

City of Tempe - Mayor Hugh Hallman
METRO Newsletter
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We can all be proud of building a more sustainable, connected environment for ourselves and our children as we become accustomed to riding the Light Rail.

We have sought to build a system that will reduce congestion, increase air quality, provide an additional great public transit option, and draw business to our cities. And we are focused on the long view in public transportation that supports the Valley's continued growth.

One of the less-recognized benefits of public transit is the sense of community that grows when people responsibly share space on the way to a shared destination.

Riding the light rail with my sons from Tempe into Mesa to visit friends, or from Tempe into Phoenix for a concert, I am struck by how courteous and helpful most passengers are to one another. Whether waiting for a disabled or elderly person to board, or helping a cyclist prop a bike in the rack, the majority of riders seem to understand and adhere to the rules. We need to encourage all transit riders to become part of this community.

From safety rules we learned in kindergarten, such as looking both ways before we cross the rail tracks, to helping an out-of-town visitor with directions to Mill Avenue, Light Rail is helping to create an even closer-knit, connected community. More can be done. We all need to be cognizant of safety, and we can remind our friends and family members to treat our joint investment in light rail with respect. No graffiti. No loud music or rough behavior. No garbage left behind.

It has been my pleasure to serve the past several years on the METRO board with our partner cities. Together, we have worked hard to make the system accessible for everyone. And it appears from the recent ridership numbers that people across the Valley have taken responsibility for, and are personally invested in, continuing our Light Rail success.