

Fall/Winter 2018

Orbit vehicle testing and public outreach



Spring/Summer 2019

Create Request for Proposal (RFP) based on public outreach feedback, industry standards and partnership with Valley Metro

Fall 2019

Determine community and rider bus priorities



Winter 2019/2020

RFP evaluation process and vendor(s) selection

Early 2020

Contract approved through Valley Metro Board

Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

New Orbit vehicle deliveries



Passenger Capacity

During peak travel times, some Orbit buses reach passenger capacity, having to turn away riders who are waiting. Vehicles with more passenger capacity will reduce the likelihood of this. Note: the city does not intend to introduce vehicles larger than the newer, heavy-duty Orbit buses that are currently operating. These larger vehicles help to address the capacity issues, whereas the older smaller Orbit vehicles do not. Replacement Orbit vehicles will be ADA compliant, with dedicated wheelchair securement areas.

Sustainability/ Alternative Fuels/ Environmentally Friendly

The majority of Tempe's transit vehicles are low-emission, running on alternative fuels. Some examples include natural gas and diesel/electric hybrid propulsion. This priority further reduces vehicle emissions and improves the environmental benefit of public transit as well as helping to achieve the city's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Air Conditioning Performance/ Suitability for Desert Environment



This priority emphasizes that the vehicle selected must operate reliably in Tempe's harsh desert climate, including adequately-sized air conditioning systems to maintain passenger comfort throughout the year and sufficient engine cooling systems to minimize breakdowns.

Neighborhood Compatibility

Since Orbit routes operate primarily within Tempe's residential neighborhoods, this priority aims to best align the design of the replacement Orbit vehicles with the character of Tempe's neighborhoods by considering vehicle characteristics including size and noise in attempt to minimize neighborhood impacts.

Operating Efficiency/ Cost Savings

Some buses are unable to operate a full day without having to refuel. Refueling not only takes a vehicle out of service, but also results in a larger quantity of buses needed and more miles being driven. This priority seeks to ensure the vehicle can sustain the daily operating range required for Orbit service, in turn reducing the daily miles traveled and the number of buses needed to operate Orbit.

<i>Specifications</i>	<i>Original Orbit Bus (Light-duty)</i>	<i>2017 Orbit Bus (Heavy-duty)</i>
		
Length	25' – 7"	31' – 10.5"
Width	8' – 0"	8' – 5"
Height	10' – 2.5"	11' – 4"
Seats	17	23
Standing Capacity	Maximum of 6	12-25
Wheelchair Accommodations	2 wheelchair positions/ vertical lift	2 wheelchair positions/ extending ramp
Entry	Single door, high floor, step entry	Two doors, low floor with kneeling function
Bike Racks	2 bike positions	3 bike positions