

Executive Summary

Valley Metro is the regional public transportation authority for the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Their services have positive impacts on air quality, provide an affordable way to connect cities, and are foundational to sustainable city initiatives—yet in 2018 Valley Metro lacked a current sustainability program themselves. The agency has engaged in sustainability initiatives since signing the American Public Transportation Association Sustainability Commitment in 2011, and Valley Metro’s previous sustainability plan was created in 2014. Their 2014 plan is outdated, and a new sustainability plan needed to be created to continue sustainability at Valley Metro. This applied project, Five Year Sustainability at Valley Metro, created an updated sustainability program for the agency.

Valley Metro’s Sustainability Action Plan 2019 was created through transit sustainability research, local city sustainability research, an agency wide sustainability survey, forming a sustainability action team, and working with the executive leadership team. The action plan was approved by Valley Metro executive leadership on April 4th, 2019 and execution of the plan will begin immediately. Another outcome of this applied project was hiring Valley Metro’s first sustainability coordinator to run their program. This applied project provided Valley Metro with updated visions, goals, and strategies for creating a more sustainable agency and transportation system.