



City of Phoenix

PUBLIC TRANSIT DEPARTMENT



2024 DBE Availability and Disparity Study Fact Sheet

❖ **Who is sponsoring the Study?**

The City of Phoenix is the Study sponsor as the region's primary recipient of federal funding for the Valley Metro member agencies. The agencies include Avondale, Buckeye, Chandler, El Mirage, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Maricopa County, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Tolleson, Wickenburg, and Youngtown.

❖ **Who is conducting the Study?**

Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., an Oakland, California-based national expert in conducting disparity studies, is performing the Study.

❖ **What is the DBE Study?**

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Study is an evaluation of the contracting practices of the City of Phoenix including the Valley Metro member agencies and the award of contracts to Disadvantage Business Enterprises.

❖ **What is the purpose of the Study?**

The Study will determine if a statistical disparity exists in the award of Valley Metro's contracts to ready, willing, and able market area Disadvantage Business Enterprises.

❖ **What guidelines exist to help direct the Study?**

Two United States Supreme Court decisions, *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.* (Croson)¹ and *Adarand v. Peña* (Adarand)², provides the standard by which federal courts review local government minority business enterprise programs and the USDOT DBE program.

❖ **Why has the City decided to conduct the Study?**

The City seeks to determine whether there are barriers that impact the ability of small and disadvantaged businesses to participate in federally assisted contracting opportunities in Valley Metro's market area.

¹ *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469, 469 (1989).

² *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 515 U.S. 200, 200 (1995).

❖ **How will the City benefit from the Study?**

Four benefits to the Valley Metro member agencies are to:

- Identify best practices to improve the contracting process on federally assisted contracts
- Increase the number of bidders on Valley Metro member agencies’ contracts
- Lower procurement costs
- Define the overall triennial goal for Valley Metro member agencies’ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

❖ **How will the City identify available businesses?**

To identify available businesses, Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., the City’s consultant, will conduct a broad-based business outreach program. The list of trade and professional association lists in the market area will be collected and used with the Valley Metro member agencies’ contract records, certification lists, outreach meetings to identify available businesses.

Date	Time	Location
September 24, 2024	9:00 am – 10:30 am --- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	WebEx

❖ **Which industries are being studied?**

The industries being studied are construction, professional services, and goods and services.

❖ **How can local business owners get involved?**

- Local business owners can complete a [business survey](#) and attend one of the two virtual business community meetings.
- Participate in a telephone interview to share contracting and bidding experiences
- Provide membership lists from local business associations

❖ **Who should business owners contact to get additional information?**

Mason Tillman can be reached by telephone at (602) 613-0644 and by email at CityofPhoenixDisparityStudy@mtaltd.com.