FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
How Do For-Profit Transportation Services fit within TRP?

Valley Metro is often asked if for-profit transportation services such as Lyft and Uber are considered carpooling. The answer is usually no.

A carpool is an alternative mode of transportation that eliminates or avoids miles driven in a single-occupant vehicle (SOV). In general, at least two driving-age individuals traveling in the same general direction for at least half the total trip distance is a carpool.

Uber and Lyft are Ride-sourcing, not Ridesharing
Using the term “ridesharing” when describing services such as Lyft and Uber is incorrect. Ridesharing is passengers sharing a ride, resulting in reduced congestion and air pollution. Examples of ridesharing include carpooling, taking the bus or light rail, or vanpooling. There is no profit to drivers from ridesharing.

Most trips booked through ride-sourcing companies are taken by individual passengers, similar to a taxi. The most accurate term for Lyft and Uber services is “ride-sourcing” because drivers and passengers have different destinations and the driver’s primary motivation for traveling is income from fares, similar to taxi services.

Are Uber and Lyft Considered Carpools?
No, unless two or more passengers are traveling in the same direction at least half of the total trip distance. Carpools eliminate or avoid miles driven alone.

Uber and Lyft are sometimes called transportation network companies (TNCs). TNCs connect passengers with drivers using websites and mobile apps.

For assistance with the Maricopa County Travel Reduction Program, contact your Valley Metro Commute Solutions coordinator at 602.262.RIDE (7433).