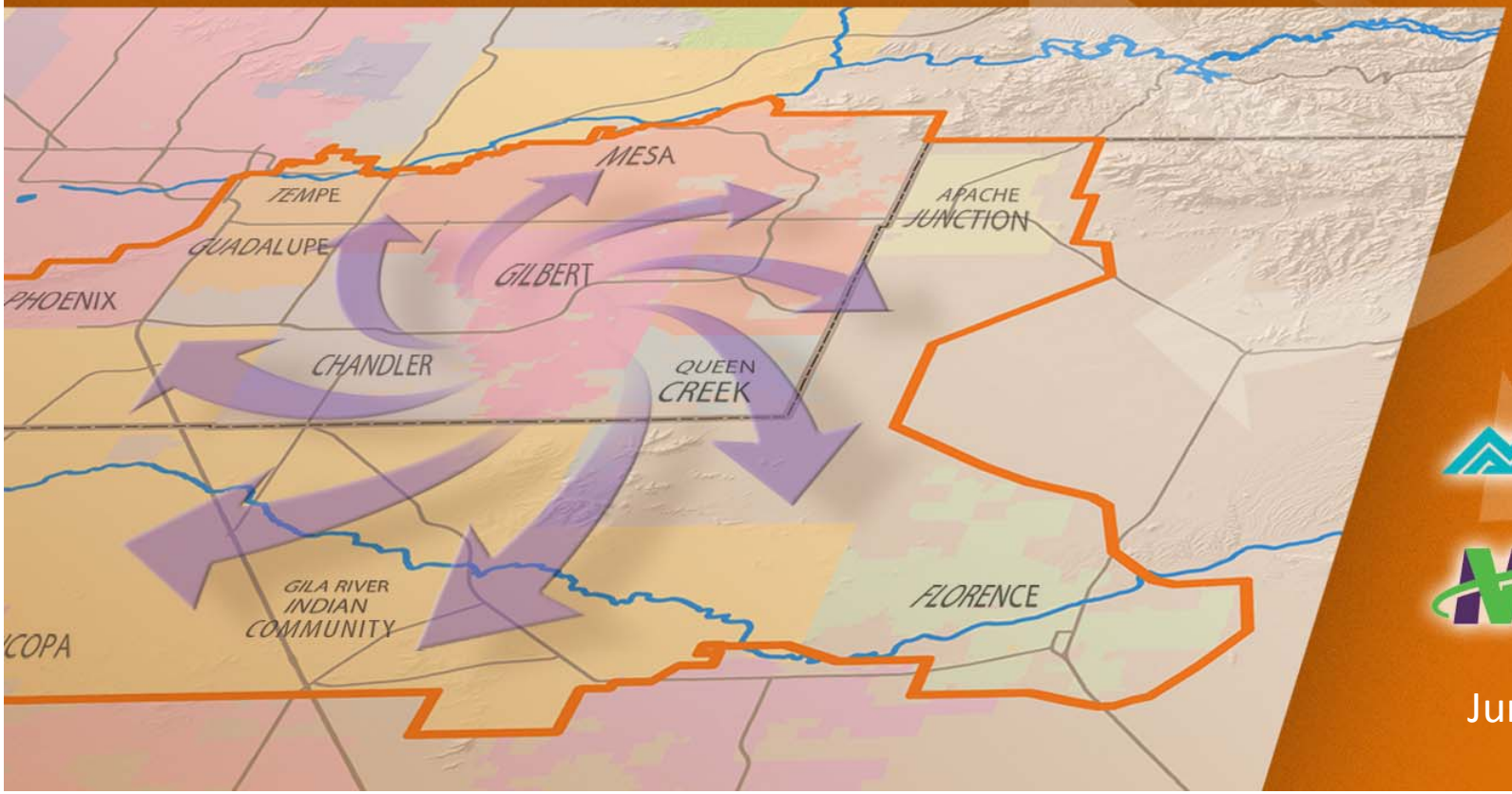
SOUTHEAST VALLEY
TRANSIT SYSTEM STUDY

City of Mesa Transportation Advisory Board Meeting



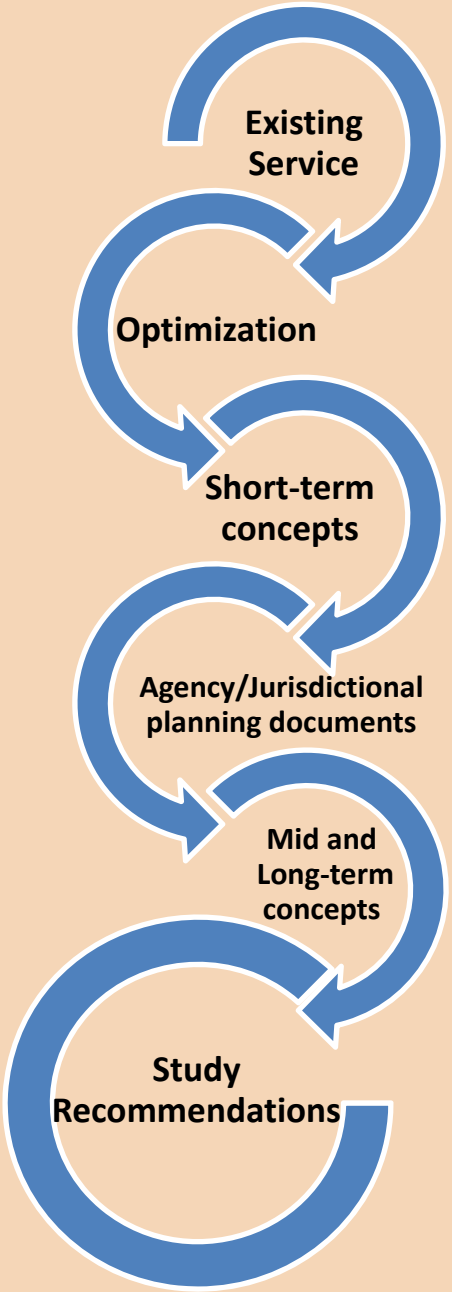
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

VALLEY METRO

June 16, 2015

Purpose of this Study

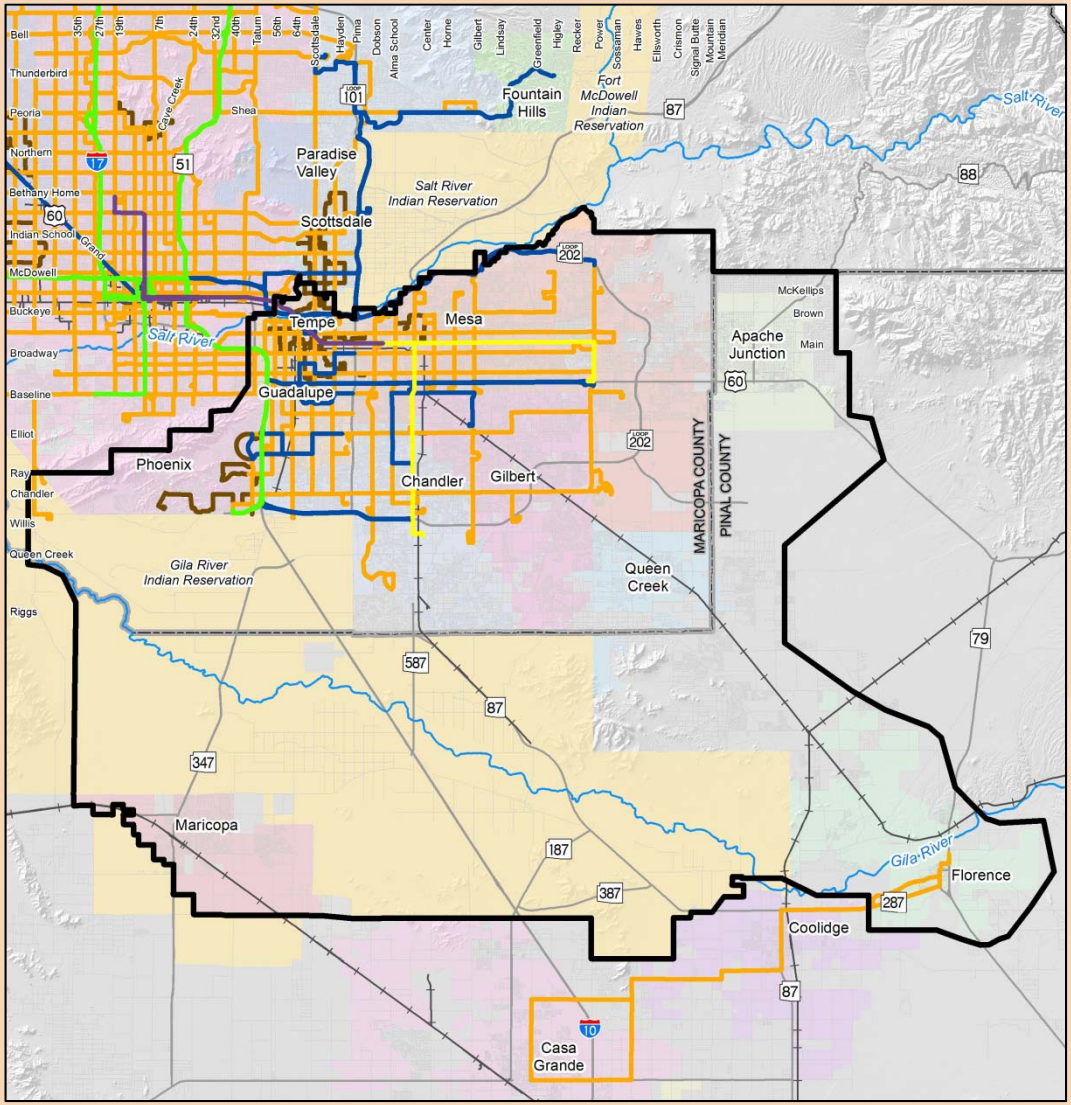
- Identify concepts for optimizing existing transit services
  - Improve efficiencies and align investment with demand
- Develop recommended concepts for addressing mid-term (within 10 years) and long-term (beyond 10 years) transit needs
  - Address unmet needs
  - Respond to growth and changing conditions
  - Develop performance-based transit system



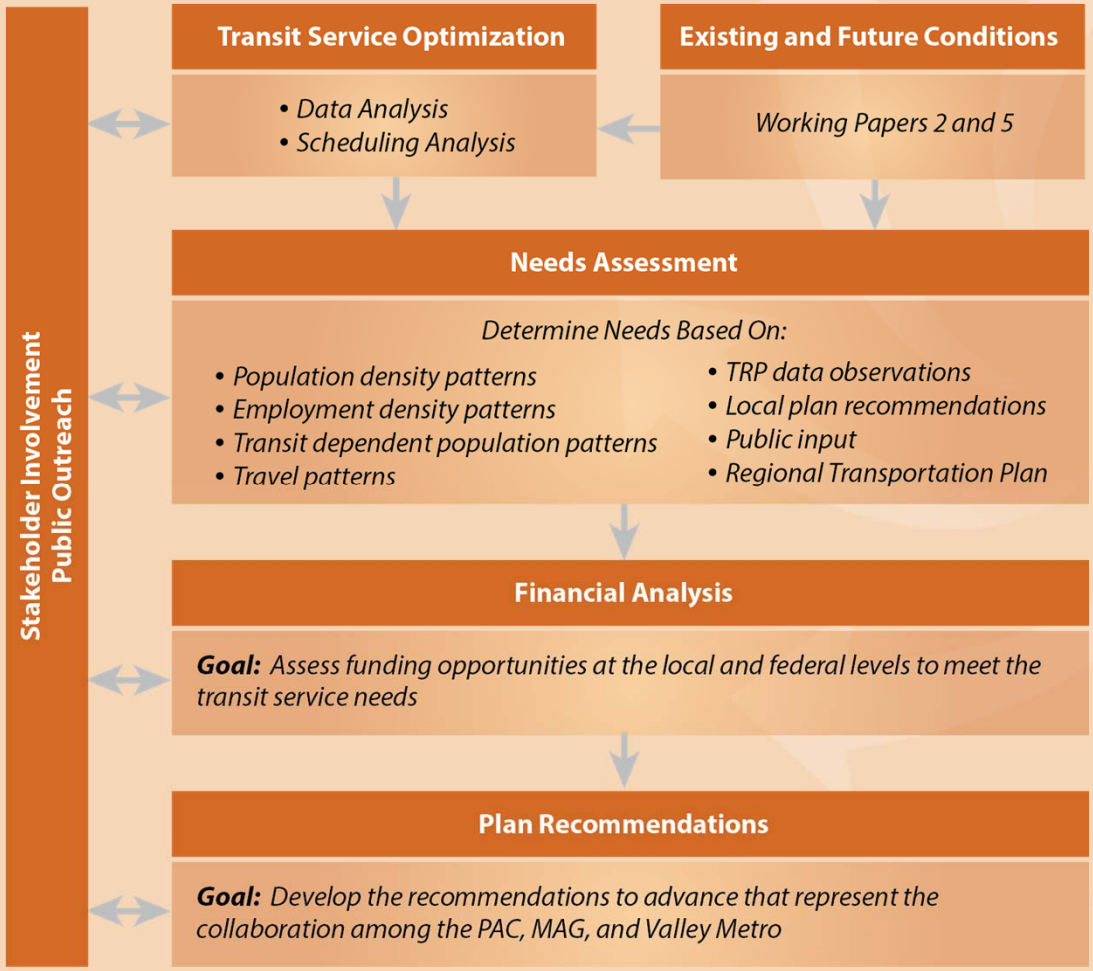
How will results be used?

- Provide a menu of concepts to inform future programming processes and plans

Study Area & Existing Transit Network



Study Tasks


Stakeholder Involvement
Public Outreach
Transit Service Optimization
• Data Analysis
• Scheduling Analysis
Existing and Future Conditions
Working Papers 2 and 5
Needs Assessment
Determine Needs Based On:
• Population density patterns
• Employment density patterns
• Transit dependent population patterns
• Travel patterns
• TRP data observations
• Local plan recommendations
• Public input
• Regional Transportation Plan
Financial Analysis
Goal: Assess funding opportunities at the local and federal levels to meet the transit service needs
Plan Recommendations
Goal: Develop the recommendations to advance that represent the collaboration among the PAC, MAG, and Valley Metro

Relationship between TSPM & SEVTSS

- Current TSPM methodologies (Phase I and II) provide for route-level, short-term analysis for new service versus SEVTSS is area-wide transit planning for a subregion
- SEVTSS is considering a longer term planning horizon as well as short-term recommendations
- SEVTSS recommendations integrates TSPM service standards by service type
- TSPM Phase III (in progress) will analyze fleet, facilities and long-range transit service implementation standards

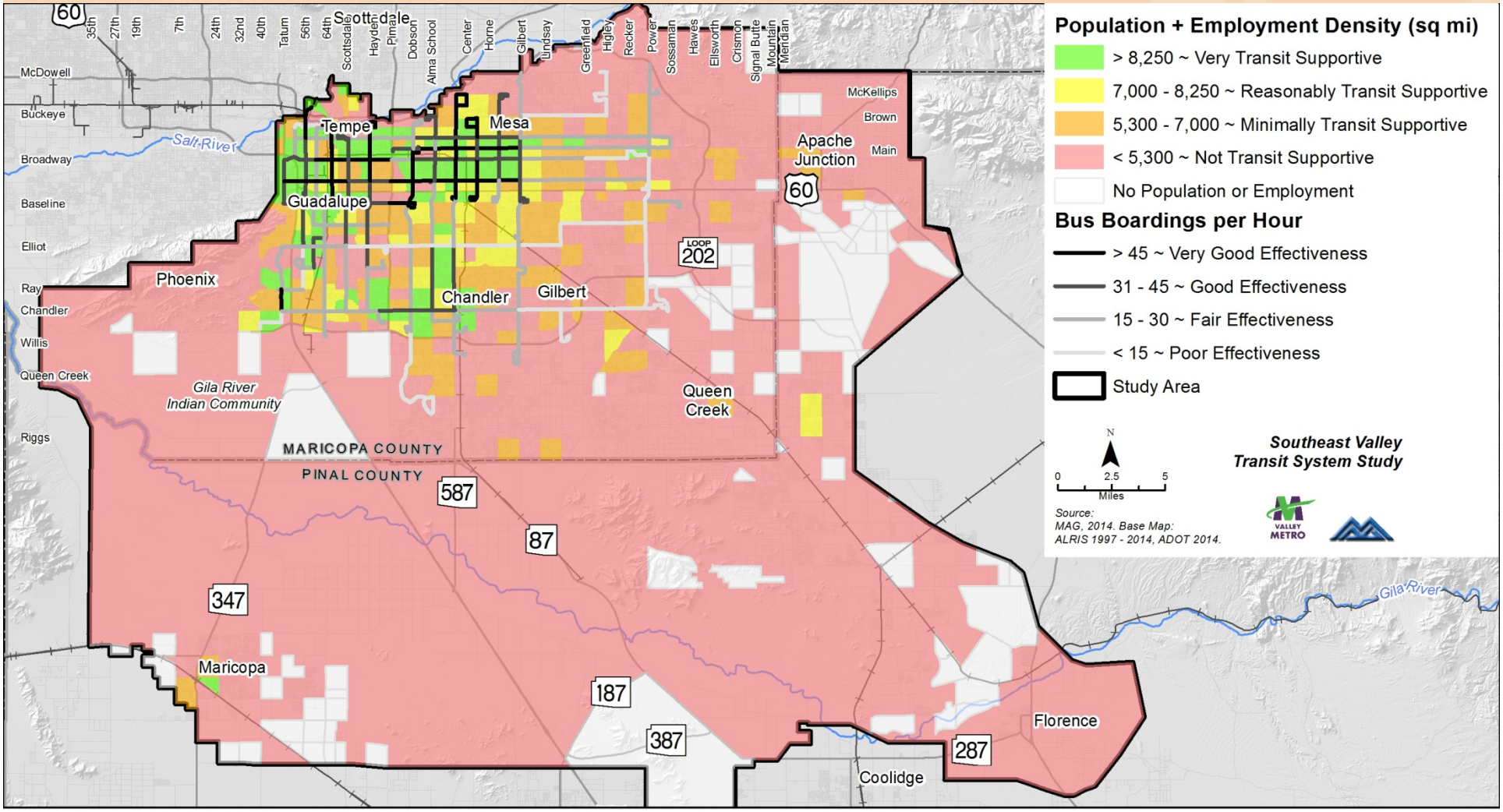
Transit Optimization Analysis

- Initial approach was completely data-driven that resulted in fine-tuned concepts through discussions with the PAC
- Strengthen the Network
  - Maximize benefits of a grid network
  - Improve frequency where warranted
  - Use bus service to leverage rail investment
- Optimize Use of Resources
  - Streamline alignments to avoid deviations where possible
  - Reduce route duplication
  - Match service investment to demand

Needs Assessment

- **Definition of a Need:** an area that has or is projected to have a set of conditions that may be supportive for effective and productive transit
- **Conditions** are based on:
  - Population density
  - Employment density
  - Auto ownership/poverty/age
  - Travel patterns
- Recommendations from the Needs Assessment focused in the Mid- and Long-Term

Population + Employment (2010)



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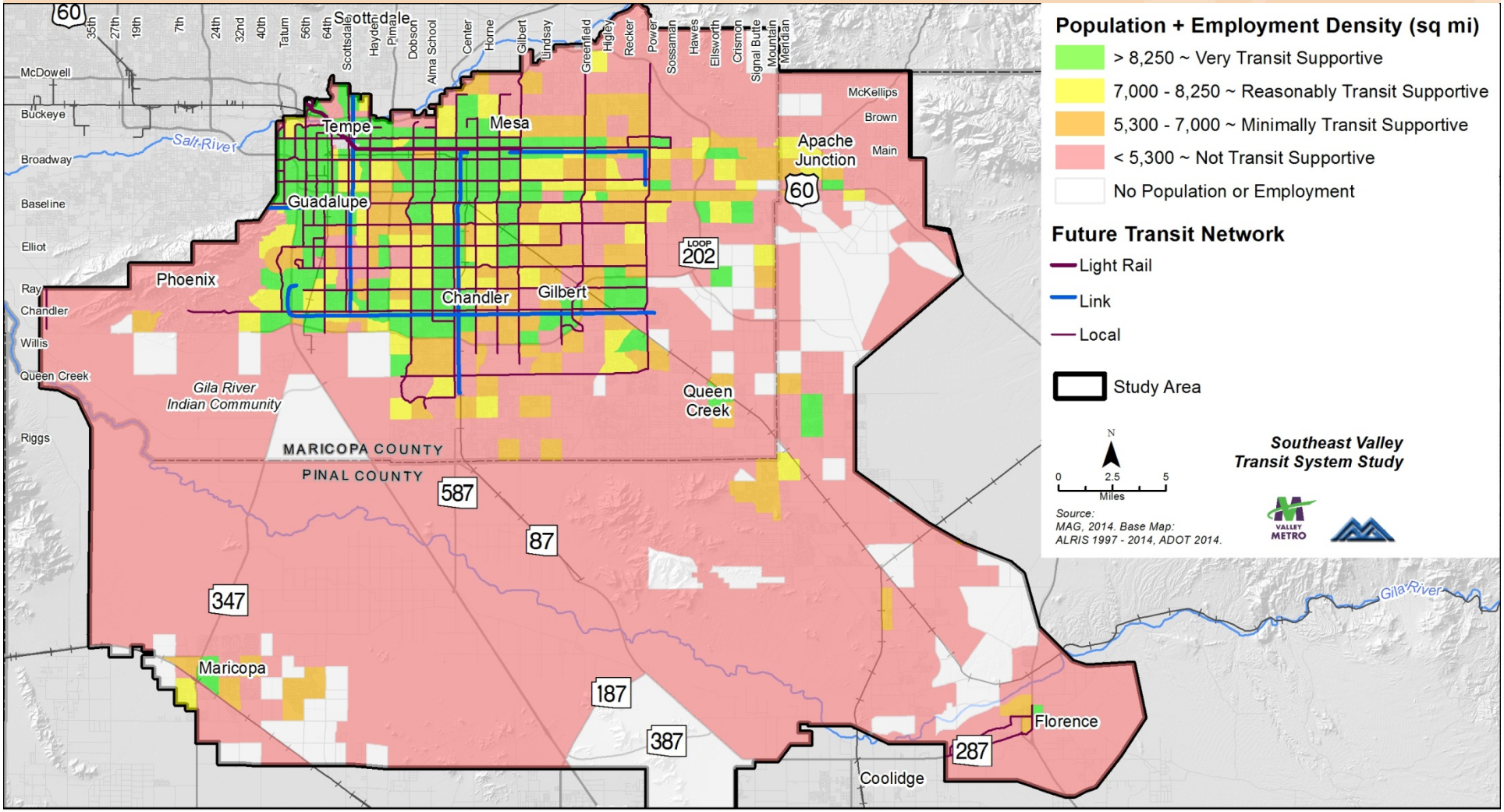
Population + Employment (2030)



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Needs Assessment Observations

- Current and planned transit network coverage areas seem reasonable
- Future land use and demographic conditions grow into coverage
- Several additional areas with potential unmet needs identified
- Heavy trip exchange in North Tempe/West Mesa
- Growing trips between Tempe/Mesa and Chandler/Gilbert

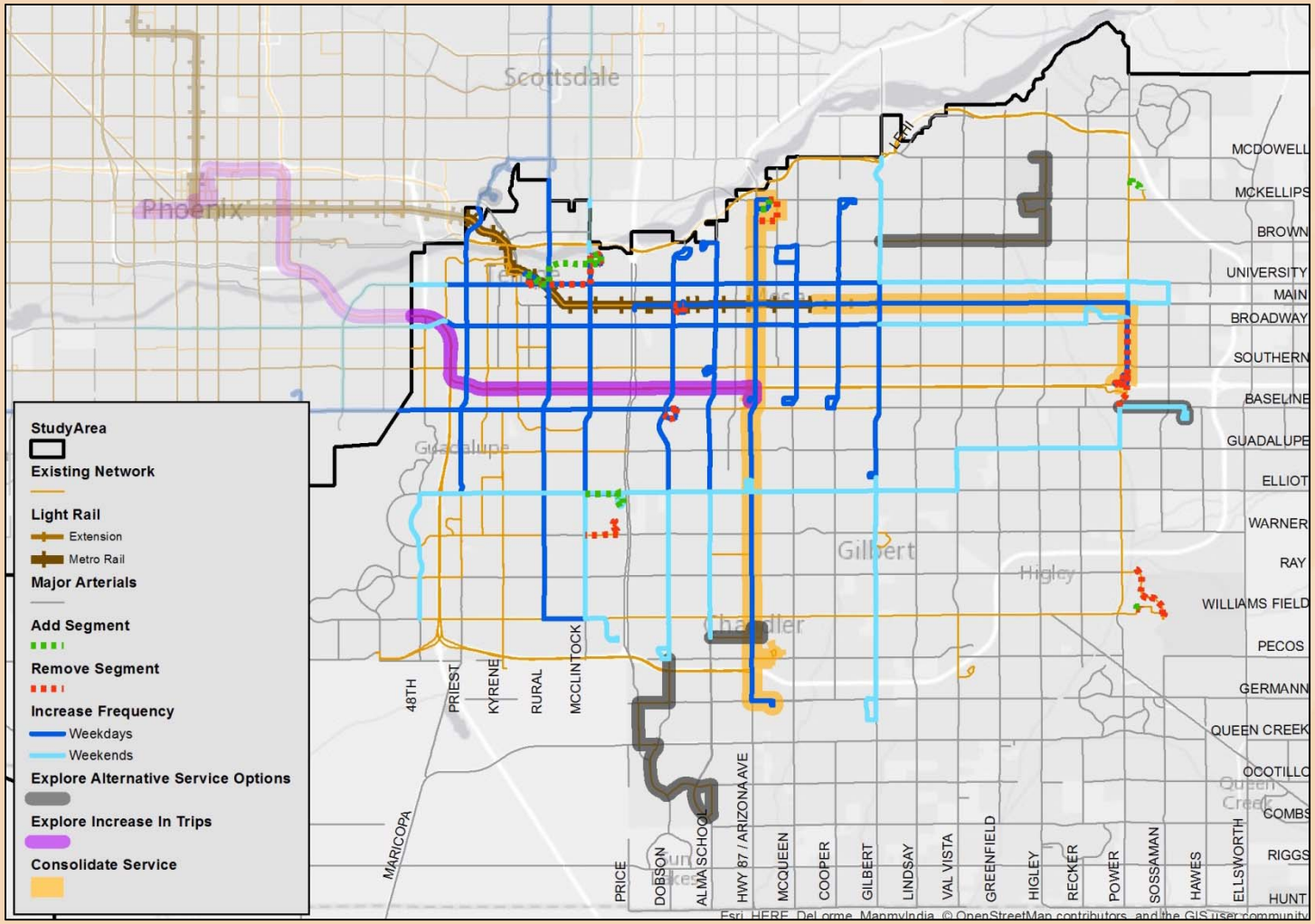
Public Input

- Online survey conducted Summer 2014
- Outreach at community events
- Input received help to shape overall recommendations
- Planning for additional community events and presentations in Summer and Fall 2015

Draft Recommendations

- Concepts for modifications or additions to the transit system for:
  - Optimization of existing system
  - Mid-term (within 10 years)
  - Long-term (beyond 10 years)
- Specific concepts may be further developed and implemented through programming processes (TLCP, SRTP) or area-specific implementation plans

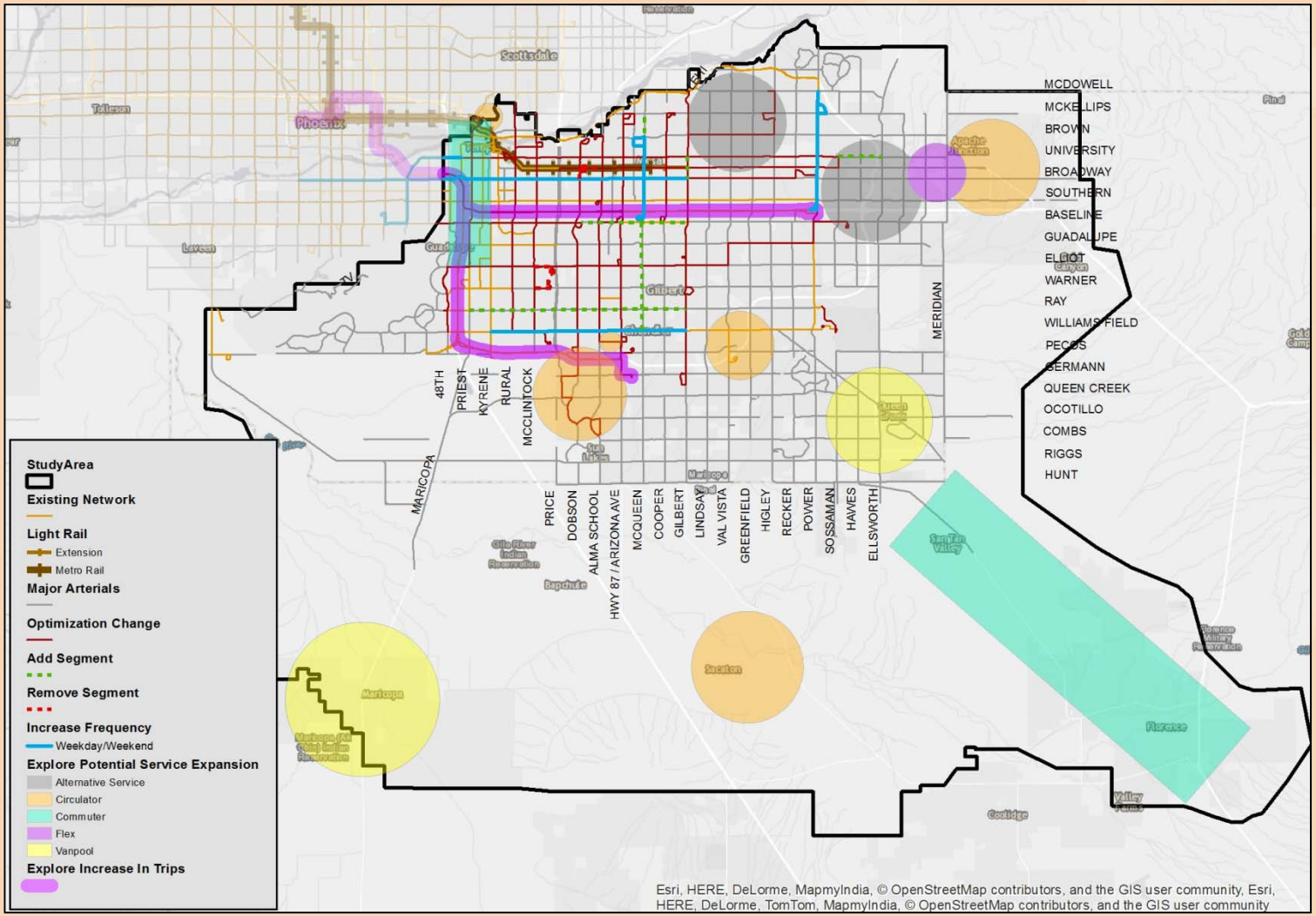
Optimization Concepts (DRAFT)



Key Preliminary Optimization Recommendations

- Improve frequencies on top performing routes to at least 15-minute peak-period service, and to 15-minute all day as possible
  - More frequent east-west connections across the SE Valley
- Obtain minimum 30 minute all-day service on all routes across the Southeast Valley
- Streamline routes to achieve greater efficiency
- Replace underperforming segments with alternative service types

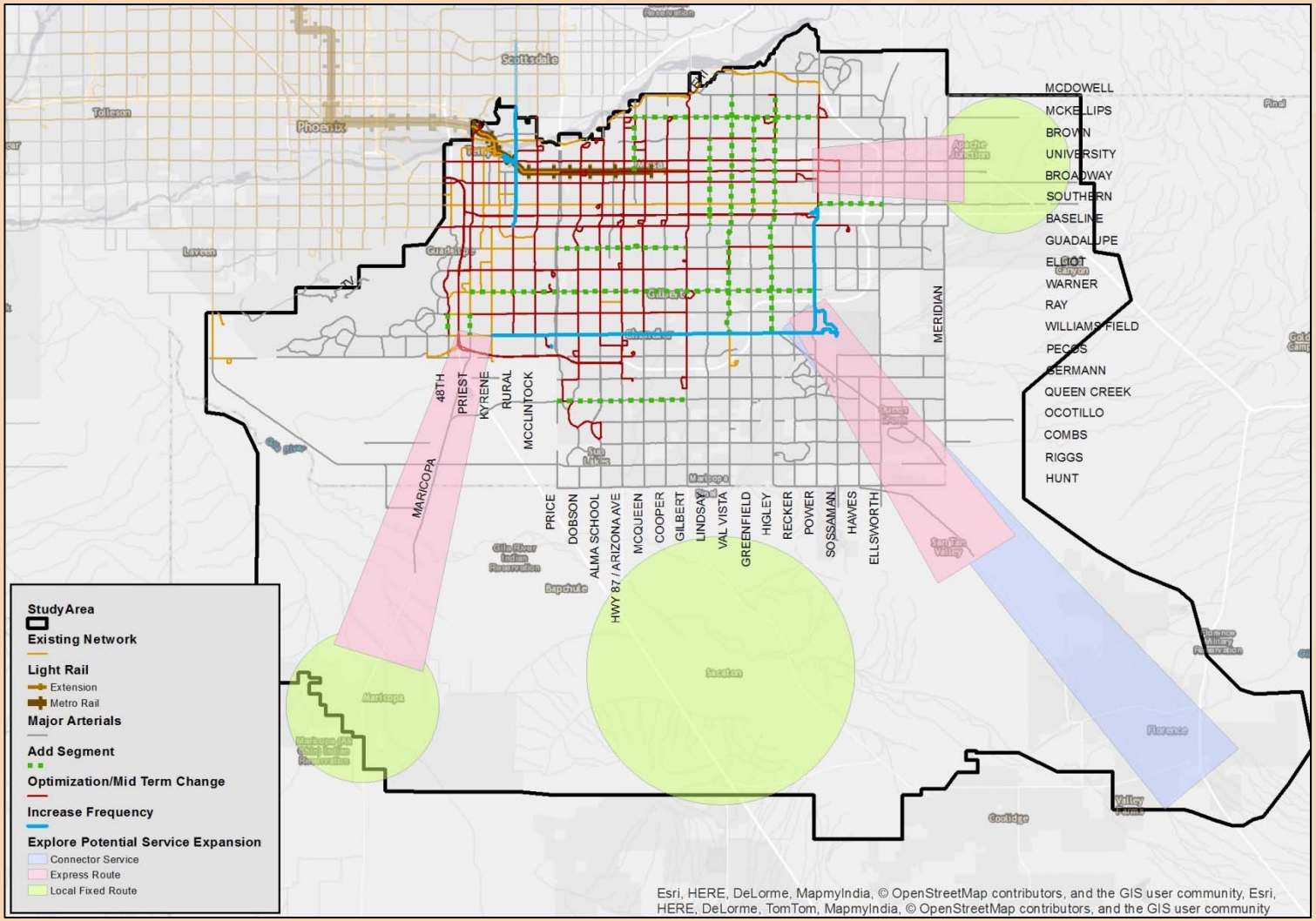
Mid-Term Concepts (DRAFT)



Key Preliminary Mid-Term Recommendations (within 10 years)

- Continue to improve route frequencies in core service area
- Expand service coverage to growing areas to the east and south
- Provide improved connections to Queen Creek, Florence, Apache Junction, Maricopa and GRIC

Long-Term Concepts (DRAFT)



Key Preliminary Long-Term Recommendations (beyond 10 years)

- Continue to improve and maintain frequencies on productive routes
- Fill in service gaps within the existing network coverage area to strengthen the grid
- Expand regional and express connections to Apache Junction, Queen Creek and Maricopa
- Establish fixed route service in growing communities where possible

Schedule

- Recommended concepts are being finalized with the Project Advisory Committee
- Conclude report by the end of June 2015
- Communicate results throughout the study area

Project Contact Information

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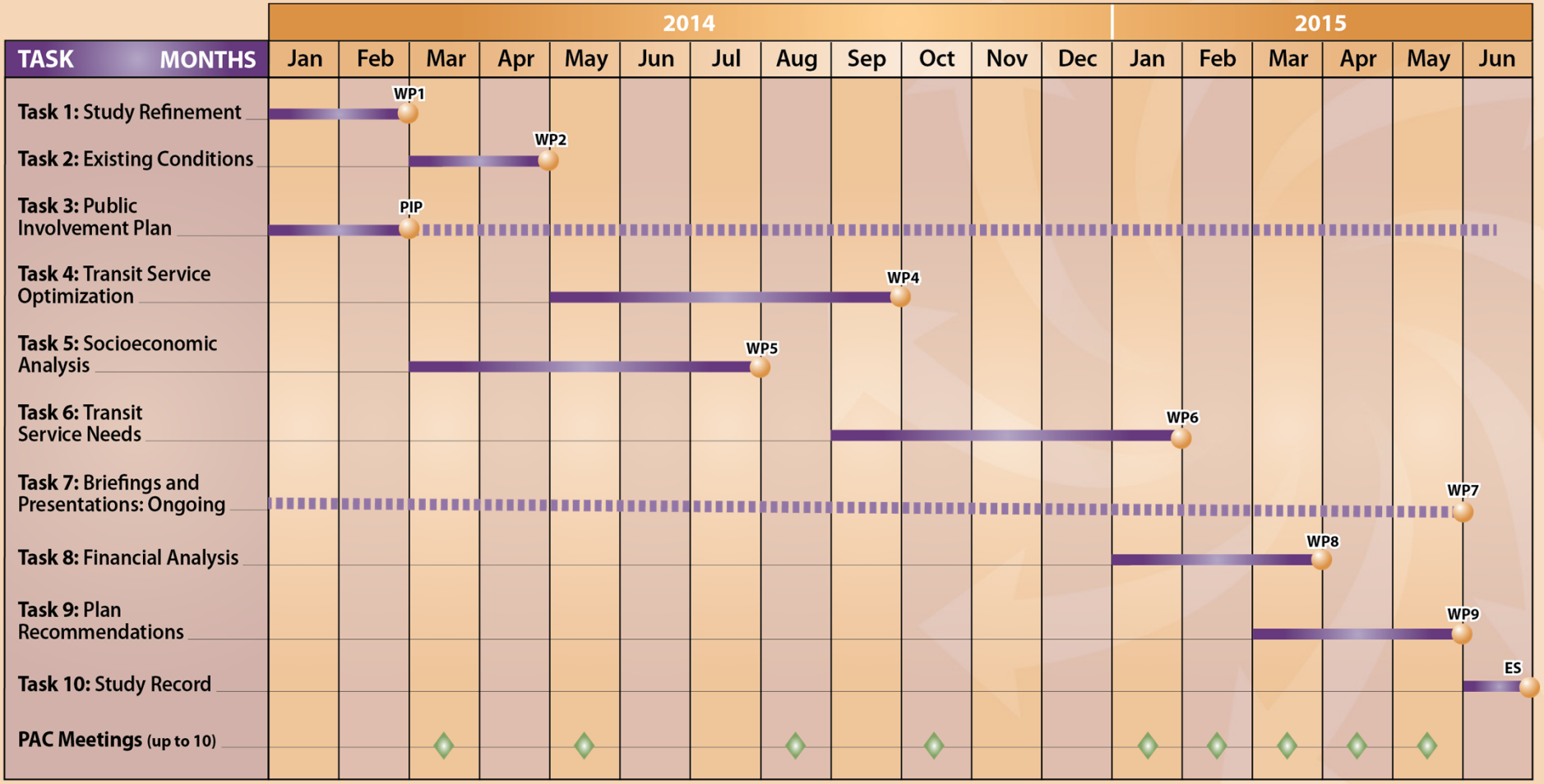
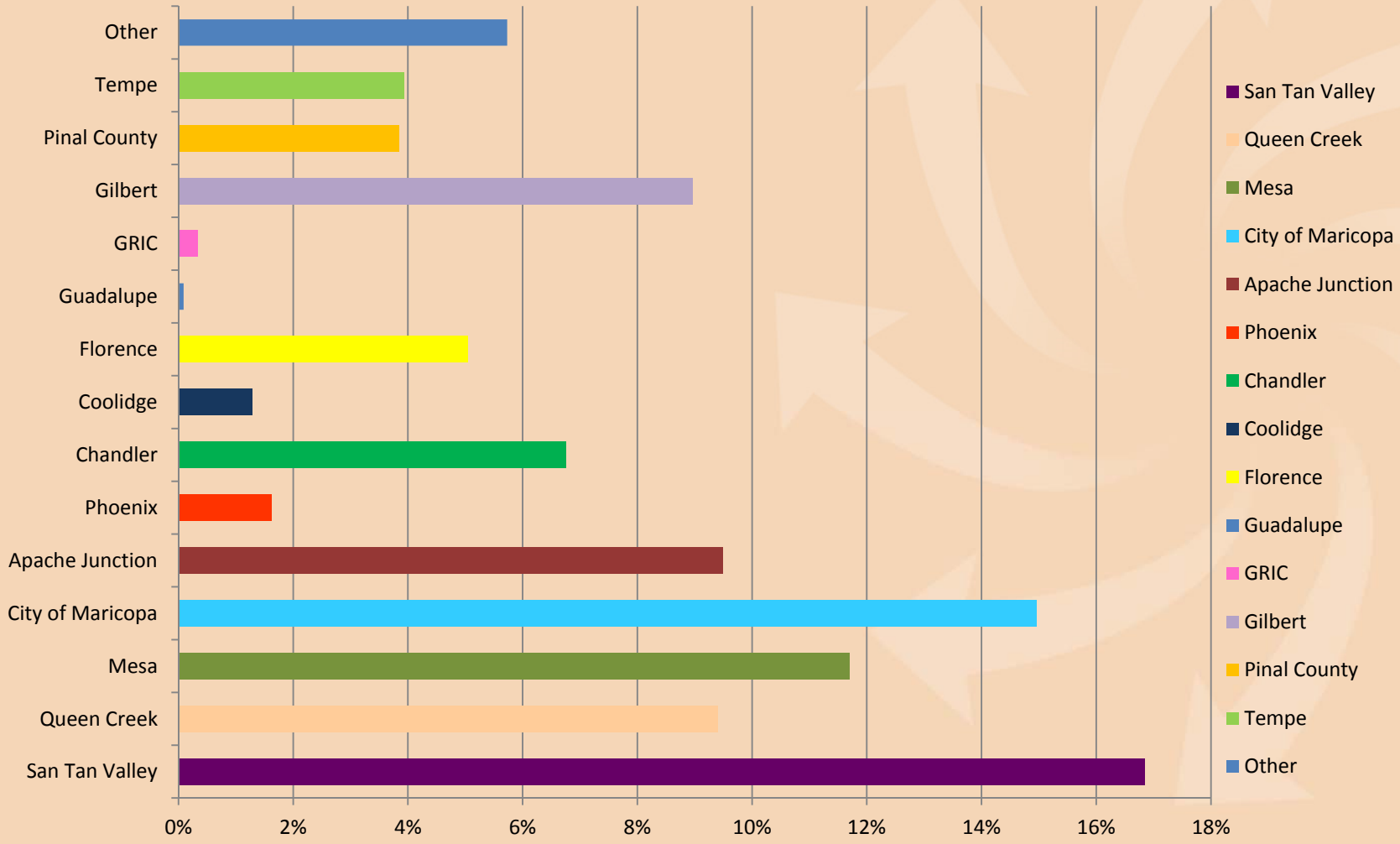
Schedule

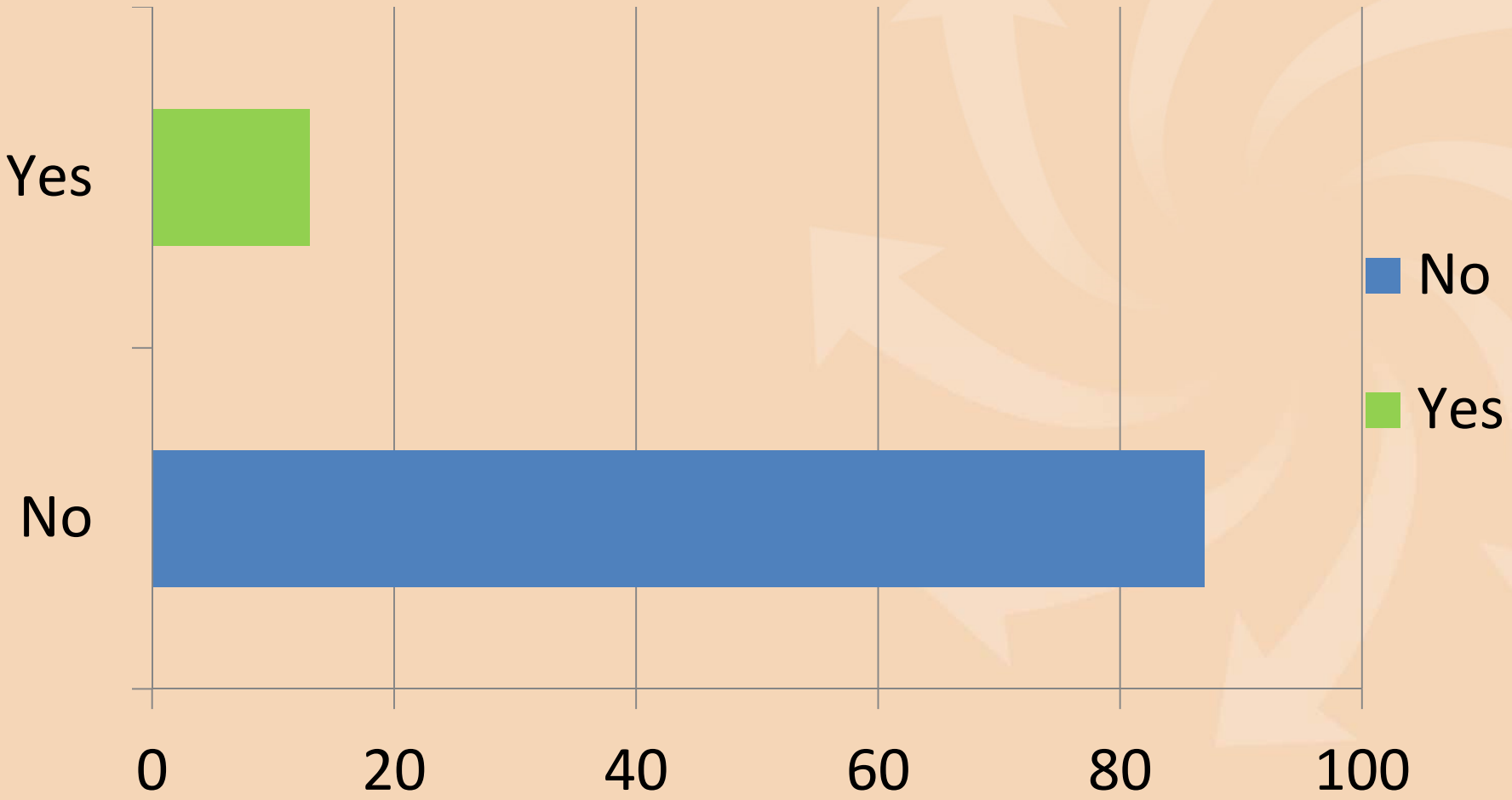


WP = Working Paper **PIP** = Public Involvement Plan **ES** = Executive Summary Deliverable

Survey Respondents



Do the public transportation options meet your needs?



- Would you support a fare (or bus pass) increase?

Yes	50%
No	11%
Not Sure	27%
Not Applicable	12%

- Would you support a tax increase to fund transit improvements?

Yes	49%
No	21%
Not Sure	27%
Not Applicable	2%

What, if anything, would encourage you to use public transit?

Extend service (geographically, days and hours)	59%
Greater frequency	27%
Lower cost/ fare	12%
Service to new areas/ destinations	51%
Nothing	12%