

From the San Antonio Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2024/03/13/via-ceo-advanced-rapid-transit.html>

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

Transportation

VIA CEO: SA poised to get \$400M assist to launch rapid transit

Construction could begin on the first ART line from the airport to downtown by 2025.




Conceptual rendering of VIA's planned advanced rapid transit line

VIA



By [W. Scott Bailey](#) – Senior Reporter, San Antonio Business Journal
Mar 13, 2024

 Listen to this article 3 min



The Federal Transit Administration has recommended that approximately \$245 million be added to the president’s fiscal 2025 budget to fund San Antonio’s advanced rapid transit plan.

With that move VIA Metropolitan Transit is now poised to receive more than \$400 million in federal funding for its development of the city’s first ART lines.

“If history proves itself, those funds should be approved for us – even if the president's budget is not adopted wholesale,” VIA CEO Jeffrey Arndt told me.

That optimism stems from the fact that such capital improvement grant projects recommended by the FTA are typically left untouched in the budgetary process, according to Arndt.

The FTA’s process for recommending projects for inclusion in the president’s budget is based on in-depth analysis of proposals, availability of local funds for matching dollars and other criteria, according to VIA officials.

“This agency has never been able to even get in line for funding out of this pot of money in its entire history,” Arndt said. “Some of those dollars will at last come home.”

Keep up with the latest San Antonio headlines by signing up here for SABJ newsletters.

[VIA’s plan includes](#) an initial ART line that would run from the airport to downtown and points farther south. The Green Line project was already approved for nearly \$160 million in federal funding. The FTA’s latest recommendation would raise the total federal share to about \$270 million, or 60% of the anticipated project cost.

[VIA is also planning](#) a Silver Line that would run from Our Lady of the Lake University in West San Antonio eastward to the Frost Bank Center area.

The FTA has recommended nearly \$135 million in the President’s budget on top of the more than \$8 million it’s already advanced for that project. That’s approximately 50% of the projected cost for the second ART line.

The two ART projects are set to receive the full funding amounts VIA sought from the FTA. The Green Line is on track to launch in 2027 and the Silver Line two years later. The ART system will feature high-capacity vehicles, dedicated lanes and traffic-signal priority.

“The rest of this year will be getting through final design,” Arndt said. “Then construction starts in 2025, vehicles will start arriving in 2026 and we will begin testing them in 2027.”

T H E L I S T

Best Places To Work Extra Large

Best Places to Work Score 2023

Rank	Prior Rank	Company name
1	1	Broadway Bank
2	2	Joeris General Contractors
3	3	Citi

[View This List](#)