



Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 31, 2011

NAIPTA RECEIVES \$6.2 MILLION IN FUNDING, BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON MOUNTAIN LINK TRANSIT WAY THROUGH NAU

Flagstaff—With \$6.2 million of federal funding in hand and the launch of Mountain Link scheduled for August 2011, Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) has begun construction on a dedicated transit spine which will be used by buses to travel through the NAU campus.

Mountain Link, a joint project of NAIPTA, the City of Flagstaff and Northern Arizona University (NAU) will link Downtown Flagstaff, NAU and Woodlands Village with direct, high-frequency bus service. Several factors will enhance the speed and convenience of the new bus service:

- A dedicated transitway through NAU, which will be used by both Mountain Link and NAU Campus Shuttle system, will provide the fastest way to travel between north and south campus.
- Mountain Link will run every 10-15 minutes, 14 hours per day on weekdays, and will also operate on weekends.
- Real time arrival technology will let passengers know exactly when the next bus will arrive.
- All Mountain Link bus stops will be sheltered and many will be equipped with flat screen monitors with a real time information display.
- Hybrid electric vehicles, similar to those currently used on other Mountain Line routes, will be used for lower emissions.

The project is being funded by a grant from the FTA known as a Very Small Starts Grant. NAIPTA was the first transit system in Arizona to receive this type of grant. The \$6.2 million dollar competitive federal grant allows Mountain Link to directly address many of the congestion and transportation issues that are key components of NAU’s master plan. Mountain Link will help to alleviate parking problems and issues, both on the NAU campus and in downtown Flagstaff.

NAU President, John Haeger, said, “Northern Arizona University is pleased to be a partner in this project because of what it offers to those on campus as well as the community. It also is a significant stride toward achieving goals set forth in the campus master plan.”

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Flagstaff City Councilor and NAIPTA Board Member, Al White, said, "I can't wait to see this long-awaited route in action. I am very proud of our partnership with Northern Arizona University and this is another outstanding example of working together to move the community forward in providing voter approved service improvement for all. Mountain Link represents the next level of public transportation in Flagstaff's core and will provide a taste of even better things to come."

Mountain Link service will begin on August 29, just as NAU students return for fall classes. For more information, visit www.mountainline.az.gov.

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NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line, Mountain Lift and upcoming Mountain Link systems in Flagstaff, Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) in Cottonwood, and the Verde Lynx between Cottonwood and Sedona. NAIPTA also coordinates services with Campus Shuttle Service at Northern Arizona University Contact 928-779-6624 or www.naipta.az.gov for more information.