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TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR

TEMPE STREETCAR – THE MAKING OF A NEW TRANSIT SYSTEM

Friday, September 14, 2018 2:00 - 3:15 PM (US Arizona)

[College Avenue Commons \(CAVC\) Room 559](#) (Parking)



Tom Wolfe, PE
Transit Program Manager
 Stantec

Thomas W. Wilhite, PE
Streetcar Project Engineer
 City of Tempe Public Works



About the Talk

Streetcars were once the backbone of America's urban transportation system, conveying passengers around town in cities across the country. At the turn of the 20th century, Phoenix had its own electrified streetcar railway, with plans to extend service to Tempe, Mesa, and Scottsdale – but the lines were never built. Fast forward nearly 100 years and the City of Tempe is soon to be home to the Valley's first Modern Streetcar system, one that promises to enhance mobility as a complement to the existing transportation network. This 3.5-mile facility is a critical element to the Valley's transit system as it circulates the perimeter of the ASU campus, through the bustling downtown, and along the rapidly growing business district on Rio Salado. So, what is a Modern Streetcar? How does it work? And what does it take to bring the Tempe Streetcar, a modern transit facility, to the community? These questions and more will be answered in this informative and entertaining presentation.

About the Speakers

Tom Wolf has been involved in a large variety of civil engineering projects throughout his career, from roadways and dams in rural areas to large diameter conveyance tunnels and bridge structures in major urban centers. But his focus for the past 20 years has been on the delivery of rail transit systems throughout Arizona and the southwest. Whether commuter rail, light rail, or streetcar, Tom views fixed transit systems as a vital service to the people and a valuable investment in the communities they are in. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Tom has proudly worked on several projects with Valley Metro since 2002 and is currently the Project Manager for Stantec Consulting on the Tempe Streetcar project.

Tom Wilhite has been with the City of Tempe Public Works Department for more than 20 years, originally in the Engineering Division and currently in the Transportation Division. He was previously in private consulting for 20 years. In his tenure in Engineering, he managed teams, including Capital Improvements Program, Private Development, and Private Utilities. He has served as the Engineering Project Manager for such projects as the Tempe Transportation Center, the East Valley Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility, the West Side Multi-Generational Facility, and the six-mile Western Canal Multiuse Path. A graduate of Georgia Tech (Bachelors and Masters of Civil Engineering) and ASU (Masters of Public Administration), Tom is currently serving as the Tempe Project Engineer for the Streetcar, which is the largest capital project in the City at this time.

This seminar is webcast live to a worldwide audience by ASU Engineering – Global Outreach and Extended Education (GOEE). To access the live webcast and archive of previous seminar recordings, please visit: <http://links.asu.edu/ASU-Transportation-Seminar>

Light refreshments will be served. Event is open to the public.



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