Mini-Debate
Transportation
Light Rail Expansion Factsheet:

- First leg will stretch 20 miles from the downtown Phoenix business corridor to residential areas in northeast Phoenix
- Projected cost: $75 million per mile, $1.5 billion when completed
- A grant from the federal government will provide $500 million
- The rest of the costs will be covered by a 0.5% sales tax increase applied over the 10 year construction period
- The expansion will cost $35 million per year to operate
- Fares will recoup $10 million per year
- The remaining annual costs will be covered by the 0.5% sales tax which will continue indefinitely after construction is finished
- Construction begins 2017
- Completion date: 2027
- The 20 mile route will take 65 minutes to travel by LR, compared to 105 minutes by bus
- Projected weekday ridership will be 44,000 passengers
- Projected cost per passenger: Bus $3.85, Rail $2.01
- Projected cost per mile: Bus $8.10, Rail $11.81
- Average fair paid: Bus $0.83, Rail $0.90