

Transit and Proposition 479

City Council Work Session | September 14, 2026



Decision Points

- › Paratransit Service Area
- › RideChoice Eligibility (65+ Program)
- › Bus Service Enhancements
- › Chandler Flex Expansion

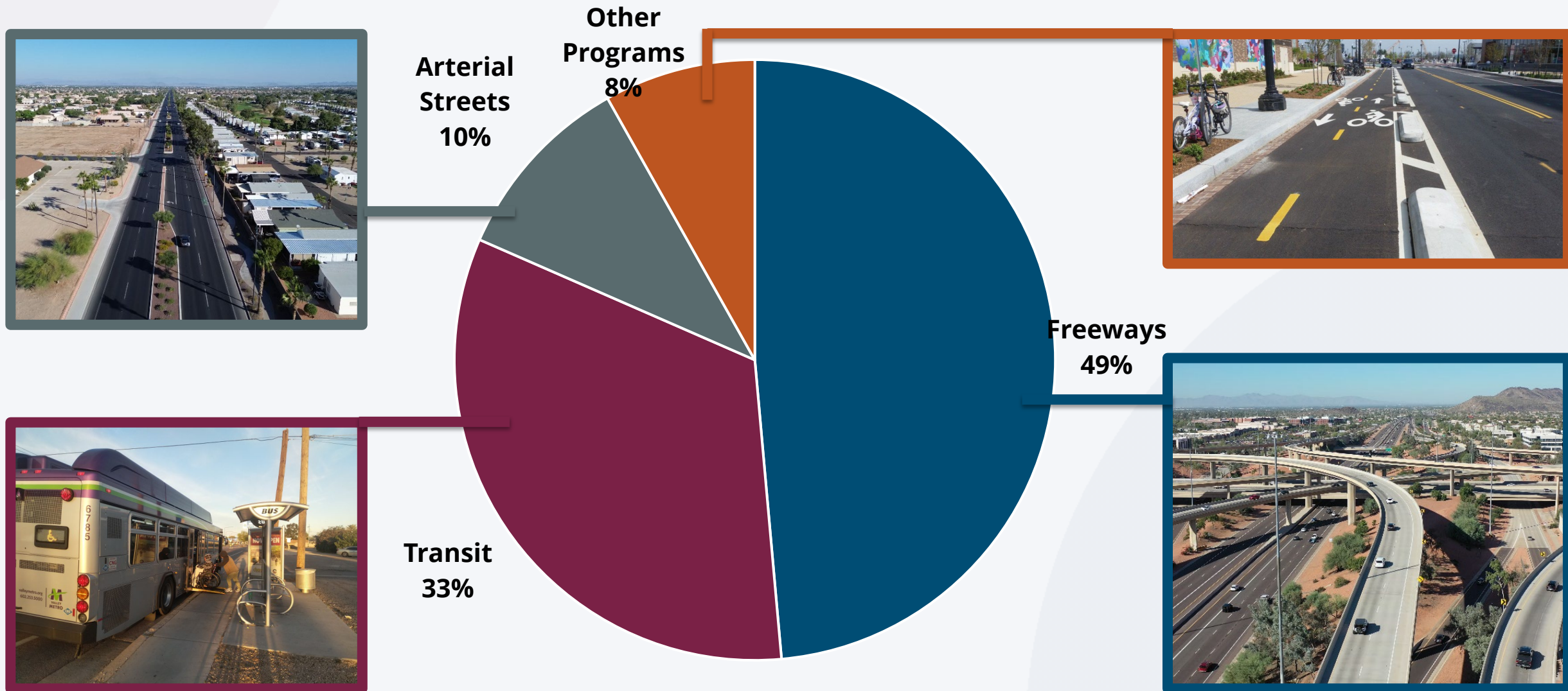


Proposition 479 Background

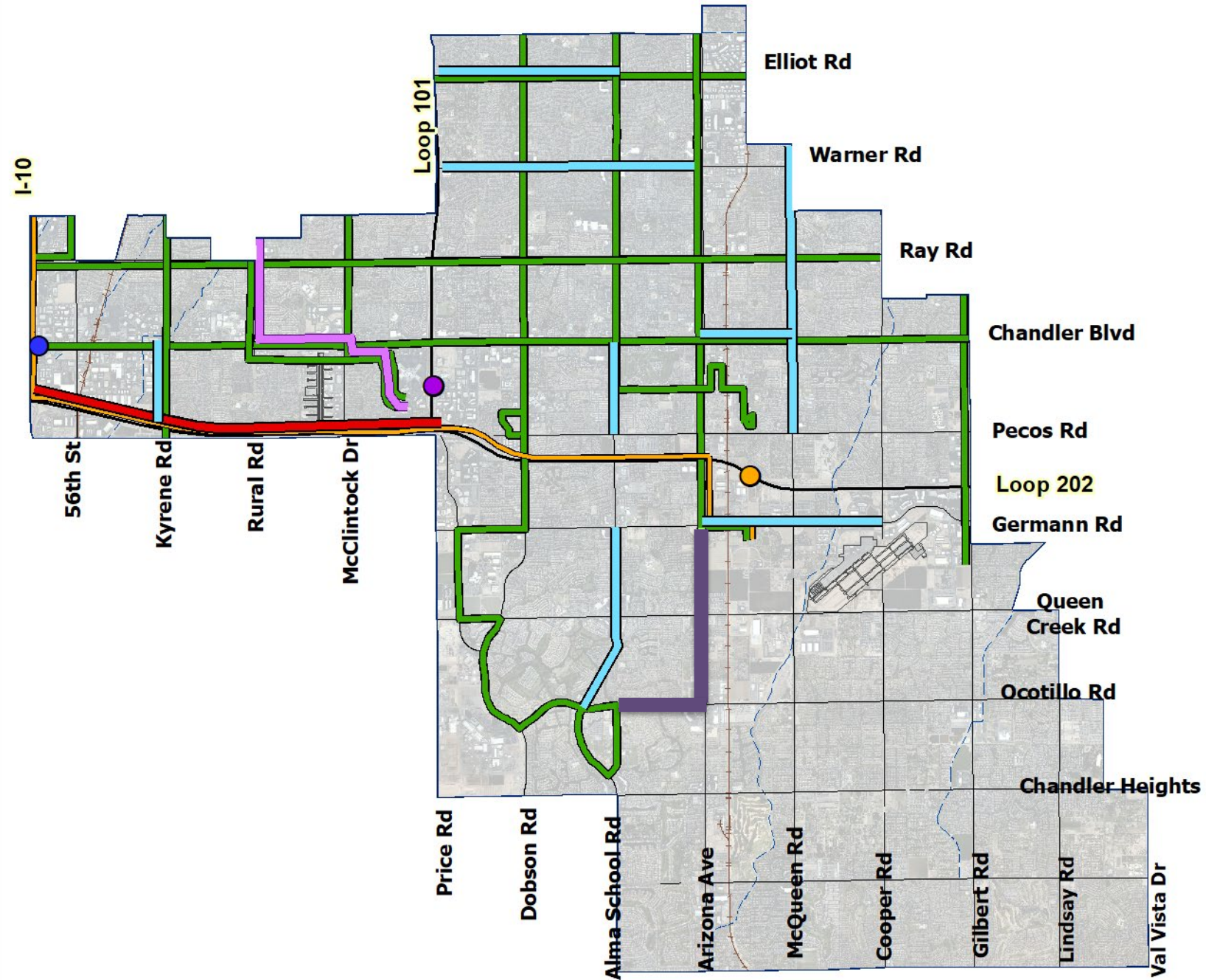
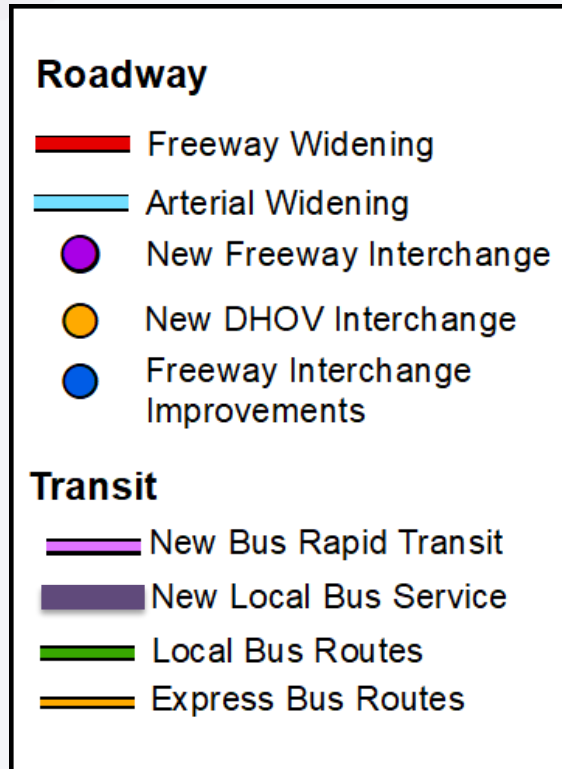
- > Maricopa County ½-Cent Sales Tax for Transportation
 - > Approved by Voters November 2024
 - > Replaces Expiring Proposition 400
- > Effective January 2026 – December 2045



Proposition 479: County Funding Programs



Prop. 479 Projects in Chandler



Note: Chandler may get funding for other projects as well through a competitive process.

Prop. 479 Transit Lifecycle Program

Mode	Regionally-Funded	Locally-Funded
Express Bus	100%	-
Local Bus	100%	Expansions beyond regional funding allocation
Paratransit / RideChoice	Federally-Mandated Service (Near Bus Routes) for ADA Certified Riders	- 65 and Over Program - Southeast Chandler
Microtransit (Chandler Flex)	-	100%

Transit Lifecycle Program (Cont.)

	Prop 400 Rules		Prop 479 Rules	
Mode	Regional (Prop 400)	Local (Prop 400)	Regional (Prop 479)	Local (Prop 479)
Express Bus	\$550,000	\$180,000	\$730,000	\$0
Local Bus	\$11,110,000	\$2,450,000	\$13,560,000	\$0
Paratransit + RideChoice	\$2,850,000	\$730,000	\$2,320,000	\$1,260,000
TOTAL	\$14,510,000	\$3,360,000	\$16,610,000	\$1,260,000

\$2.1M Decrease in Local Expenditures

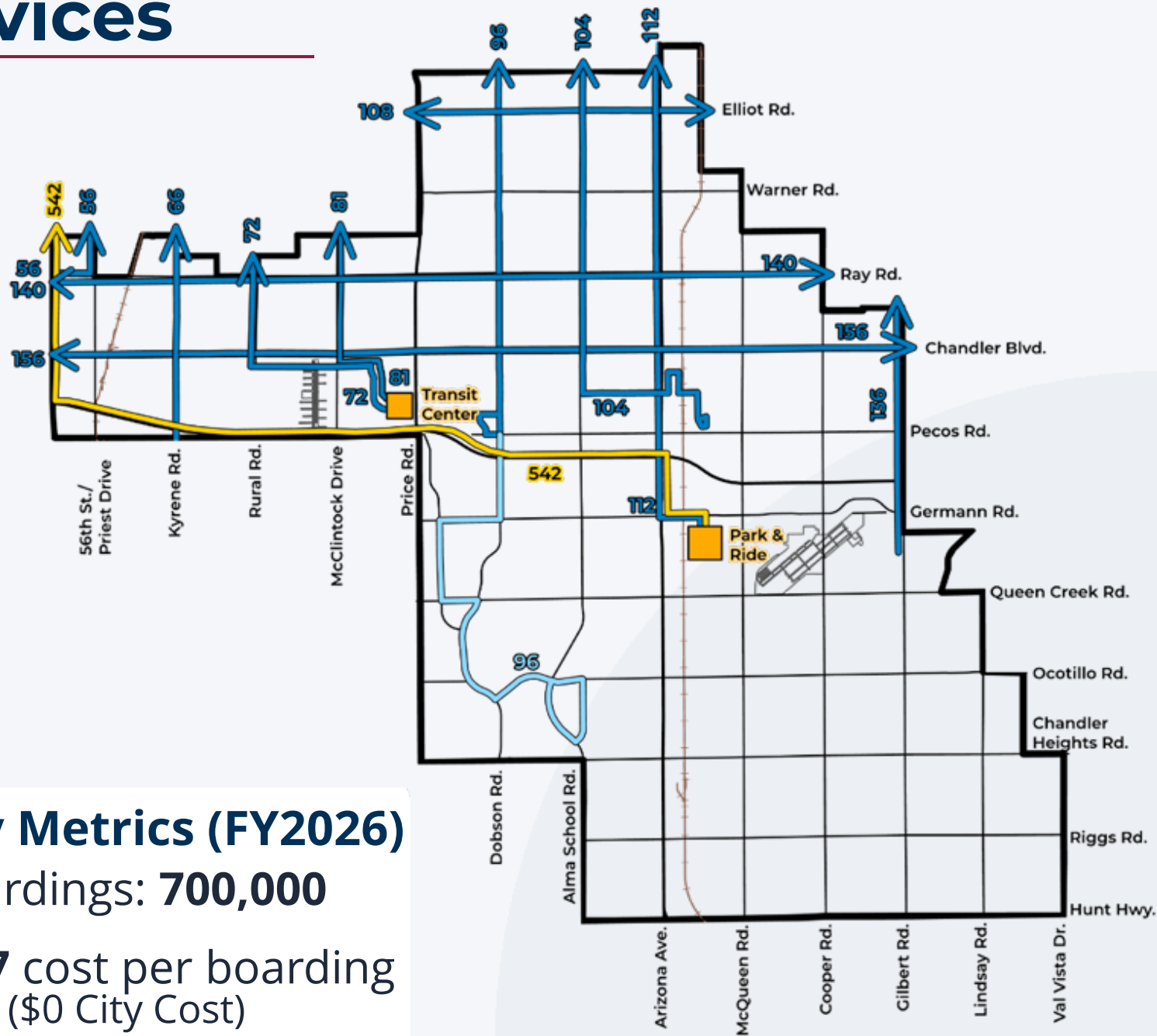
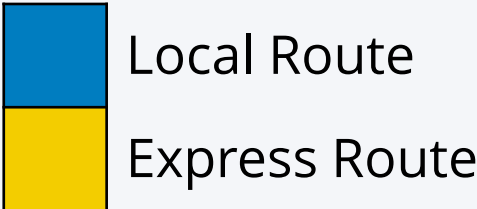
FY2027 Local Funding – Without Policy Changes

Program	% Locally Funded	Local Funding Needed
Bus	0%	\$0
Paratransit / RideChoice	35%	\$1,260,000
Chandler Flex	100%	\$1,400,000
Total	14%	\$2,660,000

Existing Transit Services

Chandler Transit Services Map

Legend



Key Metrics (FY2026)

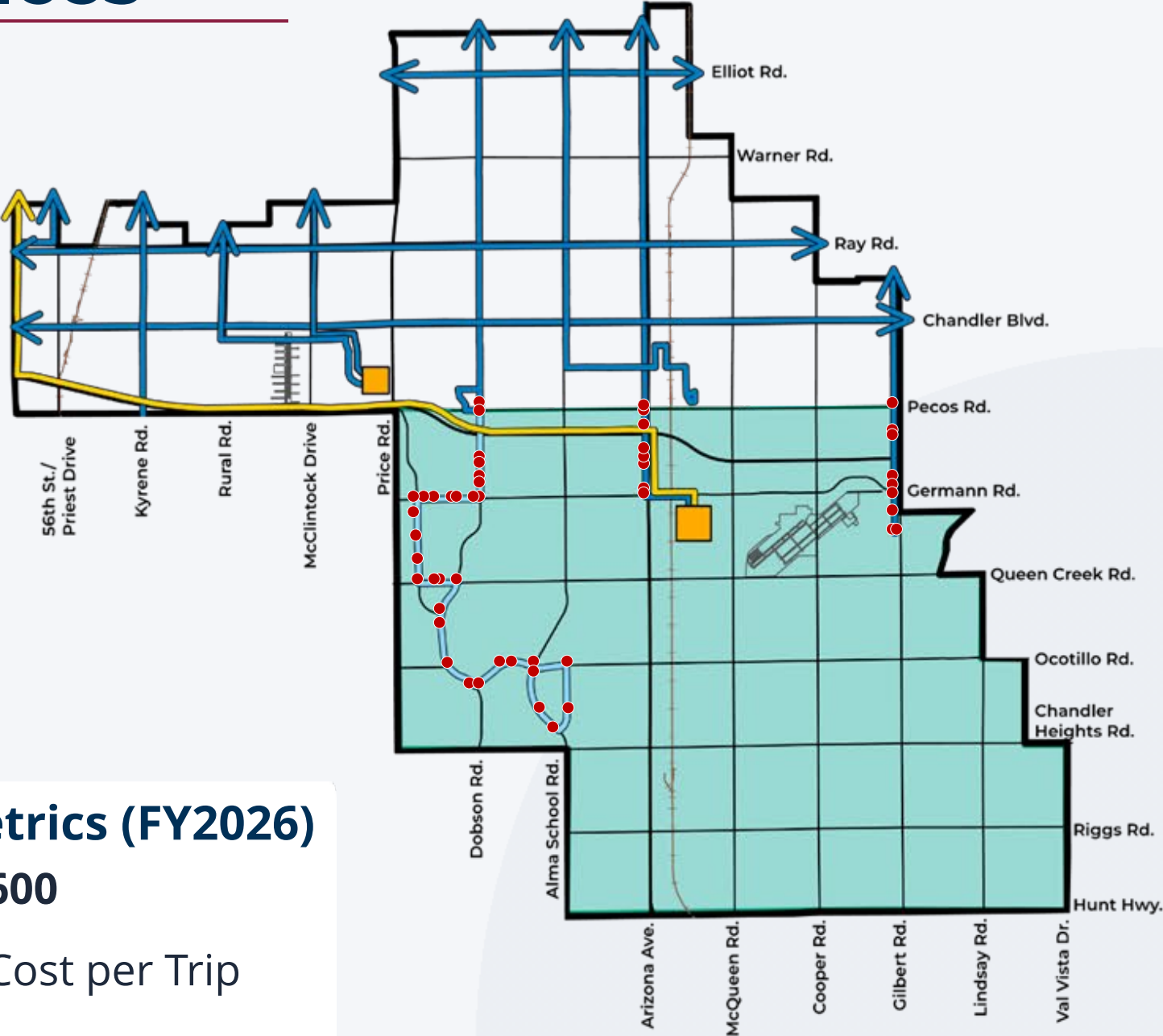
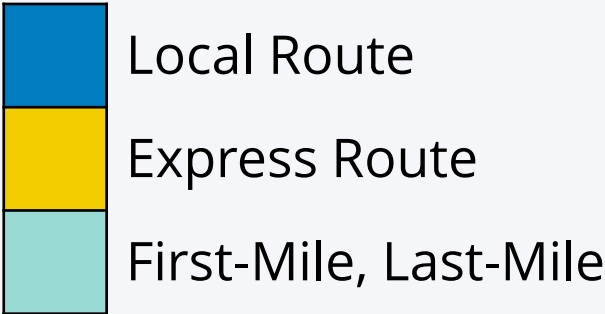
Boardings: **700,000**

\$17 cost per boarding
(\$0 City Cost)

Existing Transit Services

Chandler Transit Services Map

Legend



Key Metrics (FY2026)

Trips: 8,600

\$5 City Cost per Trip



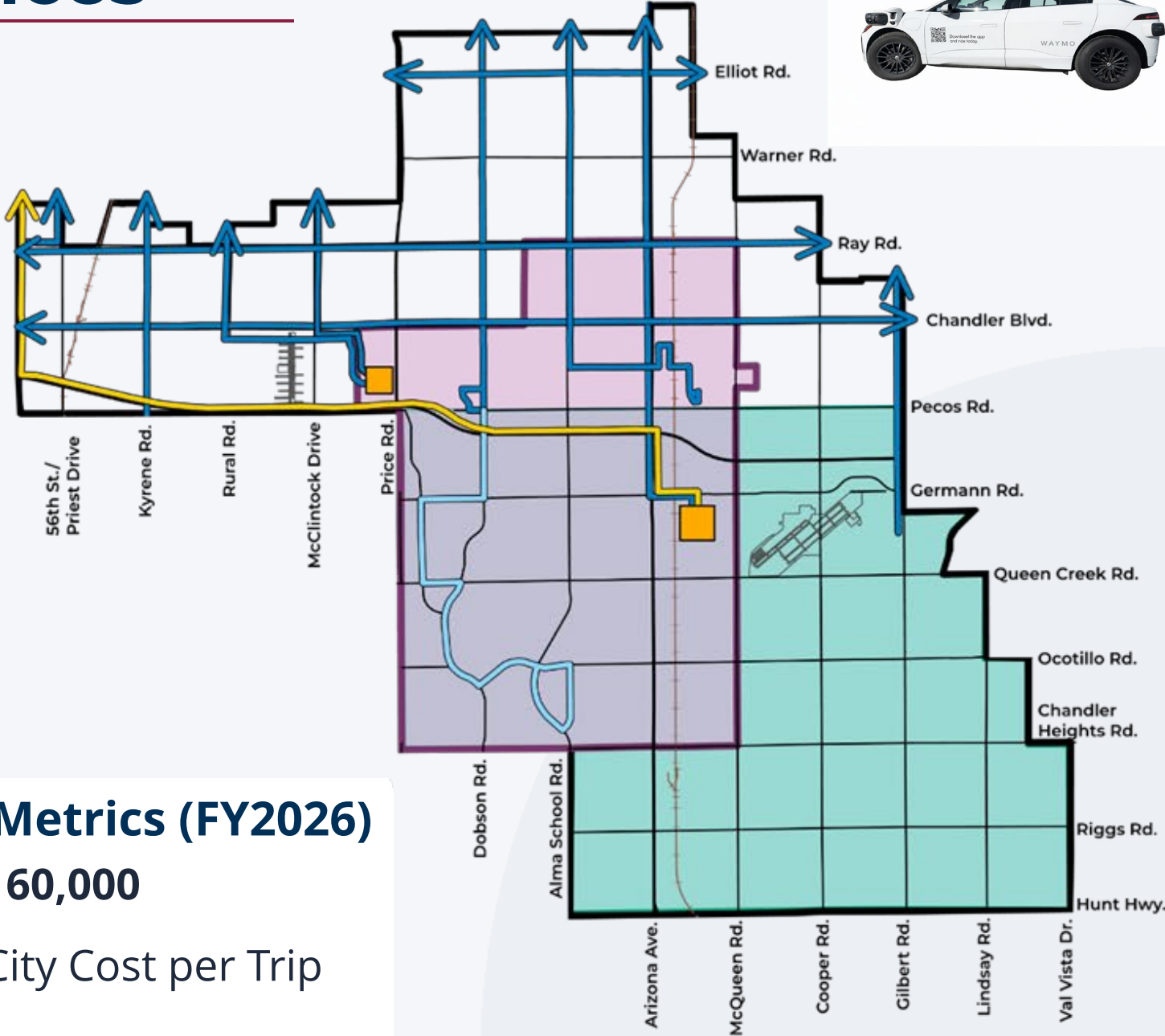
Existing Transit Services



Chandler Transit Services Map

Legend

- Local Route
- Express Route
- First-Mile, Last-Mile
- Chandler Flex



Key Metrics (FY2026)

Trips: 60,000

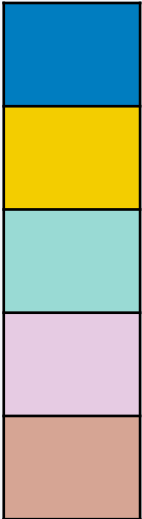
\$22 City Cost per Trip



Existing Transit Services

Chandler Transit Services Map

Legend



Local Route

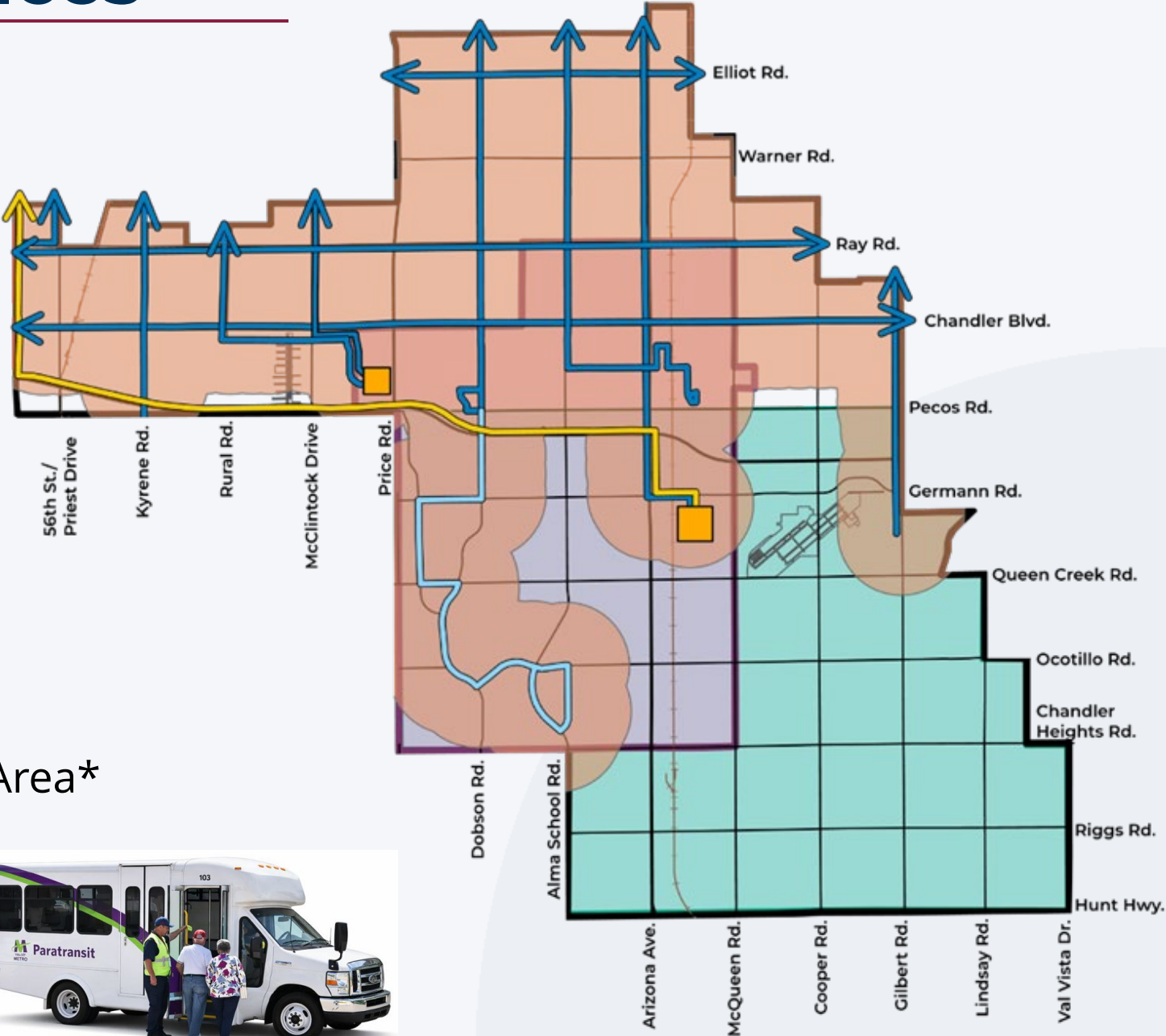
Express Route

First-Mile, Last-Mile

Chandler Flex

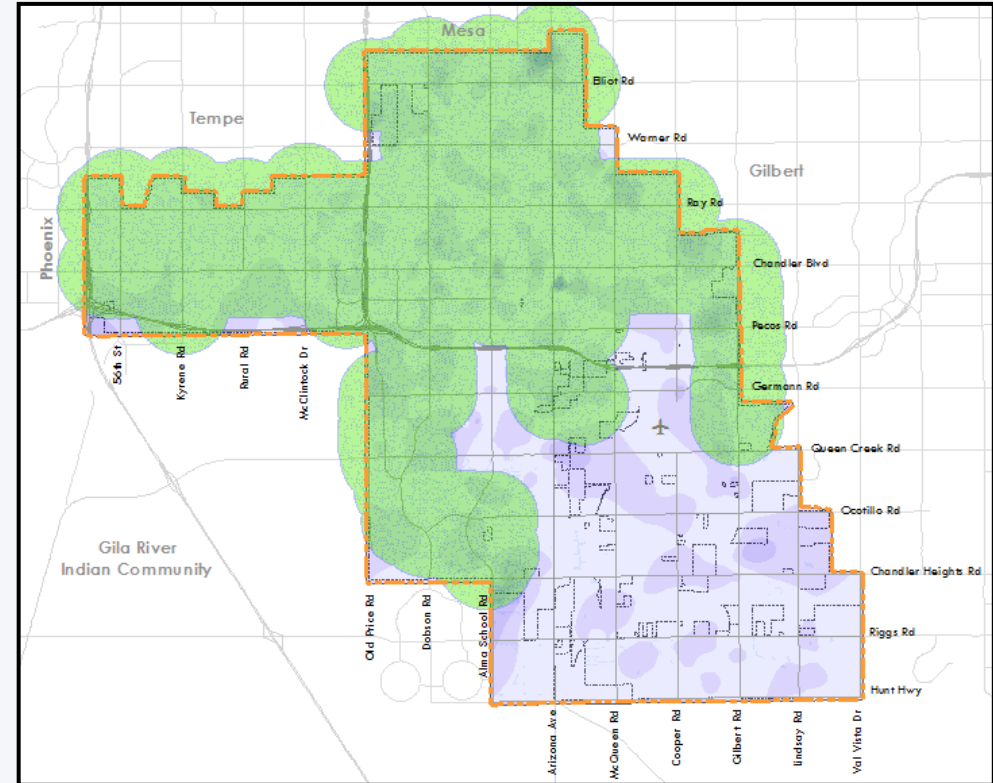
Federally-Mandated Paratransit Area*

**Paratransit and RideChoice Available Citywide*



Paratransit Services

- › Federally-compliant service for people with disabilities.
- › Users must be formally ADA Certified.
- › Door-to-Door Service
- › **Local/Regional Cost:** \$75 / trip
- › **Resident Fare:** \$4 / trip
- › **Volume:** 25,000 Trips / Year



RideChoice

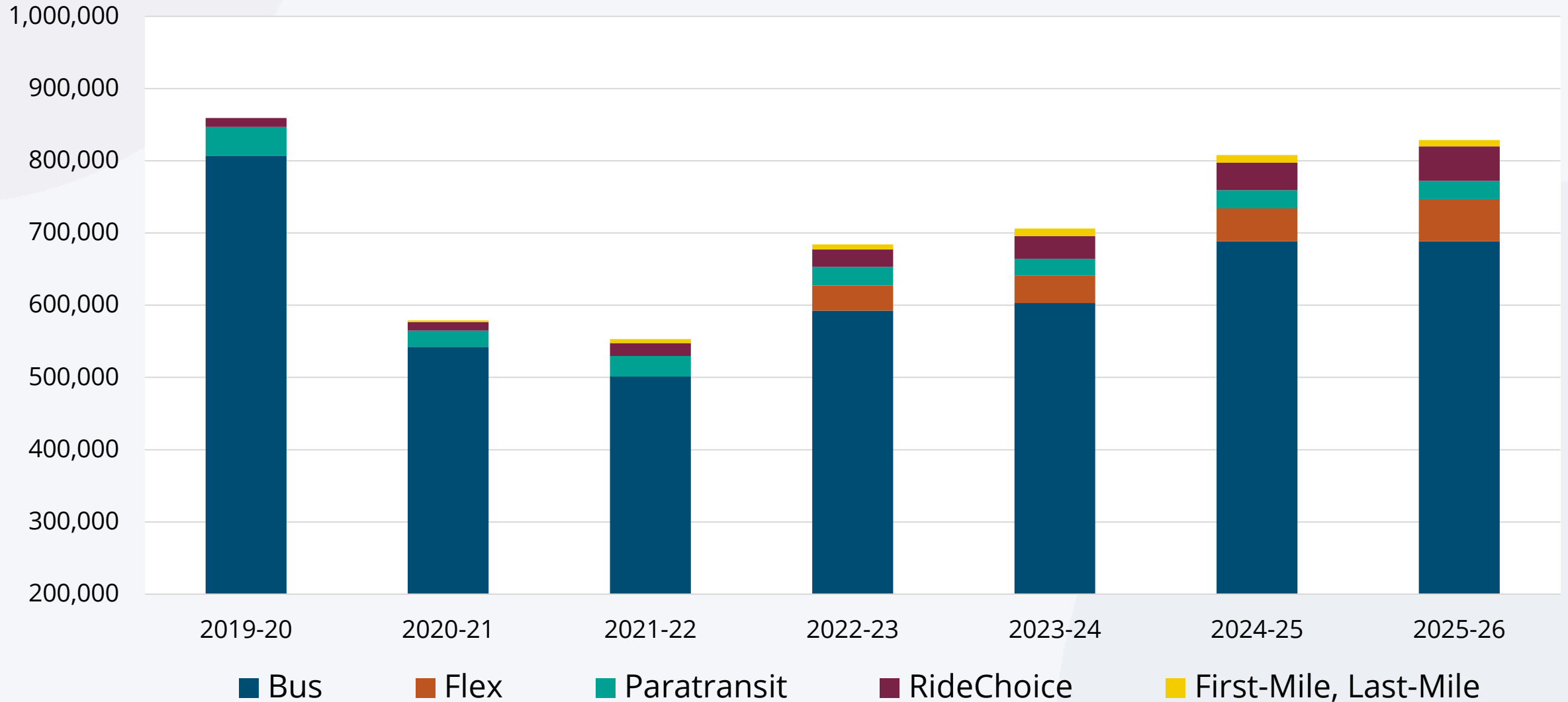
- Alternative Service for People with Disabilities
- Does not meet federal ADA requirements
- Citywide Service, also offered to Seniors (65+)

City Cost: \$33 / Trip | **Resident Fare:** \$3 | **Volume:** 48,000 trips / year



Ridership Trends

Annual Transit Ridership - Boardings/Trips by Mode



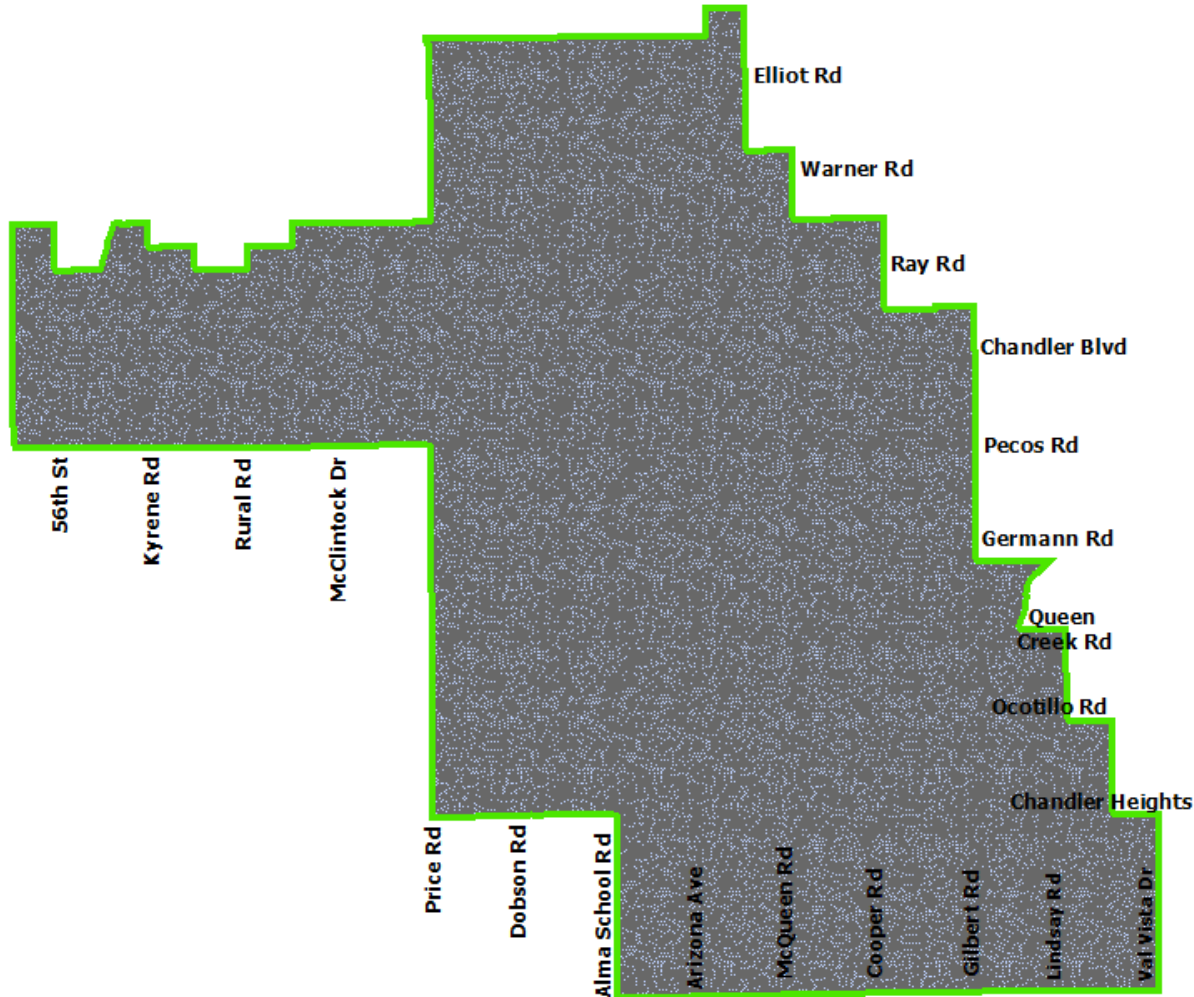
Recommendation # 1 (Paratransit)

Maintain Citywide Paratransit Service

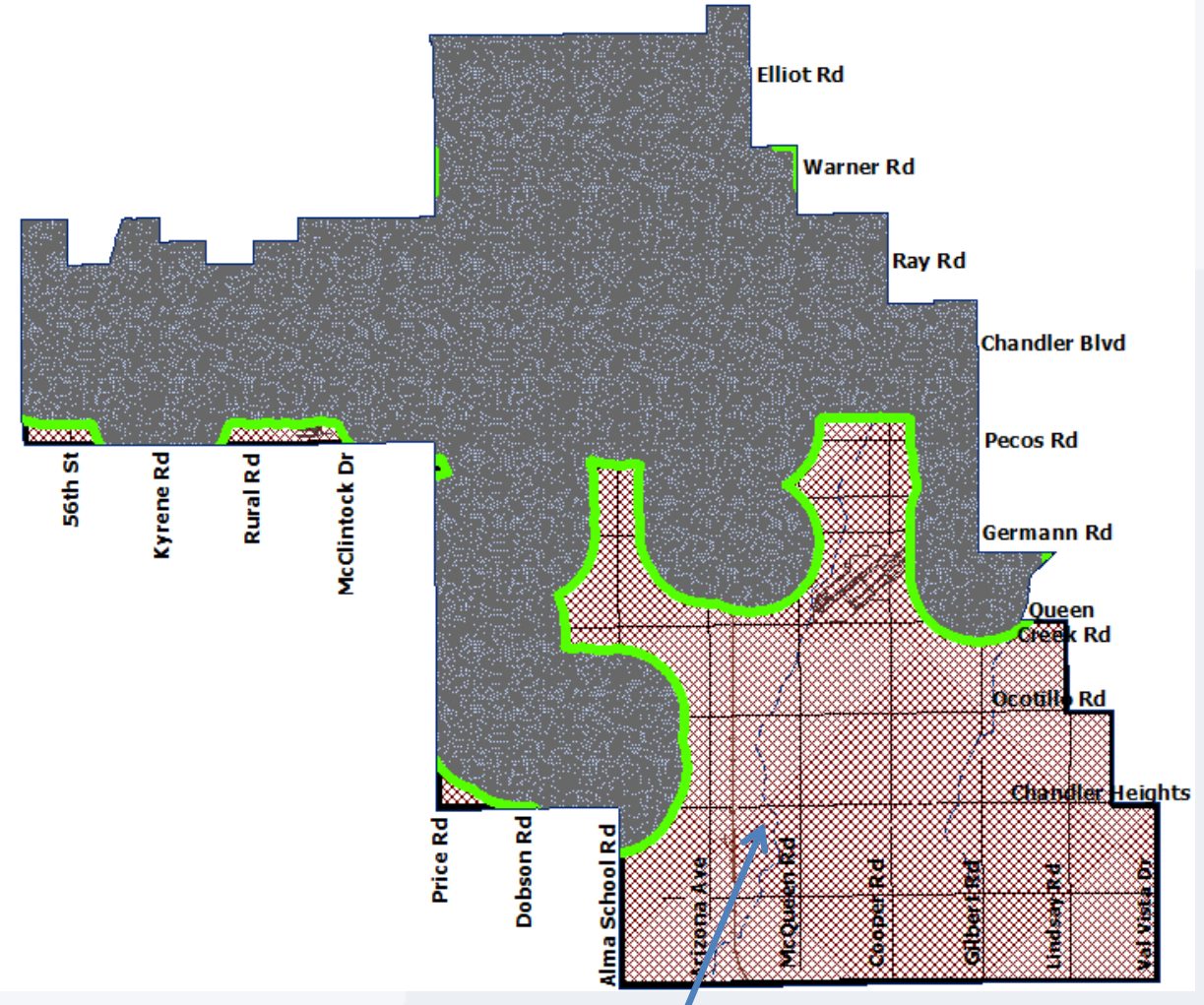


1. Paratransit Service Area

Current Citywide Coverage



Federally Mandated Area



130 residents take about 6,000 trips/ year outside of federally mandated area

1. Paratransit Service Area Implications

- › **Ridership:** 25,000 Annual Trips
(6,000 Trips Outside $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile).
- › **User Base:** 128 Passengers



Cost / Savings

City Cost for Trips Outside Mandated Area: ~\$500K per year.

Potential Cost Savings to reduce area: \$200 - \$250K per Year.

1. Keep Paratransit Service Area – Impact

Pros

- › Residents Maintain Paratransit Benefits
- › Paratransit Provides Door-to-Door Service
- › Residents Still Have the Option to Use RideChoice

Cons

- › City does not realize savings (\$200 - \$250K/ Year)
- › City does not align with most of the region



Recommendation # 2 (RideChoice)

2.a. Require Existing 65+ RideChoice Passengers to Pursue ADA Certification.

2.b. Require New RideChoice Applicants to Meet ADA Certification Requirements.

2a. ADA Certification for Existing RideChoice Participants

- › 200 Residents in 65+ Program (155 Active Users).
- › Participants provided age documentation; eligible participants were approved as 'non-ADA'.
- › City is responsible for all 'non-ADA' trips under Proposition 479.

Recommendation

Require all 65+ Program Participants to go through ADA Certification Process (Provide Information from Doctor, Go to Valley Metro Mobility Center for Assessment).

- › **If Certified:** Trips Paid by Regional Prop 479 Funds.
- › **If Not Certified:** Can Continue Using Program (City Pays).

2b. ADA Certification for New RideChoice Applicants

New 65+ Applicants

Required ADA Assessment for all New Applicants

- > **If Certified:**
Program Access Granted.
Trips Paid by Proposition 479.
- > **If Not Certified:**
Suggest Other Transportation Options:
 - Chandler Flex
 - Bus
 - First-Mile, Last-Mile



2. RideChoice 65+ Certification Requirement Impact

Local Cost to Provide Service = \$340K and Growing

- › **11,000** Annual 65+ Trips @ \$31 / Trip
- › **155** Active 65+ Passengers
- › **29** High Frequency 65+ Users (100+ Trips per year)
- › **Over 100** New 65+ Users per Year

Estimated Annual Cost Savings

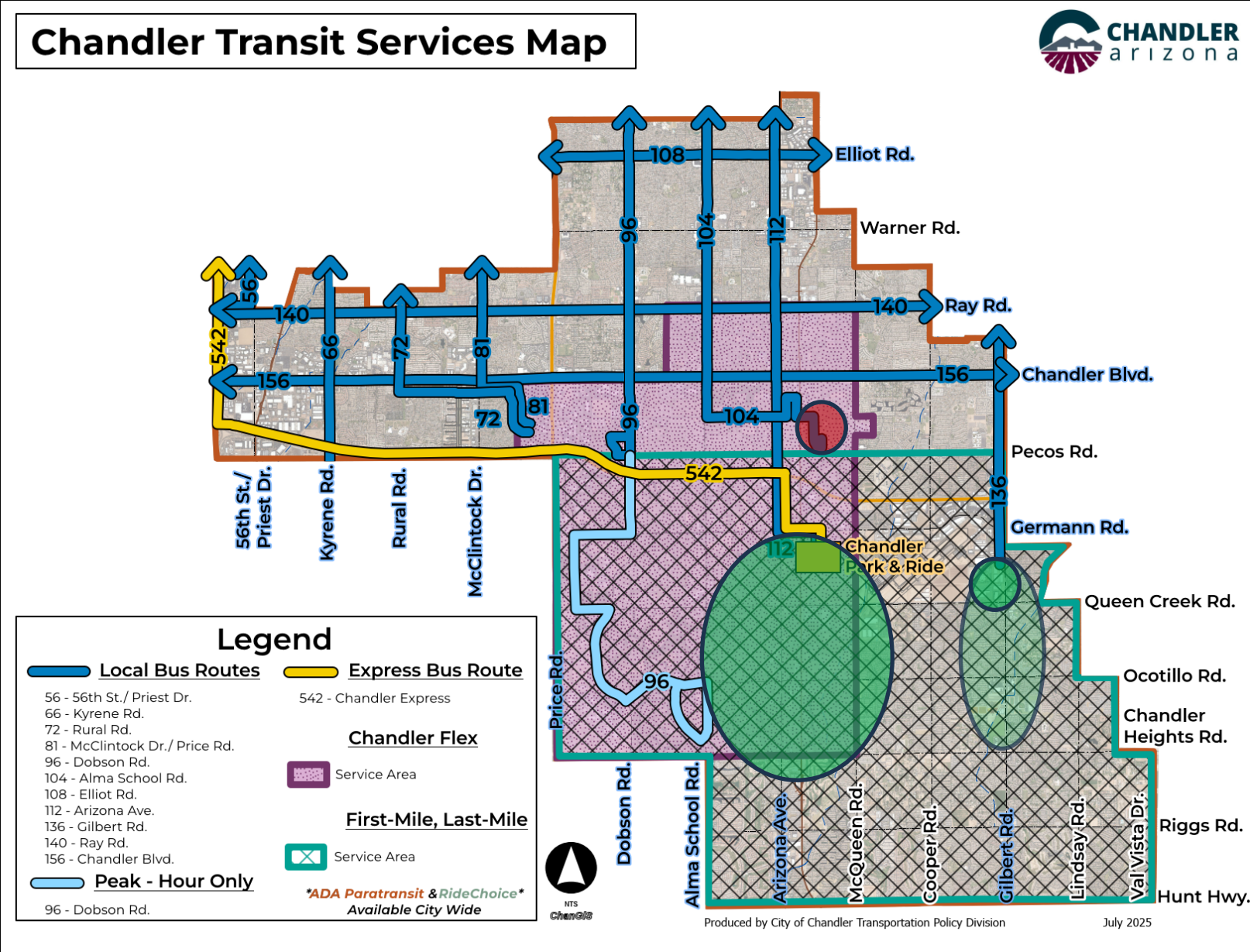
- › \$150,000 - \$200,000 Immediately
- › Prevents future cost increases of ~\$50K / Year

Recommendation # 3 (Bus)

Leverage Regional Funds to Enhance Bus Service



3. Bus Routes 112 and 136: Extend to South



3. Bus Route Enhancements

Estimated Unprogrammed Regional Bus Funds: \$1.9M

Route 112 (Arizona Ave.) Extension	\$800K
Route 136 (Gilbert Rd.) Extension	\$50 - \$500K
Route 136 (Gilbert Rd.) Evening Trips	\$50K
Route 104 (Alma School Rd.) Evening Trips	\$80K
Route 104 (Alma School Rd.) Saturday Service	\$220K
Route 104 (Alma School Rd.) Rerouting	-\$130K

Total Cost of Enhancement Options: **\$1.1 - \$1.5M**



Recommendation # 4 (Chandler Flex)

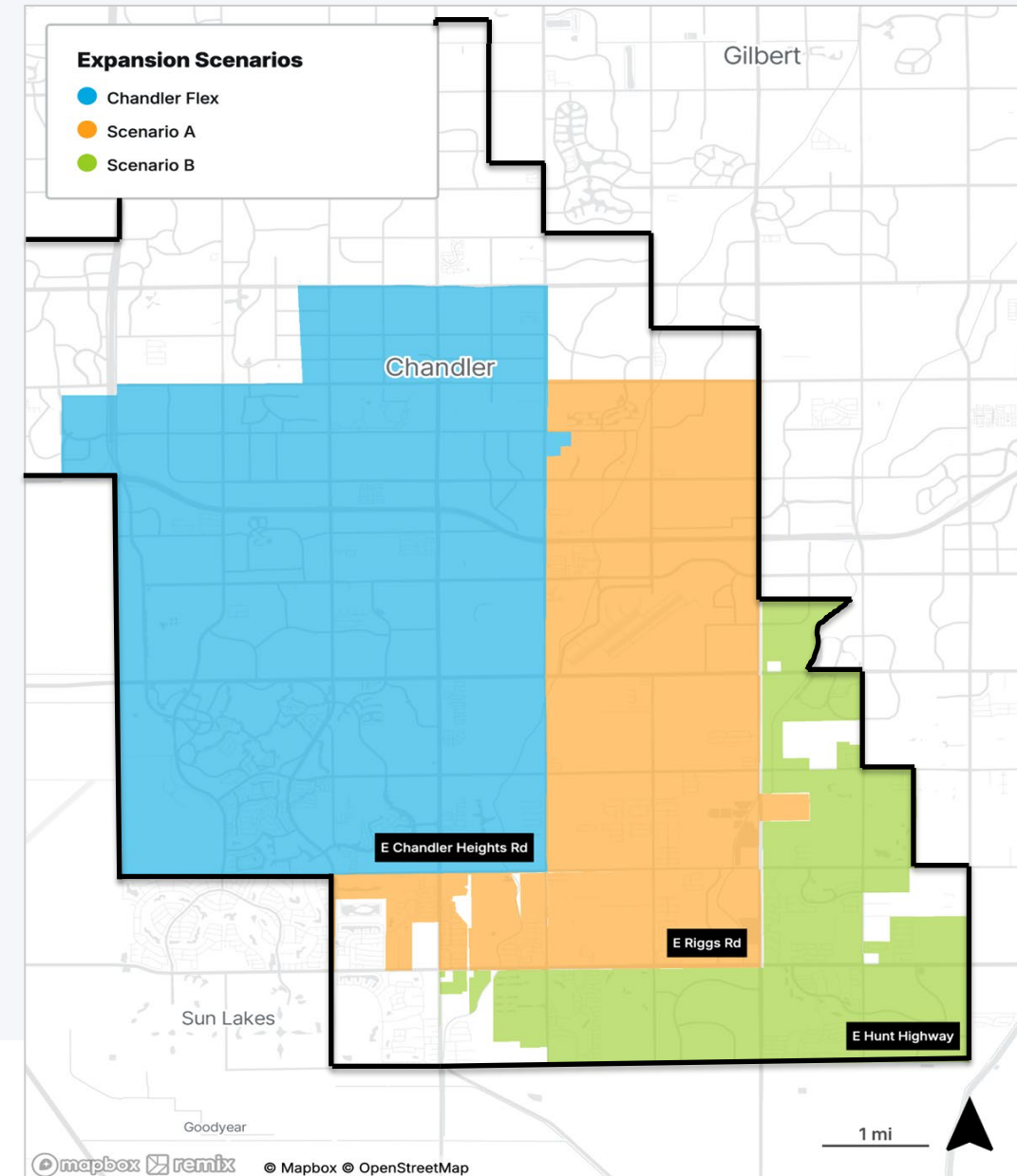
Service Area Expansion Scenarios



4. Chandler Flex Expansion Scenarios

	Current Zone	+Scenario A	+Scenario A & B
Zone Size (mi ²)	23.0	36.6	44.8
Population + Jobs	165,700	220,700	257,700
Weekly Trips	1,060	1,490	1,770
Annual Trips	55,200	77,200	92,200
Weekly Vehicle Hours	300	425	515
Annual Vehicle Hours	15,500	22,000	26,600
Annual Cost	\$1.4M	\$1.9M	\$2.3M

Proposed Mileage-based Fare Modification
\$2.00 up to 6 miles; \$3.00 for trips over 6 miles



FY2028 Transit Budget – With Policy Changes

Program	Without Modifications	With RideChoice Recommendation and Flex Expansion A	With RideChoice Recommendation and Flex Expansion A & B
Bus	\$0	\$0	\$0
Paratransit / RideChoice	\$1,330,000	\$970,000	\$970,000
Chandler Flex	\$1,400,000	\$1,900,000	\$2,300,000
Total	\$2,730,000	\$2,870,000	\$3,270,000

Ongoing Budget Available: **\$3,050,000**
Long-term one-time funding (10 – 15 years): **\$300,000**

Questions and Comments

