

FTA TRANSIT BUS AUTOMATION STRATEGIC PARTNER



# VALLEY METRO WAYMO PILOT

VALLEY METRO

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND WAYMO



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Transit Administration**

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Automation Level(s): 4

This project assessed the usage of an automated vehicle for Valley Metro’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service, RideChoice. Initial testing was conducted with Valley Metro employees in August 2018. The program expanded to include service to Valley Metro RideChoice program customers in September 2019. The project was designed to test the potential of automated vehicles to supplement public transportation service.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Assess attitudes, awareness, and adoption rates of RideChoice users concerning automated vehicles
- Help redefine how public transit serves communities
- Fill mobility gaps
- Understand how automation can connect people to public transit

## VEHICLE INFORMATION

The project used Waymo’s vehicles, which are modified versions of Chrysler Pacifica hybrid minivans equipped with SAE level 4 technology. The vehicles operated in Waymo’s existing service are in the Phoenix metro area.

## DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, & SHARING

The primary data collection for this project was surveys, including a pre-, during, and post-demonstration survey. The survey design was led by Arizona State University in collaboration with Waymo and Valley Metro. The purpose of the surveys was to understand usage of RideChoice, perceptions and attitudes towards automation in the context of ride-hailing and mobility-on-demand services, and thoughts on improving the service for the future. Additionally, the project will conduct focus groups of policymakers, Valley Metro staff, transportation professionals, and riders to gain further insight into public perceptions of automation. The survey results and focus group findings will be published in a report.

## PROJECT STATUS & SCHEDULE

The project was announced in July 2018 and concluded in late 2020. A white paper is expected to be published in 2021.

## BUDGET

FTA Strategic Partnership Funding	Non-Federal Cost Share	Total Amount
\$250,000	\$80,000	\$330,000