Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 24, 2019

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BACKGROUND

Valley Metro and the City of Chandler are conducting an Alternatives Analysis (AA) study to evaluate high-capacity transit options in a corridor that would connect downtown Chandler to high-capacity transit in the Southeast Valley. The Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis (AAAA) builds on the findings of the 2017 Fiesta-Downtown Chandler Transit Corridor Study, and will identify which type of high-capacity transit such as bus rapid transit, light rail or modern streetcar, will best meet the area’s transportation needs. The Arizona Avenue AA will also evaluate potential routes for high-capacity transit within the study area.

Table 1. **Figure 1: Study Area Map**

![Study Area Map](image)

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**Legend**
- Valley Metro Rail Line / Station
- Arizona Avenue Study Area
- Park-and-Ride
- City Boundaries
- UPRR
PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

On October 24, 2019 the city of Chandler and Valley Metro hosted a public meeting to gather public input on two transportation studies; the Chandler Transportation Master Plan 2019 Update (TMP) and the AAAA. The TMP is in the process of being updated to guide the future city’s development and implementation of transportation infrastructure and operations. The AAAA focused on high-capacity transit options to connect transit riders along Arizona Avenue. As both studies were occurring concurrently, the city of Chandler hosted the public meeting in partnership with Valley Metro to present the TMP study recommendations and to get input and comments on the AAAA study. The TMP and AAAA project teams coordinated efforts to advertise and conduct the public meeting.

NOTIFICATION

LOCATION

- Thursday, October 24, 2019, 5-7 p.m.
  Chandler Community Center
  Multipurpose Room 110
  125 E. Commonwealth, Chandler

The meeting venue was selected based on:
- Location within the project area
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility
- Accessibility by public transit
- Free and ample parking availability
- Ability to accommodate anticipated capacity
- Ability to accommodate technical and audio/visual needs

MEETING NOTIFICATION

The AAAA project team worked with the TMP project team to build a notification process that included different techniques.

Social Media

Valley Metro posted public meeting notifications to the agency’s Facebook and Twitter pages. In addition, the city of Chandler’s public information office also posted a series of online notices to their website (79,100 visits/month) and other locations including:
- Facebook (12,482 followers/13,100 likes)
- Twitter (44,500 followers)
- Nextdoor.com (46,192 members)
- Instagram (33,365 followers)
- LinkedIn (3,934 followers)

In addition, the city public information officer said their posts are also frequently re-posted by several large Facebook groups in our community, including Living Chandler (65,874 members) and Ocotillo Friends (28,789 members).
Website

Public meeting information, including the public meeting date, time and location, was posted on Valley Metro’s AAAAA webpage (www.valleymetro.org/az-ave) approximately two weeks before the public meeting date.

Media

Valley Metro placed English print advertisements in the Arizona Republic (October 16, 18 and 19) and Wrangler News (October 19) and Spanish print advertisement in La Voz (October 18). In addition, both Valley Metro and the city of Chandler distributed news releases to local media. Copies of the print advertisements and news releases are in Appendix A.

MATERIALS

MEETING CONTENT

Information provided at the meeting included the TMP recommendations and AAAAA study details, including potential high-capacity transit route alternatives. Twenty-nine people attended the public meeting. Copies of the AAAAA meeting materials used in the meeting are provided in Appendix B.

Website

Following the public meeting, the website was updated to include the materials presented at the public meeting.

Display Boards

Six AAAAA display boards, shown in Appendix B, were available for attendees to view. The boards covered the study purpose and need, potential high-capacity transit route alternatives, evaluation criteria, and high-capacity transit types to be analyzed. The boards were staffed by the project manager and other Valley Metro staff.

Accommodation

Consistent with Valley Metro standards and because a high percentage of project area community members are monolingual Spanish speakers, bilingual staff members were available to assist anyone requiring this accommodation.

Feedback Form

A one-page feedback form was designed in English and Spanish. The form requested feedback regarding four alternative route corridors: Arizona Avenue, Chandler Boulevard, Price Road or Other/None. A copy of the forms are available in Appendix B.

PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Valley Metro provided the public with various opportunities to submit written comments, including:

- Feedback form provided at the public meeting.
- Online feedback form on the project website at www.valleymetro.org/az-ave.
- Direct email and contact information for the community outreach staff.

In total, two public comments were received through these outreach methods, both which were emailed to the study team following the meeting.
Comment Summary

The feedback form was primarily designed to allow stakeholders to provide open-ended feedback. Stakeholders were asked to provide their contact information as well to be included in Valley Metro’s stakeholder database.

Comments included:

- Arizona Avenue is a great road to build a north/south transit system since it currently handles high-traffic volumes.
- Chandler Boulevard and Price Road corridors are unnecessary high-capacity transit corridors. Chandler Boulevard corridor is near Loop 202 and the Price Road corridor is too far west to accommodate many passengers from south Chandler, Gilbert and Queen Creek.
- Will the Arizona Avenue light rail route eventually connect to the already existing Apache Boulevard route? It appears the route would stop short of the connection. It would be fantastic to have the connection by a light rail train or shuttle to get people into Phoenix.
- I think the best way to make mass transit (light rail in particular) a viable option is by connecting routes to already existing ones. The Chandler Boulevard and Price Road corridors are too disjointed and would be difficult to make these connections.
- I am happy to see Valley Metro’s light rail system expanding. I use the current system several times a week and hope to see more tracks by my house in the near future.
- Considering light rail, street cars, and bus-rapid transit; we would prefer none of these in Chandler—especially in the Price Road corridor. The Price Road Corridor is a business area, not a shopping area or a place for large public events/gatherings. The traffic is heavy during morning and evening rush hours, but traffic congestion is not an issue for drivers at other times.
- We do not want the streets/roads in our beautiful city to be cut up. The money would be better spent by increasing the number of buses and bus stops with more frequent stops along Price Road.
- We do not want a dedicated bus lane or any of the other proposed mixtures on the Arizona Avenue, Chandler Boulevard or Price Road corridors.
APPENDIX A

Notifications
The City of Chandler and Valley Metro are hosting a public meeting to share information about two transportation studies: the Chandler Transportation Master Plan (TMP) 2019 Update and the Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis (AAAA) study.

Chandler is updating the city’s transportation master plan and will be presenting study recommendations to the public.

The AAAA study is evaluating high-capacity transit options to connect key destinations with local and regional transit services. The study team will be seeking input and comments from the community.

Stop by anytime during the hours listed. Staff will be available to answer questions.

Thursday, October 24 | 5 – 7 p.m.
Chandler Community Center, Multipurpose Room #110
125 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler

UNABLE TO ATTEND?
Meeting materials will be available starting October 24, 2019 as follows:

For the Chandler TMP 2019 Update, visit: KeepChandlerMoving.com

For the Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis study, visit: valleymetro.org/az-ave.

For more information or to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, contact:

Chandler Transportation Master Plan 2019 Update
Jason Crampton
480.782.3402 | jason.crampton@chandleraz.gov

Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis
Michael Book
602.256.5811 | mbook@valleymetro.org
The City of Chandler and Valley Metro are hosting a public meeting to share information about two transportation studies: the Chandler Transportation Master Plan (TMP) 2019 Update and the Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis (AAAA) study.

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480.782.3402 | jason.crampton@chandleraz.gov

Arizona Avenue Alternatives Analysis
Michael Book
602.256.5811 | mbook@valleymetro.org
La Ciudad de Chandler y Valley Metro llevarán a cabo una reunión pública a fin de compartir información sobre dos estudios de transporte: la Actualización del Plan Maestro de Transporte de Chandler (TMP por sus siglas en inglés) de 2019 y el estudio de Análisis de Alternativas de Arizona Avenue (AAAA).

Chandler está actualizando el plan maestro de la Ciudad y presentará al público las recomendaciones del estudio.

El estudio de AAAA esta evaluado opciones de transporte de alta capacidad para conectar destinos claves con los servicios locales y regionales de transporte. El equipo del estudio estará buscando las opiniones y los comentarios de la comunidad.

Llegue en cualquier momento durante el horario listado. El personal estará disponible para contestar preguntas.

**Aviso de Reunión Pública**

Jueves 24 de octubre | 5 – 7 p.m.
Centro Chandler Community Center, Salón Multipurpose #110
125 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler

¿NO PUEDE ASISTIR?
Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles a partir del **24 de octubre de 2019 como sigue:**

Para la Actualización del Plan TMP de Chandler de 2019, visite: [KeepChandlerMoving.com](http://KeepChandlerMoving.com)

Para el estudio de Análisis de Alternativas de Arizona Avenue, visite: [valleymetro.org/az-ave.](http://valleymetro.org/az-ave.)

Para más información o para solicitar adaptaciones razonables para personas con discapacidades, comuníquese con:

**Actualización del Plan Maestro de Transporte de Chandler de 2019**
Jason Crampton
480.782.3402 | jason.crampton@chandleraz.gov

**Análisis de Alternativas de Arizona Avenue**
Michael Book
602.256.5811 | mbook@valleymetro.org
APPENDIX B

Materials
WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS?
¿QUÉ ES UN ANÁLISIS DE ALTERNATIVAS?

- A study to evaluate transit types and routes to meet future transportation needs
  Un estudio para evaluar los tipos y las rutas del transporte masivo a fin de satisfacer las necesidades futuras de transporte

- Public outreach is conducted throughout the study
  La participación pública se lleva a cabo durante el estudio

- The study identifies a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) which can include:
  El estudio identifica una Alternativa Localmente Preferida (LPA por sus siglas en inglés) que puede incluir:
  - Route
    Ruta
  - Transit type
    Tipo de transporte
  - Station or stop locations
    Ubicaciones de las estaciones o paradas
  - Street configuration
    Configuración de la calle

- The process concludes with seeking local and regional approvals of the LPA
  El proceso concluye con la búsqueda de aprobaciones locales y regionales para la alternativa LPA
PURPOSE

PROPÓSITO

- Connect local and regional activity centers in and around the study area, such as downtown Chandler and Sky Harbor International Airport
  
  Conectar a los centros de actividades locales y regionales en y alrededor del área de estudio, tal como el centro de la Ciudad de Chandler y el Aeropuerto Internacional Sky Harbor

- Support local transportation, economic development and land use planning goals and priorities
  
  Apoyar las metas y las prioridades de transporte local, desarrollo económico y planificación del uso de terrenos

- Build toward greater regional connectivity by interfacing with existing and future High-Capacity Transit (HCT) projects in Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix
  
  Desarrollar mayor conectividad regional mediante la interconexión con proyectos existentes y futuros de Transporte de Alta Capacidad (HCT por sus siglas en inglés) en Mesa, Tempe y Phoenix

NEED

NECESIDAD

- Enhance connectivity in areas with high-use bus routes and projected population growth
  
  Mejorar la conectividad en áreas con rutas de autobuses de alto uso y crecimiento demográfico proyectado

- Serve public facilities, residential areas and employment/retail centers
  
  Proveer servicio a instalaciones públicas, áreas residenciales y centros de empleo/comercio al menudeo

- Enhance the mobility of transit-dependent populations
  
  Mejorar la movilidad de las poblaciones dependientes del transporte masivo

- Assist with travel demand in the study area and between regional destinations
  
  Ayudar con la demanda de viajes en el área de estudio y entre destinos regionales
POTENTIAL HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT ROUTE ALTERNATIVES
POSIBLES ALTERNATIVAS PARA LA RUTA DE TRANSPORTE DE ALTA CAPACIDAD
EVALUATION CRITERIA

All potential High-Capacity Transit (HTC) route alternatives will be considered using the following criteria in the evaluation.

Se considerará toda posible alternativa para la ruta de Transporte de Alta Capacidad (HTC por sus siglas en inglés) usando los siguientes criterios en la evaluación.

- **Ridership Potential**
  *Potencial de Pasajeros*
  Jobs, population, activity centers and transit connections
  *Empleos, población, centros de actividades y conexiones de transporte masivo*

- **Physical and Engineering Constraints**
  *Restricciones Físicas y de Ingeniería*
  Available right-of-way and constructability
  *Derecho de paso disponible y capacidad de construcción*

- **Economic Development Potential**
  *Potencial de Desarrollo Económico*
  Future plans and land use
  *Planes futuros y uso de terrenos*

- **Transportation Network**
  *Red de Transporte*
  Current and future road conditions
  *Condiciones actuales y futuras de los caminos*

- **Potential Costs**
  *Costos Potenciales*
  High-level construction and operation cost comparisons
  *Comparaciones de los costos de construcción y operación de alto nivel*
# HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT TYPES TO BE ANALYZED**

## TIPOS DE TRANSPORTE DE ALTA CAPACIDAD A SER ANALIZADOS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Light Rail</th>
<th>Streetcar</th>
<th>Bus Rapid Transit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High-Capacity Transit Types to Be Analyzed</strong></td>
<td>Tranvía Ligero</td>
<td>Tranvía Moderno</td>
<td>Transporte Rápido de Autobús</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speed</strong></td>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Higher to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Velocidad</strong></td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Moderada</td>
<td>Mayor a Moderada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traffic Lanes</strong></td>
<td>Dedicated</td>
<td>Dedicated or Shared</td>
<td>Dedicated or Shared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carriles de tránsito</strong></td>
<td>Exclusivas</td>
<td>Exclusivas o compartidas</td>
<td>Exclusivas o compartidas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost to Build</strong></td>
<td>$$$</td>
<td>$$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costo para construirlo</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity</strong></td>
<td>175 per car</td>
<td>135 per car</td>
<td>80 per bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacidad</strong></td>
<td>175 por unidad</td>
<td>135 por unidad</td>
<td>80 por autobús</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Cost to Operate</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$$$</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costo Promedio para operar</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Valley Metro; 2018*

*Average operating cost per rider

**In addition to the HCT alternatives listed in the table, Interim Local Bus Enhancements that support a future HCT investment will also be analyzed.

Fuente: Valley Metro; 2018

*Costo promedio de operación por pasajero

**Además de las alternativas del estudio HCT listadas en la tabla, también se analizarán Mejoramientos Interinos al Servicio Local de Autobús que apoyen una inversión futura en un estudio HCT.
Next Steps

- Finish identifying High-Capacity Transit (HCT) route alternatives
  Terminar de identificar alternativas para la ruta de Transporte de Alta Capacidad (HTC por sus siglas en inglés)

- Begin more detailed evaluation of the various HCT route alternatives
  Comenzar una evaluación más detallada de las diversas alternativas para la ruta de transporte HCT

- Begin the evaluation of the HCT types and potential local bus enhancements
  Comenzar la evaluación de los tipos de transporte HCT y mejoramientos potenciales para el autobús local

- Continue coordination with the Chandler Transportation Master Plan 2019 Update
  Continuar la coordinación con la Actualización del Plan Maestro de Transporte de Chandler de 2019

- Recommend corridor for future regional funding and assessment
  Recomendar al corredor para su financiación futura y evaluación regional
Which alternative route(s) do you prefer?

☐ Arizona Ave  ☐ Chandler Blvd
☐ Price Rd  ☐ Other/None

Why?
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Which alternative route(s) is/are your least favorite?

☐ Arizona Ave  ☐ Chandler Blvd
☐ Price Rd  ☐ Other/None

Why?
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

See reverse.

CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Name:___________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
City:_________________________ State:_________________________ Zip:_________________________
Phone:________________________ Email:___________________________
¿Qué ruta/s alternativa/s prefiere usted?

- Arizona Ave  
- Chandler Blvd  
- Price Rd  
- Otra/Ninguna

¿Por qué?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

¿Qué ruta/s alternativa/s es/son su/s menos favorita/s?

- Arizona Ave  
- Chandler Blvd  
- Price Rd  
- Otra/Ninguna

¿Por qué?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO (OPCIONAL)

Nombre: ________________________________________________________________
Domicilio: ________________________________________________________________
Ciudad: __________________________ Estado: __________________________ Código Postal: __________________________
Teléfono: __________ Domicilio Electrónico: ________________
Por favor complete esta forma de comentarios con su opinión sobre este estudio. Usted puede devolver su forma llena en la reunión pública, escanearla y devolverla por correo electrónico, o enviarla por correo postal al contacto del estudio que se indica a continuación. Todos los comentarios se deben recibir antes del 7 de noviembre de 2019.

Para enviar la forma de comentarios por correo electrónico o por correo postal, por favor enviela al coordinador de participación comunitaria de Valley Metro:

Valley Metro  
C/O Michael Book  
101 N. 1st Avenue, Ste. 1400  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
mbook@valleymetro.org
Please complete this feedback form for your input on this study. You can return the form at the public meeting, scan it and return it by email, or mail your completed form to the study contact listed below. All comments must be received by **November 7, 2019**.

To email or mail feedback form, please send to the Valley Metro community outreach coordinator:

**Valley Metro**  
C/O Michael Book  
101 N. 1st Avenue, Ste. 1400  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
mbook@valleymetro.org
APPENDIX C

Public Input
Mr. Book,

Here is our feedback on the Valley Metro transit study you are doing for Chandler.

Considering light rail, street cars, and bus-rapid transit; we would prefer none of these in Chandler - especially in the Price Road Corridor. The Price Road Corridor is a business area, not a shopping area per se or a place for large public events/gatherings. The traffic is heavy during morning and evening rush hours, but traffic congestion is not an issue for driver's at other times.

We have lived in Chandler for 26 years, with 20 of these years in the Price Road study area. We do not want the streets/roads in our beautiful city to be cut up. The money would be better spent by increasing the number of buses and bus stops and stopping more frequently along Price Road. We do not want a dedicated bus lane or any of the other proposed mixtures. We feel likewise on the Arizona Avenue and Chandler Boulevard areas.

Sincerely,

Al and Vicky Varga
POTENTIAL HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

Which alternative route(s) do you prefer?

☑ Arizona Ave  ☐ Chandler Blvd
☑ Price Rd  ☐ Other/None

Why?
The East Valley desperately needs a high-capacity mass transit system running north/south between the north 101 and the I-10 for east 202. AZ Ave is a great road to build this system since it already accommodates traffic. High levels of

Which alternative route(s) is/are your least favorite?

☐ Arizona Ave  ☐ Chandler Blvd
☒ Price Rd  ☐ Other/None

Why?
Both of these routes are basically just in unnecessary places. The east/west Chandler Blvd group runs right next to the 202 and the Price Rd. route is too far west to accommodate many passengers from South Chandler – Gilbert – and maybe even Queen Creek, whereas the AZ Ave. route is better suited for this.

CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Name: NATALIE NOLL
Address: [Redacted]
City: Chandler  State: AZ  Zip: 85286
Phone: [Redacted]  Email: [Redacted]
OTHER COMMENTS

Will the Arizona Ave light rail route eventually connect to the already existing Apache Blvd. Route 2? I notice in the picture the image 2009 indicates the route stopping briefly before the other track. Which I realize is due to city boundaries. This would be FANTASTIC at getting people up and over into Phoenix, were there a shuttle OR tram continuing all the way to Apache / Main St.

I think the best way to make mass transit (light rail in particular) a viable option for people living in the East Valley is to connect routes to already existing ones and continue spreading the network that way. The Chandler Blvd. and Price Rd. routes are too disjointed at the time being to be worth building, especially considering the fact that the light rail service should encourage daily use for commuters, and would make the most impact going to Phoenix.

Regardless of which gets built, I am happy to see Valley Metro expanding. I use the current system several times a week, and hope to see more tracks by my house in the near future.