



Pacts for park, ride lots for light rail approved

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The Arizona Republic

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Light-rail officials approved contracts for four park-and-ride lots in Phoenix, literally paving the way for commuters to access the system from around the city.

The Metro light rail board voted unanimously last week to build lots at:

- 19th and Montebello avenues.
- 19th Avenue and Camelback Road.
- Central Avenue and Camelback.
- 38th and Washington streets.

The lots will have spaces for about 3,500 vehicles, said Brian Buchanan, Metro light rail's director of design and construction. The cost for construction is \$13.4 million.

"Park-and-rides are an integral part of the project," Buchanan said.

The system will include two lots in Tempe and one in Mesa.

Metro light rail had originally planned to award contracts for the park-and-ride lots last summer but received fewer bids than expected, Metro light rail CEO Rick Simonetta said.

"We're probably three to four months behind where we want to be," Simonetta said.

The Phoenix lots are still scheduled to open before light-rail service begins at the end of December 2008.

Metro light rail is about 70 percent finished with the construction of the \$1.4 billion, 20-mile rail starter line that runs from Phoenix to Mesa.

Federal evaluators have said the project is more than 90 percent likely to come in on time and on budget, Metro light rail said.

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- Cobweb
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I don't believe for a moment that they waited until last week: "The Metro light rail board voted unanimously last week to build lots at:" for the currently being built areas. Some poor reporting there.

- dsimmer
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 These lots will be free, right?

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