

One step further in making Apache Junction a better place to live is constructing a Park & Ride location. Many Park & Rides are parking lots where people leave their cars to take transit. As a design challenge, they're seen in the same vein as other parking lots. However, park and ride serves a different function than most parking lots. These spaces are intermodal transfer points, moving people from lower- to higher-occupancy vehicles and back again. In addition to connecting drivers with transit, trains, and planes, these locations serve carpoolers, rideshare or taxi companies, and cyclists. Park and ride design is, therefore, slightly different than the design of a destination lot.

An excellent location for the Apache Junction transit point and Park & Ride is located adjacent to the US60 and S. Goldfield Road on vacant land owned by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). A facility located there would allow easy access to both the proposed bus routes and allow drivers to drop off passengers or park for the day while riding the bus to Western destinations. Drivers of electric vehicles could park their cars at solar-powered charging stations. Not only would this location serve the residents of Apache Junction, but it would also link cities East of AJ to the bus route. Cities of Pinal County, like Gold Canyon, Florence, Globe, Miami, Superior, Kearny, and between and beyond, have to drive an hour or more to get to downtown Phoenix or Sky Harbor Airport.

Adding a bus terminal to the Park & Ride design would further enhance the commercial and public transportation possibilities. Long-distance bus service companies like Greyhound could use the facility as a starting point for riders traveling almost anywhere in the United States or connecting to Amtrack trains in Flagstaff or Tucson. Tour bus companies could utilize the location to pick up passengers for tourist destinations in and out of the state. Car rental companies could set up shop there and provide services and tax revenue for the city of AJ. Vending and souvenir shops could also be added to the mix. Local businesses can advertise their amenities and provide information. Heck, balloon ride companies could pick up and drop off passengers there when the weather is nice and sunny. The possibilities for usage and further expansion of private businesses in the area or adjacent to the transit point are endless.