

2013 TRB Poster: Trams, Trails and Transit *Active Transportation, Resilient Infrastructure*

Unit: Sabino Canyon

Transportation Scholar: Andrew Valdez

This storyboard, presented by the Sabino Canyon public lands scholar at the Transportation Research Board's national conference in DC, is intended to display a snapshot of the three projects worked on during his tenure at the Coronado National Forest. Taken together, the three projects represent a holistic, sustainable and long term vision for transportation and visitor experience enhancement for the Sabino Canyon recreation area.

The 'Trams' component (T1) will culminate in a competitively bid, 20 year transportation concession between the ranger district and the winning proposal team. The primary analysis process identified a number of concerns with the current system including: noise pollution, air pollution, interpretive quality, public safety and public perception. The prospectus, drafted by the scholar, utilized this input and built elements into the offering which will lead bidders to propose a state of the art system that showcases best practices for transit in public lands.

The 'Trails' component (T2) represents the planning and NEPA processes for a trail system through Sabino Canyon which will serve 3 purposes: A 'dry foot' evacuation route for when Forest Road 100 is flooded, an enhanced recreation experience (a pedestrian only access through the canyon) and an infrastructural element which will be resilient and sustainable in the long term (a trail is cheaper and easier to maintain vs a road)

The 'Transit' component (T3) represents an outreach campaign conducted by the scholar to link the recreation area with the greater Tucson transit network. Given the high visitation numbers and the congestion problems in the adjacent neighborhoods and in the parking lot, a regularly scheduled bus route may be able to alleviate these problems as well as provide access to the resource for transit dependent communities.