

AGENDA ITEM #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: June 22, 2020

CAR #: 2020-6977



## CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Approve Amendment Nine to the IGA between the city of Goodyear and the Regional Public Transit Authority for the continued provision of transit services.

**STAFF PRESENTER(S):** Christine McMurdy, Project Management Coordinator

**OTHER PRESENTER(S):** N/A

**Summary:** The ninth amendment to the IGA will renew Valley Metro's obligation to provide four inbound and four outbound express bus trips at the Goodyear Park and Ride, fixed route bus service on Route 3 and Route 17, Zoom Circulator service along Litchfield and McDowell Roads and Paratransit/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) services via Dial A Ride and the pilot RideChoice program. CARES Act federal funding will be used to pay for the city's share of FY21 Zoom service, Dial A Ride and RideChoice service, requiring no local expenditures.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the City Manager to approve Transit Services Amendment Nine between the City of Goodyear and the Regional Public Transit Authority for the continued provision of transit services in Goodyear.

**Fiscal Impact:** On April 2, 2020, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a total of \$25 billion in federal funding allocations to help the nation's public transportation systems respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). A portion of these funds has been allocated by FTA to Arizona, including the Avondale/Goodyear Urbanized Area (AVNGDY UZA). The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) coordinated with the member agencies in the UZA and with Valley Metro to sub-allocate the funding so that all of the cities that contract transit will not be charged for service in FY21. The CARES Act funding will be used to compensate the contract service providers directly.

Through the use of CARES Act funds, the city will save \$322,714 in Arizona Lottery Funds and \$179,121 Digital Marquee transit funds in FY2021.

### Background and Previous Actions

Schedule A of the Amendment refers to regionally funded Fixed Route Bus Service, which includes the Route 562 Express bus operating out of the Goodyear Park and Ride Monday through

Friday and the Route 17 (McDowell Road) and Route 3 (Van Buren), which operate Monday through Sunday. The half-cent sales tax (Proposition 400) funds this service.

Schedule B refers to the Avondale ZOOM neighborhood circulator which connects residents of Goodyear, Avondale and Tolleson to local destinations for \$0.50 per ride. In Goodyear the route operates from Dysart & McDowell Road west to Litchfield Road, north to Indian School Road and east to north 138<sup>th</sup> Drive. The Circulator operates Monday-Friday from 5am-9pm and Saturday and Sunday from 6am-6pm. The cost of service for FY2021 is \$388,389 before fare revenue and federal Urbanized Area support is deducted. The entire cost for FY2021 will be paid for with federal CARES Act funds.

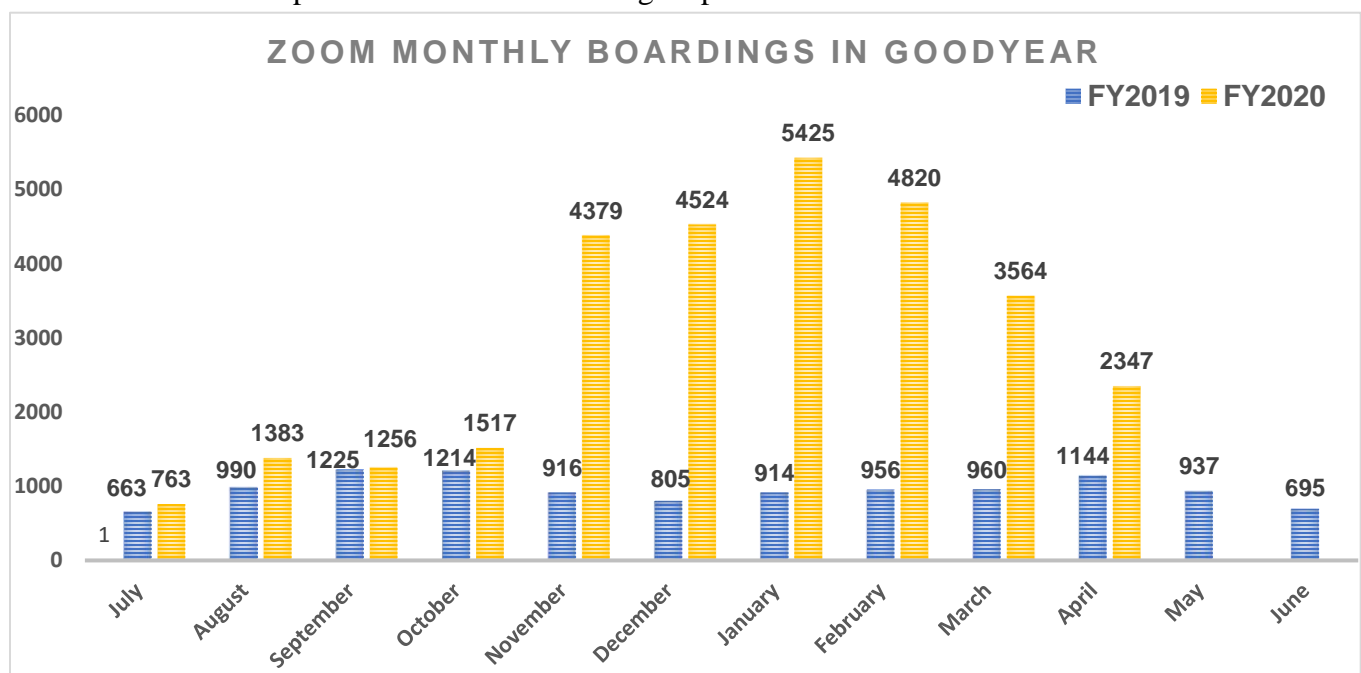
Schedule C refers to federally mandated ADA paratransit (Dial A Ride) service, which is required to be provided within ¾ miles of Route 17, Route 3 and the ZOOM circulator route in Goodyear. Schedule C of the Amendment shows that after the city's allocation of Proposition 400 Paratransit funds, which are identified in Schedule E, the city's cost for paratransit service in FY21 is \$142,504 before fare revenue is deducted. The entire cost for FY2021 will be paid for with federal CARES Act funds.

Schedule D refers to the city's pilot of the RideChoice program. In September 2019, the City Council approved a two-year RideChoice pilot program that started on October 1<sup>st</sup>, offering ADA certified residents of Goodyear a trip to work, school or medical appointments for \$3 for up to 8 miles or a mileage-based option that allows customers up to 400 miles per month for trips of up to 50 miles in length for \$3 per trip. The cost of service for FY2021 is \$410,086 before fare revenue is deducted. The entire cost for FY2021 will be paid for with federal CARES Act funds.

## Staff Analysis

### ZOOM Ridership

In October 2019, the city of Avondale adjusted the ZOOM route to include the intersection of Litchfield Road and Indian School Road. According to the contractor, since this change, people are steadily being picked up and dropped off all day long. This accounts for the 23% average increase in ridership from October 2019 through April 2020.



## **Dial A Ride & RideChoice**

On June 3, 2019, staff presented the RideChoice program at a City Council Work Session regarding Goodyear's current Paratransit (Dial A Ride) service. In addition to being a less expensive alternative to Dial A Ride, RideChoice does not adhere to a federally mandated service area - **Exhibit A**.

Valley Metro developed the RideChoice program to help cities reduce the paratransit obligation cost by setting limits on the number of trips, distance traveled and cost for the service. Less than a year into the RideChoice Pilot Program, our average trip cost for paratransit service overall has decreased year over year due to the addition of RideChoice as a paratransit option - **Exhibit B**.

Valley Metro estimated the cost for the first year of the pilot program by looking at the historical ridership averages in Tempe, Chandler and Surprise. They considered total population, senior population, enrollment and active user rates, and average trip frequencies by users to develop the estimated number of trips (7,880). The City's actual trip count from October 2019 through April 30, 2020 is 935 (averaging 134 trips per month), well under the original estimate by Valley Metro. Due to the impact of COVID-19, staff does not expect a marginal increase in number of trips through the end of the fiscal year.

As the city moves to the second year of the pilot program, staff will be working with Valley Metro on strategies that can persuade more Dial A Ride users to choose RideChoice.

## **Attachments:**

RPTA IGA Amendment 9 FY2021

Exhibit A – Goodyear Dial A Ride federally mandated service area

Exhibit B - Dial A Ride / RideChoice Comparison