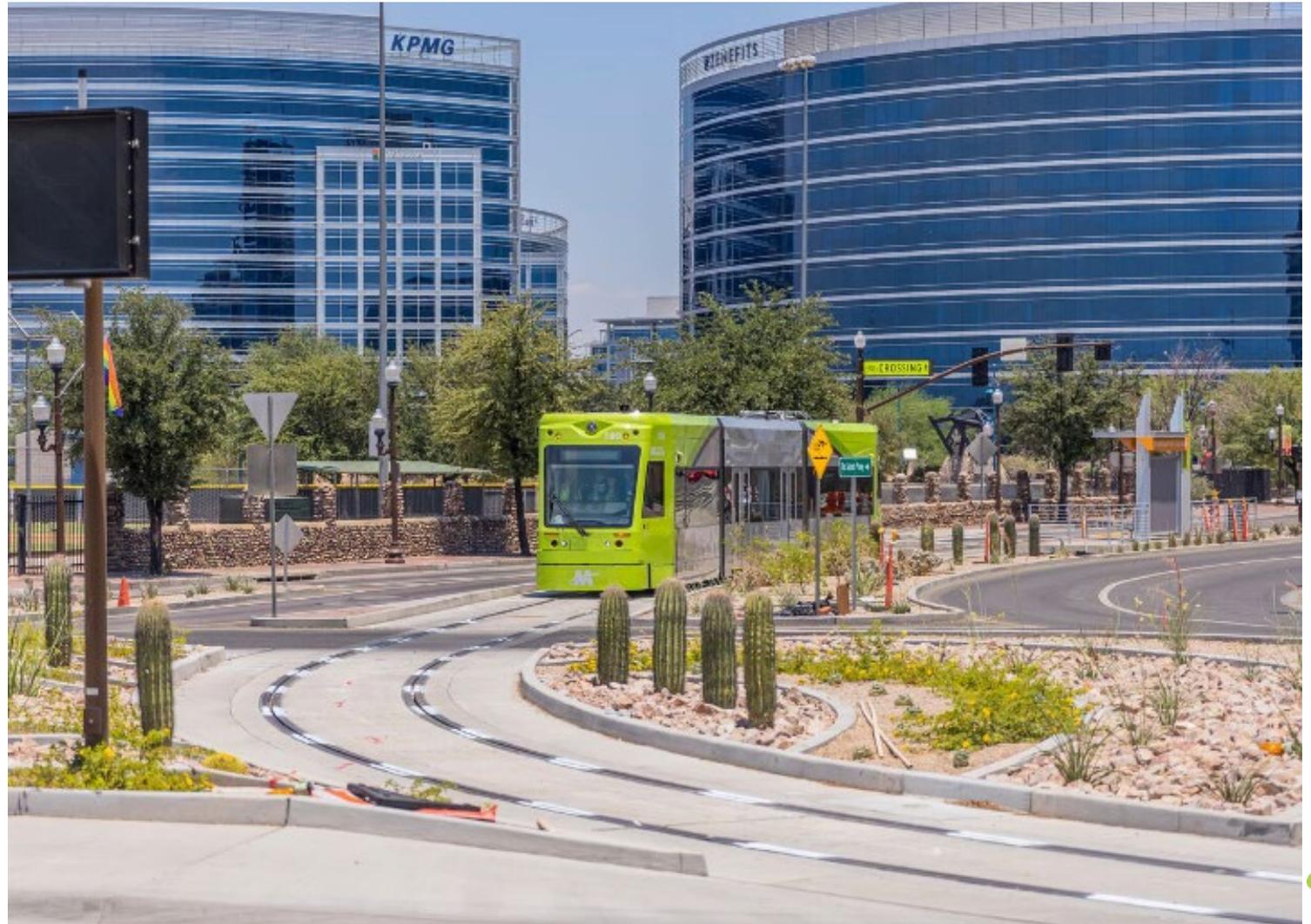
- **Extend Route 48** from Tempe Marketplace to Mesa Riverview on Rio Salado Pkwy
- Enhance service on **Route 30** - University Dr and **Route 45** - Broadway Rd
- Implement a uniquely **branded local circular route** to further develop transit market



- Integrate corridor into the **city of Mesa's General Plan** update to drive transit-supportive development
- Continue coordination with developers to seek **opportunities to integrate streetcar into developments**
- Encourage developers along the corridor to **implement transit-oriented development elements**

Streetcar Overview

- Designed to run on tracks embedded in streets or in dedicated rail corridors
- Operates in urban areas, providing a convenient and efficient mode of transportation for short to medium distances
- Has been a vision in the East Valley for more than a decade before opening in central Tempe on May 20, 2022



Rio East-Dobson Streetcar Extension (REDE) Study Overview

- Builds on the Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study
 - Conducted spring 2018 through summer 2020
 - Identified the route (the red line shown in the map)
- Will analyze how streetcar most effectively operates along the route
 - Where streetcar will operate in the street
 - Areas where stops could be located



Study Purpose

- Improve **mobility** and **accessibility** by providing a dependable and efficient **high-capacity transit** option that serves employment, activity centers, educational facilities and residential areas in and around
 - Downtown Tempe
 - Marina Heights
 - Arizona State University and the Novus Innovation District
 - Tempe Marketplace
 - Sloan Park
 - Riverview Park
 - Mesa Riverview
 - Asian District
- Extend streetcar system from downtown Tempe into Mesa and add another connection to the light rail system



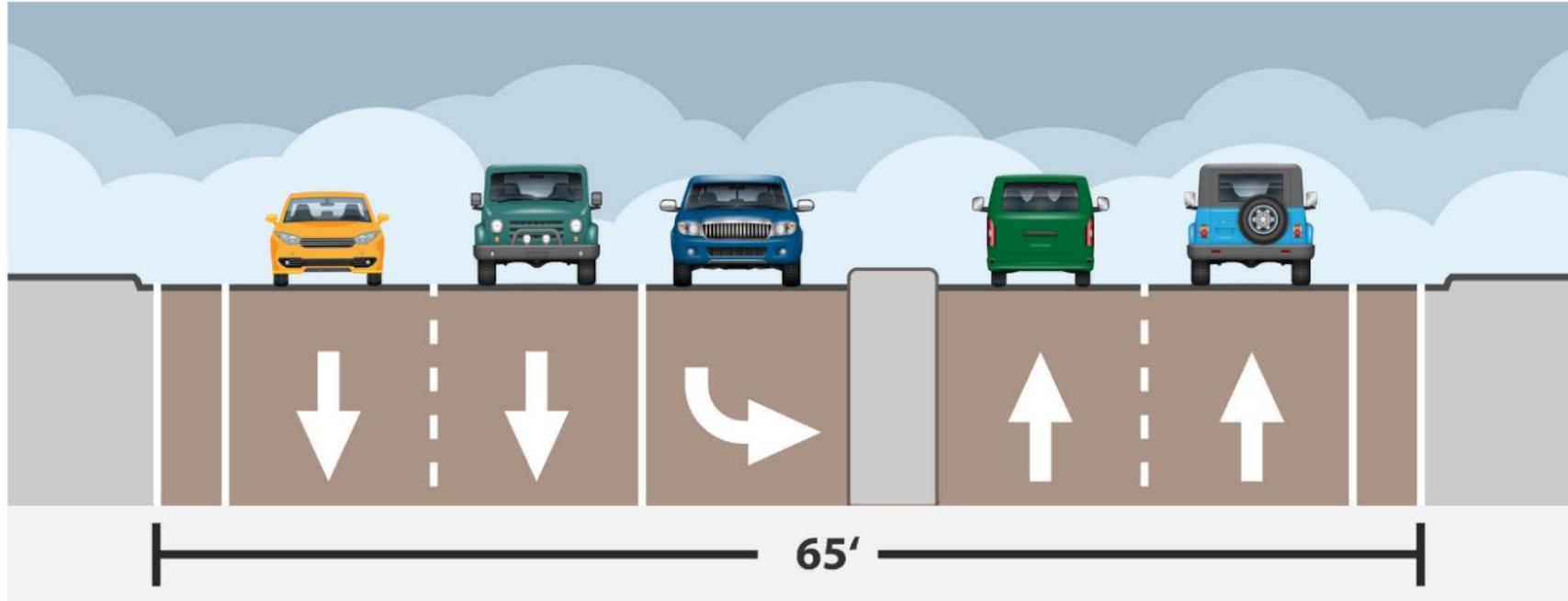
Study Need



The REDE Study intends to address:

- Improving access, mobility and connectivity to employment and activity centers in north Tempe and west Mesa along Rio Salado Parkway and Dobson Road
- Supporting projected growth in area population and employment as well as the projected increase in transportation demand along the corridor
- Supporting current and future land-use planning for economic and transit-oriented development
- Improving access and mobility for low income, minority, and transit dependent populations

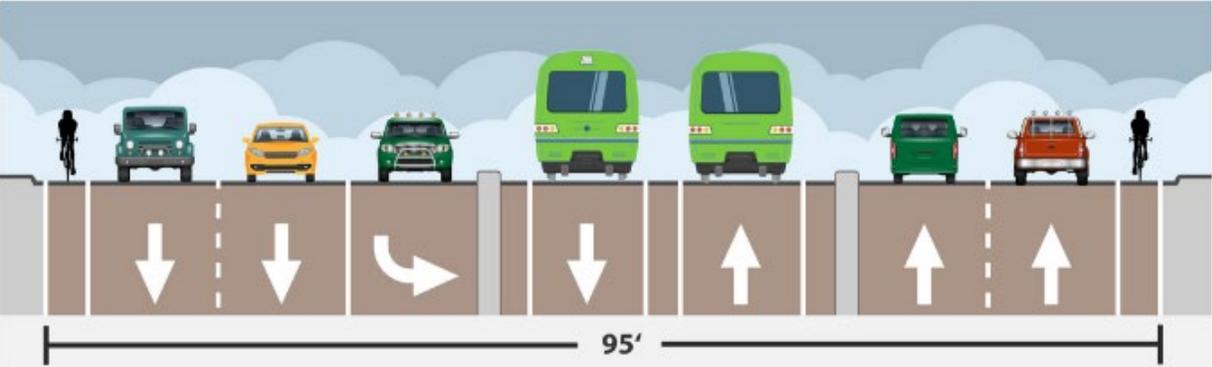
Rio Salado Parkway – Existing Roadway



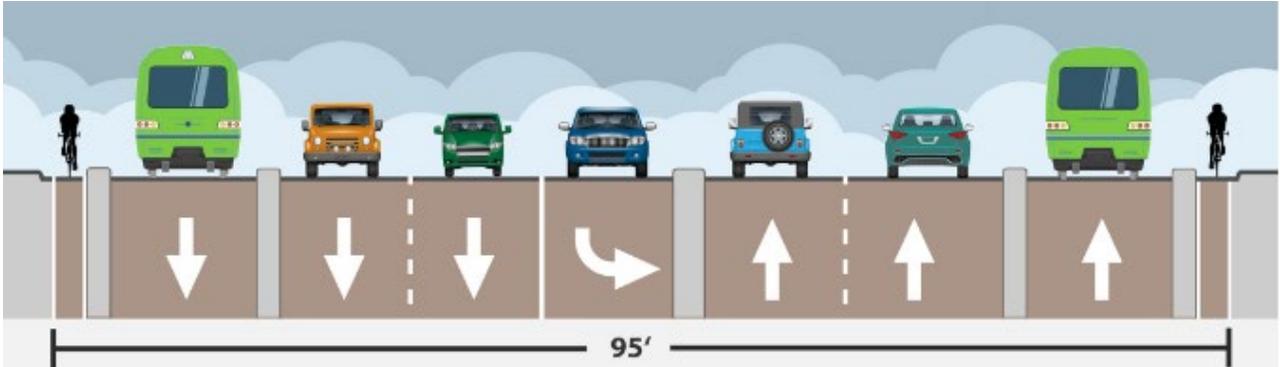
Streetcar could operate along either side of Rio Salado Parkway. It could also operate in a streetcar-only lane (dedicated) or in a shared lane with traffic (mixed flow).

Existing transit easements along portions of Rio Salado allow roadway widening to accommodate streetcar lanes without impacting property or traffic lanes.

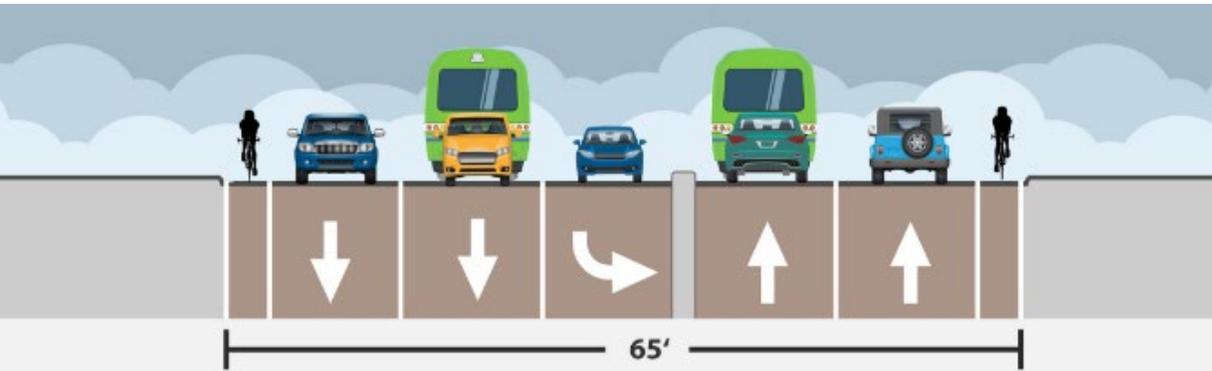
Rio Salado Parkway – Track Location Options



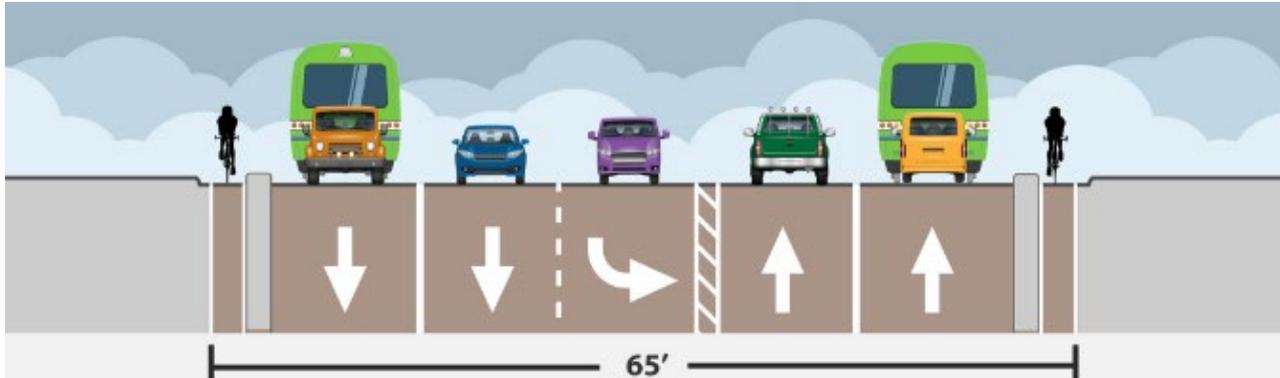
Option 1. Center-Running, Dedicated



Option 3. Side-Running, Dedicated

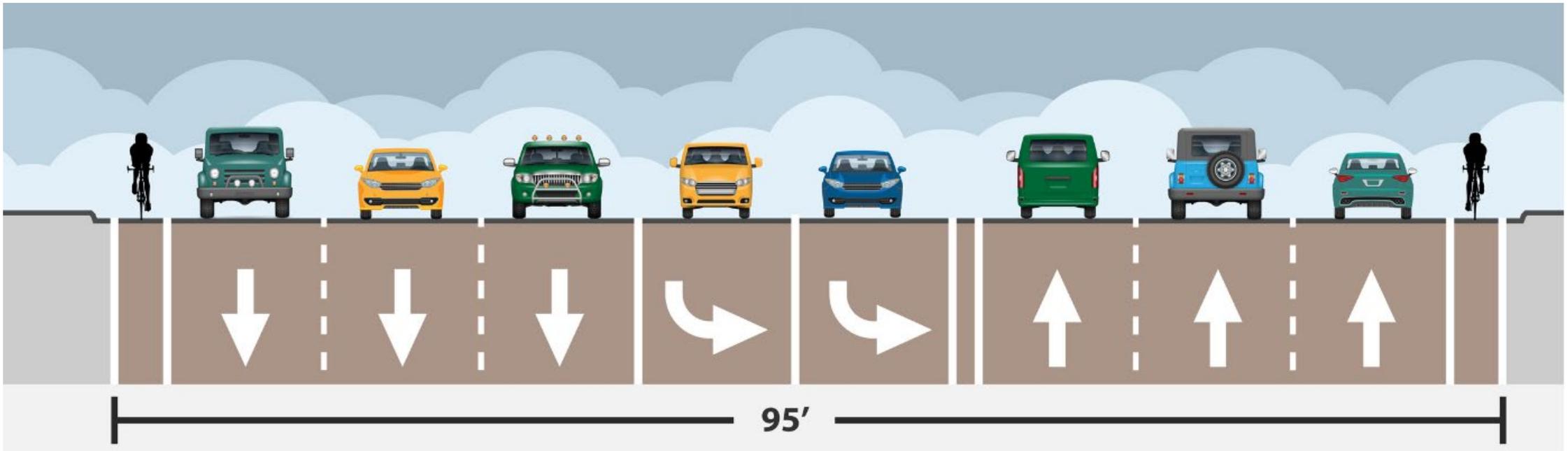


Option 2. Center-Running, Mixed Flow



Option 4. Side-Running, Mixed Flow

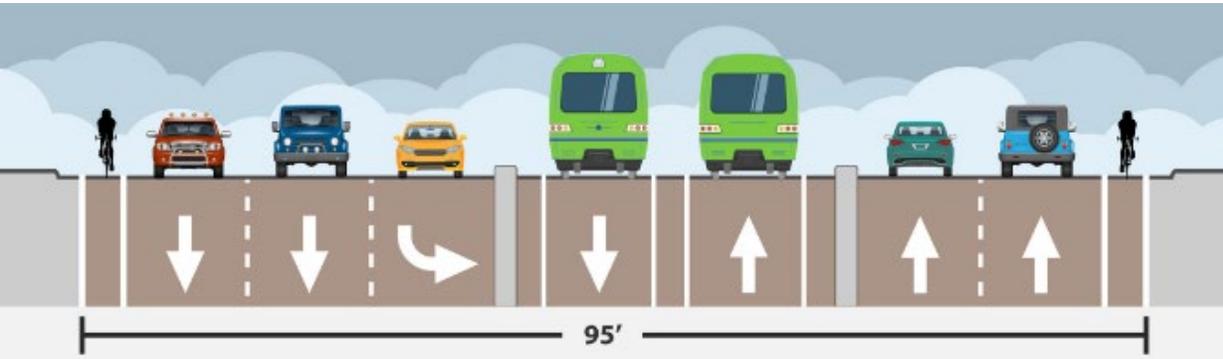
Dobson Road – Existing Roadway



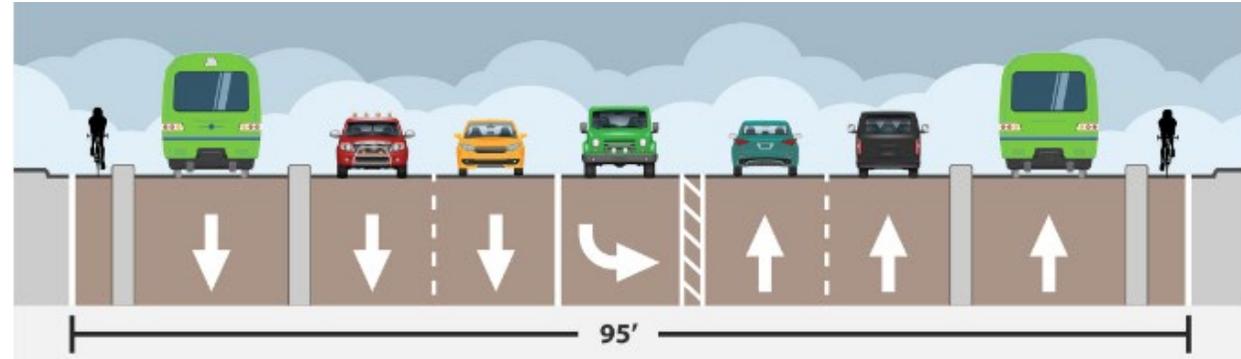
Streetcar could operate in the center or on either side of Dobson Road. It could also operate in a streetcar-only lane (dedicated) or shared lane with vehicle traffic (mixed flow).

Transit easements do not exist on Dobson Road so Options 1 and 3 would require removal of traffic lanes.

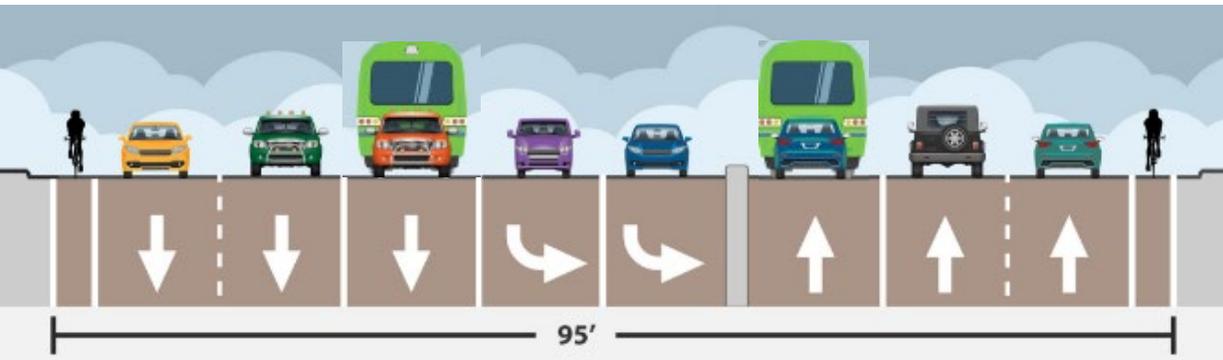
Dobson Road – Track Location Options



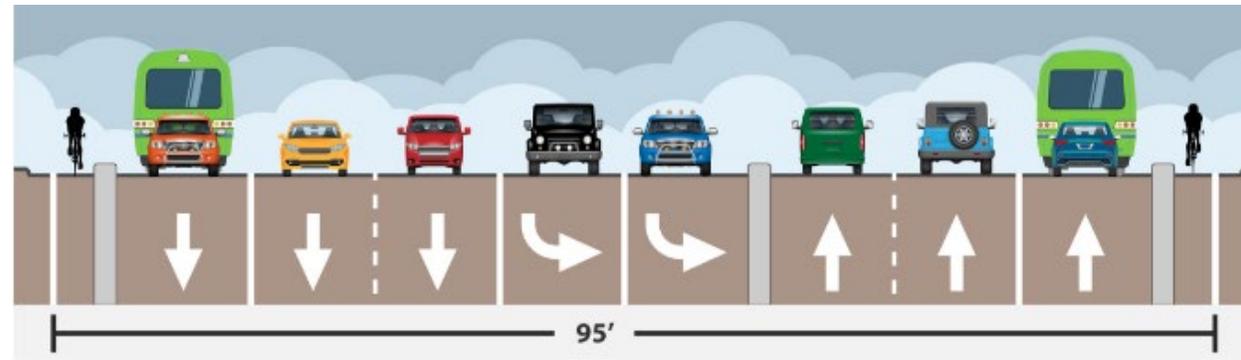
Option 1. Center-Running, Dedicated



Option 3. Side-Running, Dedicated



Option 2. Center-Running, Mixed Flow



Option 4. Side-Running, Mixed Flow

Marina Heights/Rio Salado to McClintock Drive



McClintock Drive to Loop 101



Loop 101 to Dobson Road



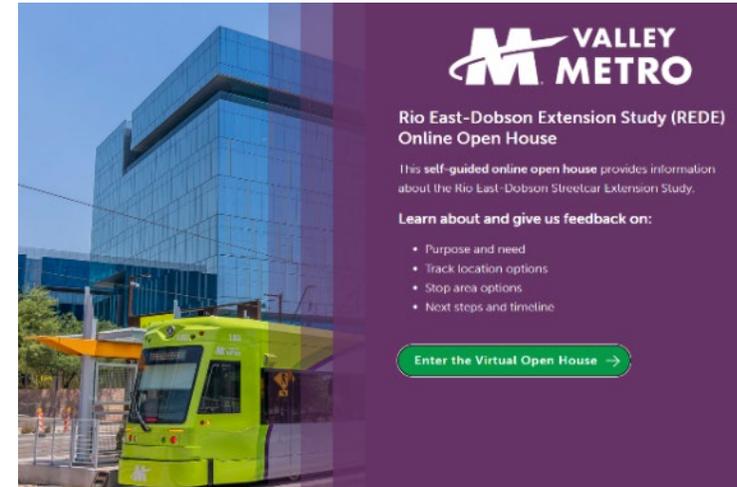
Dobson Road (south to Main Street)



Community Outreach

- **In-person open houses** in Mesa and Tempe
 - June 10 and 12
 - 53 attendees signed in
- **Virtual open house**
 - May 28 through June 28
 - 1,154 visitors; 518 engaged sessions; 1,326 survey question responses
- **Meetings** with key stakeholders

Study website: www.valleymetro.org/rede
Virtual open house: www.redestreetcar.com



Next Steps / Timeline

- The timeline for the study is shown below.
- Community outreach and engagement will continue throughout the study.
- At the completion of the REDE Study, the team will develop and present a final recommendation to the cities of Mesa and Tempe for consideration and possible adoption in early 2025.




**We Are
Here**

Questions?



Thank you!
valleymetro.org/rede

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