



Transit Discussion on VM's RideChoice Program

March 26, 2024





CIOSI Scope of Work

- Per trip comparison of current paratransit and RideChoice option.
- Glendale participating in the RideChoice Program as part of a one-year pilot project.
- Allowing both seniors and persons with disabilities to use the program.
- Only trips taken outside of Glendale will be eligible for the pilot project.
- Estimated funding required and possible funding sources for the pilot project.



Existing Service

1. City Provided Services

- ADA Paratransit Service within Glendale City Limits.
- On-Demand same-day service within Glendale City Limits.

2. Regional Services

- ADA Paratransit Service.
- RideChoice Program.



Regional ADA Paratransit Service

- Operated by Valley Metro.
- Customer pays \$4 per trip regardless of trip length or space type (ambulatory/wheelchair).
- Shared Ride service on a paratransit bus.
- Requires advance reservation.
- FY25 estimated cost to Glendale is \$1.7M with an estimated 24K trips provided.



RideChoice Program

- ADA paratransit certified and seniors aged 65 and above of participating communities.
- Request ride when needed, no requirement to book ahead.
- Customers can choose between the following options:
 - 20 or 50 trips per month. Customers enrolled in this plan pay \$3 per trip up to 8 miles; each additional mile cost \$2.
 - 400 miles per month which are capped at 50 miles per trip. Customers enrolled in mileage plan pay \$3 per trip regardless of length.
- Don't have to share ride – direct trip from origin to destination.
- City can determine eligibility rules
 - 4 Cities (Chandler, Fountain Hills, Surprise, Tempe) allow both ADA eligible residents and Seniors to use program.
 - 7 Jurisdictions (Avondale, Gilbert, Goodyear, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tolleson, County) require resident to be ADA certified – Seniors not eligible.
- FY24 cost is \$36-\$57/trip, (depending on avg trip length/ambulatory/wheelchair).



Average Trip Length/Resident Cost per Trip – ADA vs RideChoice

	<u>Paratransit</u>	<u>RideChoice</u>
FY23 ADA Trip Length	13 miles (average)	13 (assumed)
Resident cost	\$4	\$13
City Cost Per Trip	\$64 to \$74	\$26.46 (ambulatory) \$83.01 (w/c)



RideChoice Cost Breakdown (ambulatory)

Ambulatory						
Trip Length (miles)	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cost to City	\$23.31	\$23.94	\$24.57	\$25.20	\$25.83	\$26.46
Customer Cost	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00



FY24 RideChoice Budget

	Avondale	Chandler	Fntn Hills	Gilbert	Goodyear	County	Mesa	Scottsdale	Surprise	Tempe	Tolleson	FY24 Total
Trip Estimates	5,368	26,000	773	20,000	7,480	33,230	62,000	13,277	23,213	29,966	1,090	222,397
Total Gross Program Cost \$	209,060	939,527	38,345	764,113	427,898	1,713,859	2,394,791	553,859	1,101,820	969,570	32,815	9,145,657
Gross cost per trip \$	\$38.94	\$36.13	\$49.60	\$38.20	\$57.20	\$51.57	\$38.62	\$41.71	\$47.46	\$32.35	\$30.10	
Federal Funding/Fare Revenue/PTF Applied	(84,627)	(473,954)	(19,351)	(122,037)	(23,113)	(248,095)	(1,867,129)	(347,911)	(141,728)	(166,424)	(7,549)	(3,501,918)
Program Cost to Member City/Jurisdiction	124,433	465,573	18,994	642,076	404,785	1,465,764	527,662	205,948	960,092	803,146	25,266	5,643,739



Projected Cost For Regional ADA and RideChoice

Total ADA Paratransit Trips (FY25) is estimated at 22,470 = **\$1.7M**

- 7,362 trips estimated to be 8 miles or less.
- 15,108 estimated to be over 8 miles.

Total ADA trips over 8 miles; 15,108 = \$1.1M.

ADA Trips Shifted to RideChoice; 7,362 = \$238,216.

Total - \$1.3M

Additional Senior trips on RC; 9,030 = \$421,430.

Total - \$1.7M



Glendale Projected Cost for RideChoice (ADA/Seniors) – Intercity Trips Only

Trip estimates

Estimated Net Cost

10,000 (192 per week/142 amb/50 w/c)

\$465,504

12,116 (233 per week/172 amb/61 w/c)

\$565,561

16,000 (308 per week/228 amb/80 w/c)

\$745,430

22,354 (430 per week/318 amb/112 w/c)

\$1,042,125



Summary/Staff Recommendation

Summary

- Cost of a 1-year RideChoice Pilot Program, for Seniors and ADA eligible residents is estimated between \$465K and \$745K.
- Program cost within the region increased by 24% from FY24 to FY25 with ridership projected to increase by over 22% from FY24 to FY25.
- Both Transportation Sales Tax Program and Public Transportation Funding (PTF) are fully constrained.

Staff Recommendation

- Given Department's current fiscal constraints, staff recommends not to launch the RideChoice pilot program at this time.



RideChoice Program

Questions?