

More AVs on our roads: Arizona's first on-demand autonomous public transit service for 55+ community

May Mobility, established in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 2017, is launching the first on-demand public transit service using autonomous vehicles (AVs) in Arizona, in the Maricopa County 55-and-older community of Sun City.

The service will be powered by Via, pioneer of the TransitTech industry category, applying optimized networks and new technologies to develop public mobility systems.

The goal of this deployment is to use AVs to expand access to safe, reliable and equitable on-demand transportation for aging adults, in turn learning more about how its technology is adopted and addresses this group's mobility challenges.

This is May Mobility's first deployment in the Western US, picking up on Arizona's fast-growing reputation as a testing ground for AV technology. Previous deployments in a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas span the Northeast, Midwest and the South, in climates ranging from humid and subtropical to the frigid winters of Minnesota.

May Mobility and Via believe aging populations stand to gain increased freedom and mobility from AVs, and are dedicated to engaging, serving and educating these communities to drive adoption of innovative technologies.

"We're fundamentally changing public transit, making it easier and more desirable than having a personal car," says May CEO Edwin Olson.

"People are living longer, and we believe aging populations stand to gain greater access to mobility with autonomous vehicle technology. We're committed to providing safe, reliable transportation for people who don't want to or can't drive themselves."

"Our organizations are united by the vision that advanced technology is key to expanding access to efficient mobility for riders of all ages and needs," adds Via autonomous lead Meghan Grella. "and we believe Sun City is a model for innovative, inclusive public transportation for other communities around the world."

The service will operate Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5 pm through residential complexes, recreation centers, grocery stores, pharmacies and medical centers. ■

