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## **GLENDALE RECEIVES AWARD FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP** *Enhanced Dial-A-Ride Services Now Offered*

GLENDALE, Ariz. –The city of Glendale, along with 14 other partnering municipalities, the county and Valley Metro, has received the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 2016 Desert Peaks Award for Regional Partnership in recognition of its role in the recent Regional Paratransit Plan Update.

A key component of the plan update is the new Dial-A-Ride service guidelines which simplify the user experience for paratransit riders who may be unable to use the bus and rail service for some of all of their trips.

Glendale Councilmember Lauren Tolmachoff of the Cholla District, who serves as the city’s representative and treasurer of the Valley Metro Board of Directors, accepted the award on behalf of the city during a special ceremony on June 22.

The new regional model provides consistency between ADA paratransit service providers and eliminates the need for transfers between multiple service providers on a one-way regional trip. “This significantly reduces trip times and enhances safety and comfort for Dial-A-Ride users,” said Tolmachoff.

ADA paratransit is shared-ride, door-to-door transportation provided via vans and taxicabs to people with disabilities who have limited ability to ride or access to fixed-route buses or trains. Until recently, paratransit Dial-A-Ride services operated within the Valley Metro region as five separate systems with varying service hours among the separate providers and required the rider to transfer from one service provider to another when traveling into different jurisdictional boundaries or city limits in the course of a one-way regional trip.

The new regional Paratransit service can be accessed by each of five Dial-A-Ride programs operating in the greater Phoenix area. This includes Glendale Dial-A-Ride, Phoenix Dial-A-Ride, East Valley Dial-A-Ride, Peoria Dial-A-Ride and Northwest Valley Dial-A-Ride. For travel within each of these Dial-A-Ride areas, riders can call the local Dial-A-Ride service provider.

Glendale residents can call the city’s Dial-A-Ride Information Line at 623-930-3502 for additional information about the enhanced paratransit services, or visit [www.valleymetro.org/accessibility](http://www.valleymetro.org/accessibility) to learn more about accessible fixed-route bus and rail services.

The Desert Peaks Awards were initiated by MAG to recognize individuals and partnerships that have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through their cooperative efforts.

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