



Metro

## Board Report

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**Agenda Number:**

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**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES AERIAL RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT UPDATE**

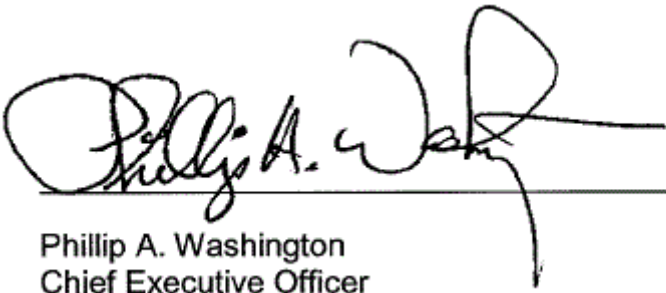
**ACTION: ORAL REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE oral report on the Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project.

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Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer



LOS ANGELES  
AERIAL RAPID TRANSIT

# Metro Executive Management Committee

## September 17, 2020





# Project History | Background

- **Spring 2018** Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies (ARTT) initiated its proposals to Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation for an aerial rapid transit gondola system to connect Union Station and Dodger Stadium
- **Spring 2019** Metro agreed to act as lead agency under CEQA
- **October 2020** Metro release of Notice of Preparation, beginning EIR process



# Transit Link to Dodger Stadium | Cleaner Air, Less Traffic

- Dodger Stadium is one of the region's most visited venues
- The successful Dodger Express bus service has helped over 2 million fans to use transit on game days
- With a permanent transit link that provides game-day capacity of 10,000 to 12,000, LA ART could replace up to 3,000 trips before and after each Dodger game and Stadium event
- The sustainable, zero-emission project could reduce freeway and neighborhood street congestion and enhance community safety, while supporting clean air and sustainability goals
- Year-round operation opportunities to increase transit access for underserved communities and to parks



# Urban Applications of Aerial Rapid Transit

Modern applications of urban rapid transit have seen the evolution of aerial transit technology as a feasible mode of urban rapid transit that is among the safest transit systems in the world, as multiple redundancies ensure rider and public safety



Portland, Oregon



London, England



Mexico City, Mexico



Ngong Ping, Hong Kong

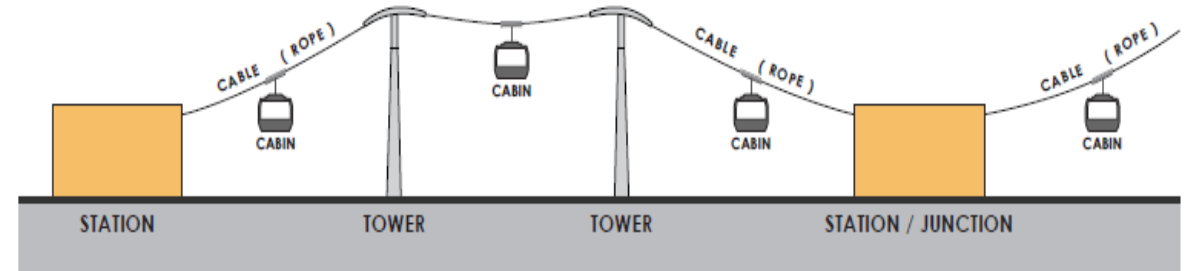


La Paz, Bolivia



# Gondola System Overview

LA ART system proposes passenger stations, a non-passenger junction, and towers to support the aerial cables that carry the gondola cabins, with capacity for 30-40 passengers



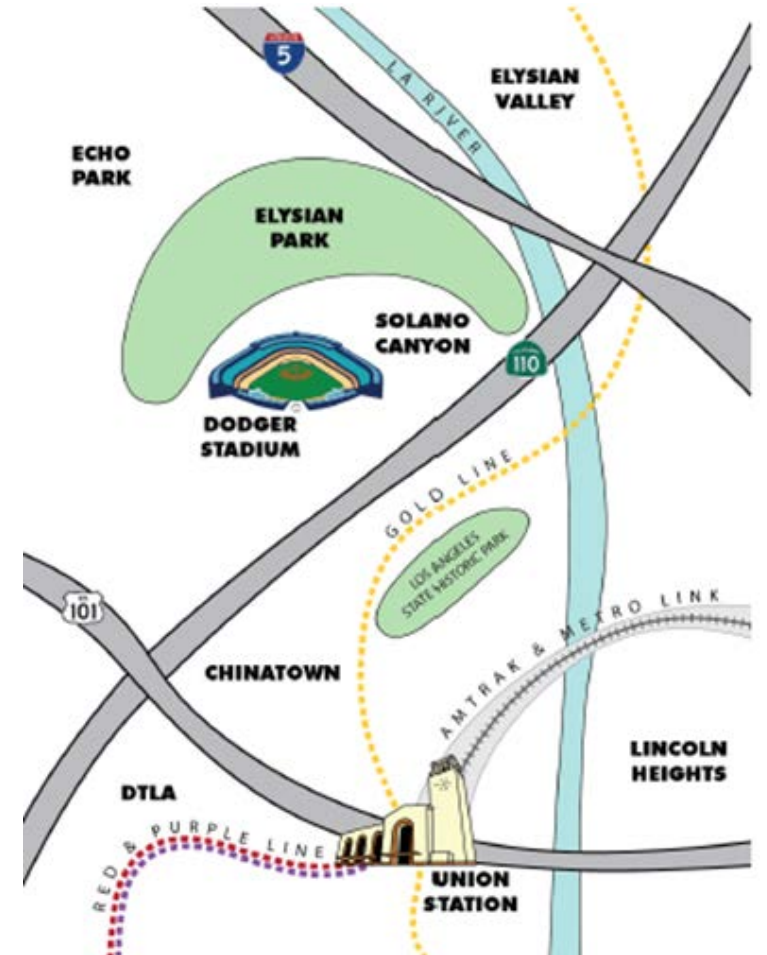
- High passenger capacity: detachable cabins with “3S” system
  - “3S” system includes three cables: two “track ropes” for stability and a third “haul rope” to circulate the cabins
  - Capacity to move approximately 5,500 people per hour per direction with quiet, safe, environmentally friendly system
- Cabins detach from continuously circulating haul rope and slow down upon entering a station for passenger exit and entry, then reattach to haul rope
- Cabins allow for sitting or standing, are fully ADA accessible, and provide room for baby strollers and bicycles



Koblenz, Germany

# Connecting Union Station, Parks/LA River, and Dodger Stadium

- Route generally located within the public right-of-way
- Starts adjacent to Union Station and El Pueblo, then follows Alameda Street in a northeast direction, flying over the Los Angeles State Historic Park to Bishops Road and then over the SR-110 to Dodger Stadium
- Stations are planned at Union Station and Dodger Stadium
- Connects the communities of El Pueblo, Chinatown, Mission Junction, Elysian Park, and Solano Canyon to Union Station, the region's transit hub
- Potential to expand transit service in these areas with intermediate station next to Los Angeles State Historic Park
- The ride is just over 1 mile and will be short and enjoyable, with a travel time between Union Station to Dodger Stadium of about seven minutes



# Connection at Union Station | The Region's Mobility Hub

- LA ART provides a safe, efficient and fun alternative to driving by connecting directly to our region's mobility hub at Union Station
- Attracts new riders to the Metro system through a unique experience connecting to Dodger Stadium
- Union Station currently hosts 36 million people per year and 100,000 daily transit riders
- Metro forecasts 72 million people per year and 200,000 daily riders in 2040
- Proposed Union Station location over Alameda Street integrates with Metro's proposed Union Station Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements and provides connection to historic El Pueblo





# LA ART Union Station Alameda Station (Concept Design)





# LA ART Union Station Alameda Station

(Concept Design Viewed from Metro Proposed Forecourt with Passenger Access)



# Transit Connections for Parks, LA River, and Communities

- Serving Dodger home games and events at Dodger Stadium, LA ART can also operate daily for community, park visitors, and tourists
- Consistent with Metro's Transit to Parks Strategic Plan, LA ART has the potential to enhance transit access to Los Angeles State Historic Park, the Los Angeles River, and Elysian Park
- To advance public equity goals, LA ART has the potential to connect El Pueblo, Union Station, Chinatown, the Mission Junction area (including William Mead Homes), Cathedral High School, and Solano Canyon
  - Providing access to Union Station via LA ART can increase regional connectivity and access with cleaner air for these communities





# Potential for Community and Environmental Benefits

## **High-Capacity, Zero-Emission, Quiet Operation**

- LA ART offers the capacity to move approximately 5,500 people per hour per direction using environmentally friendly, zero-emission technology
- Aerial rapid transit technology is quiet, with noise from operations expected to be below background noise levels in an urban environment

## **Reduce Congestion and GHG Emissions, Improve Safety and Air Quality**

- LA ART's capacity could take 3,000 cars off the roads before and after each Dodger game or event at Dodger Stadium to ease congestion and improve safety on neighborhood streets and the SR-110 freeway
- Reductions in VMT and congestion lead to reduced GHG emissions and improved air quality
- The emission reductions benefit communities with economic challenges and burdened by pollution

**LA ART's goals include working with Metro to identify affordable, accessible fare opportunities for community and park access**

# Potential Broadway-State Historic Park Pedestrian Bridge

Metro's L Line (Gold) ROW separates the State Historic Park from North Broadway, together with a steep grade; LA ART may be able to assist with a proposed ADA accessible pedestrian/bicycle bridge to cross over the Gold Line, creating more connections between the State Historic Park and areas of Chinatown, Cathedral High School, and Solano Canyon



Source: LASHP Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study



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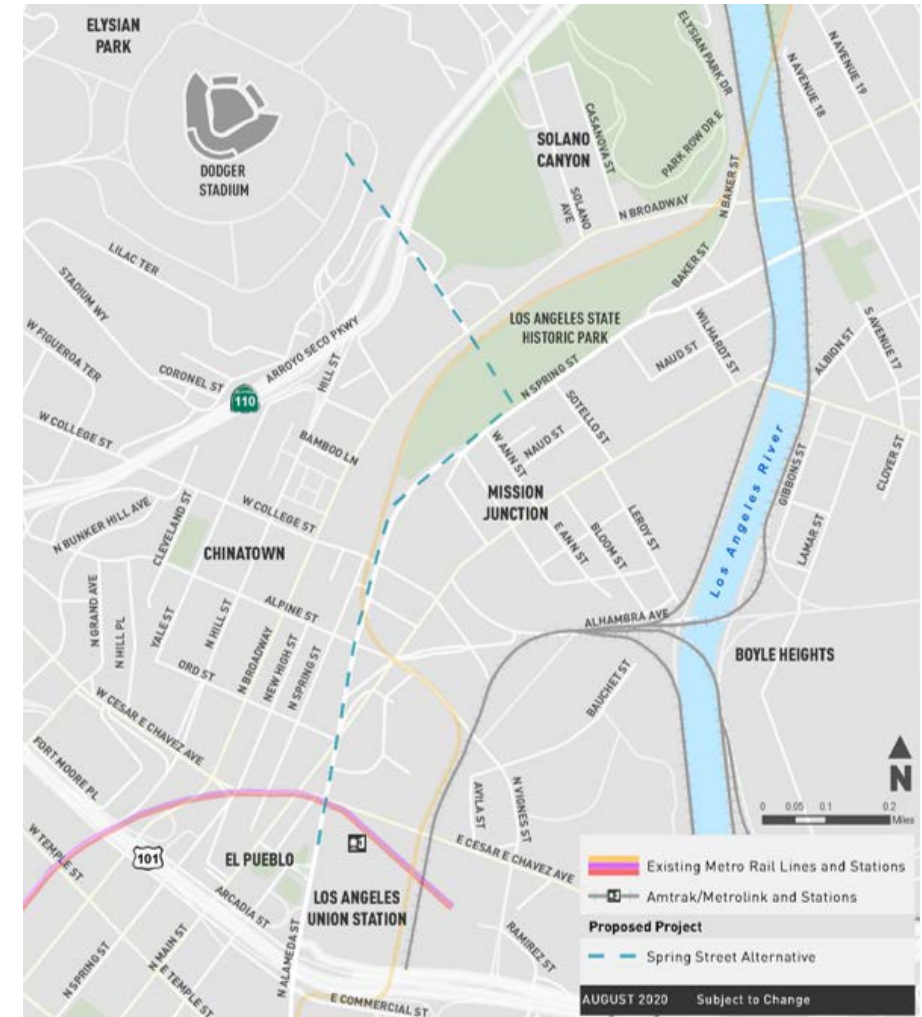
Source: LASHP Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study

# Spring Street Alternative

In the Spring Street Alternative, near the intersection of Spring Street and Ann Street, LA ART would include a Park Station on Spring Street and fly northwest over the Los Angeles State Historic Park, then above Bishops Road and the 110 Freeway to Dodger Stadium

The Spring Street Alternative would provide new transit access to the Los Angeles River, William Mead Homes, and the Los Angeles State Historic Park and environs

Potential public benefits for Los Angeles State Historic Park under this alternative include support for the pedestrian bridge at North Broadway to provide access for walkers and bicycles who cannot access now from Broadway, and the potential to support other Park amenities such as tree planting

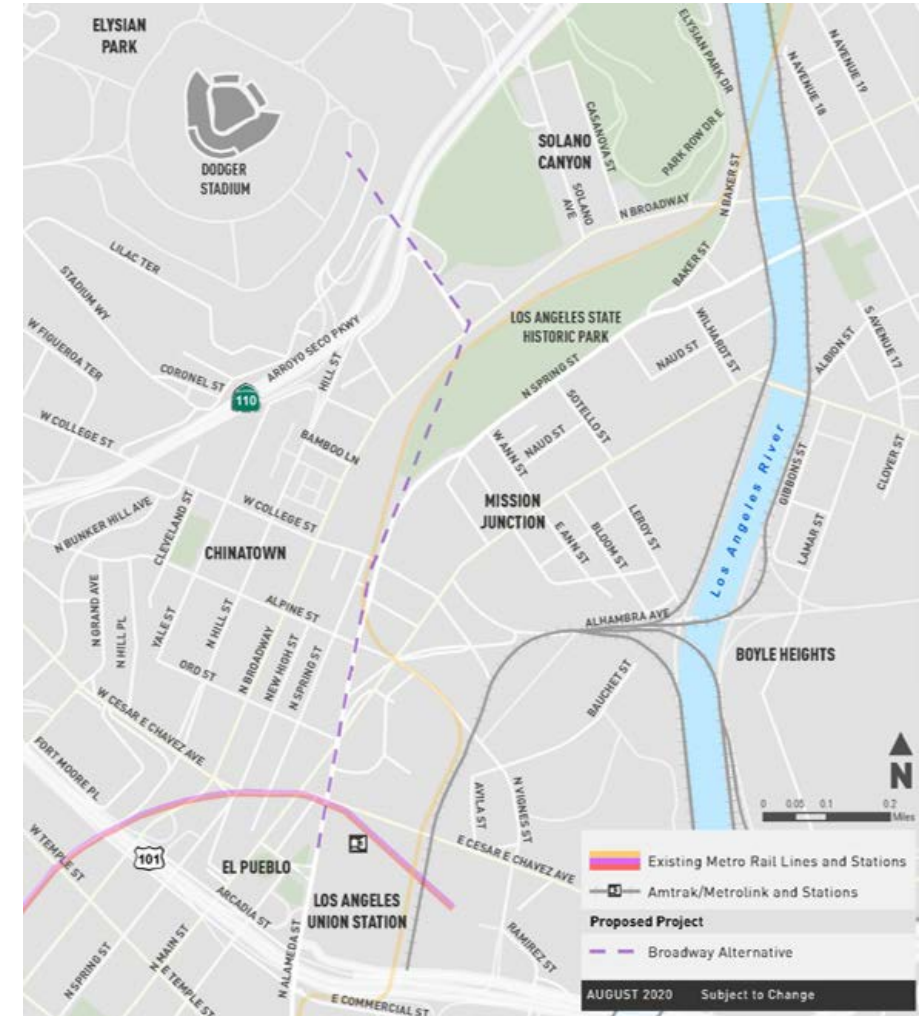




# Broadway Alternative

The Broadway Alternative would fly over the Los Angeles State Historic Park near the Metro L Line (Gold) ROW and continue northwest, with a potential station location at the intersection of North Broadway and Bishops Road and continue above Bishops Road and the 110 Freeway to Dodger Stadium

Public benefits being considered for the Los Angeles State Historic Park include support for a pedestrian bridge between North Broadway and the Los Angeles State Historic Park, to provide access for walkers and bicycles who cannot access now from Broadway

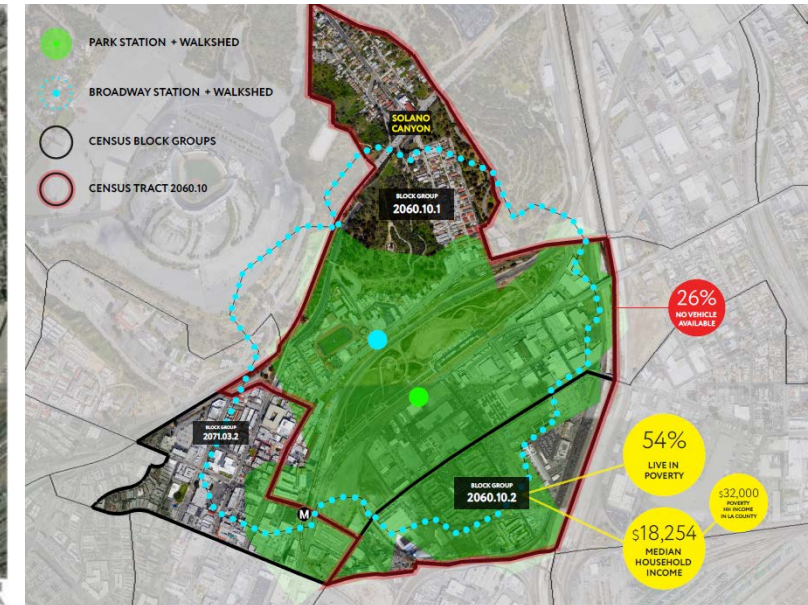
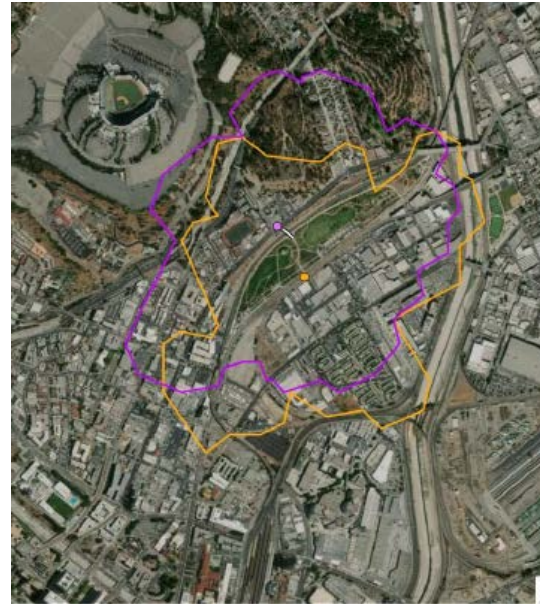


# Intermediate Station Walkshed | CalEnviroScreen

Both station alternatives increase transit access beyond that provided by the existing Metro Chinatown station

The Spring Street Alternative encompasses additional areas and more River access

Emissions benefits and increased access can be provided for the area between Union Station and Dodger Stadium, which includes disadvantaged communities identified by CalEnviroScreen 3.0 as in the top 98% of CA communities burdened by pollution





# Views from a Cabin | Get There By Air

LA ART enhances transit rider experience by providing panoramic, unique scenic views of Los Angeles and iconic Dodger Stadium





# LA ART Dodger Stadium Station (Concept Design)



# Metro Community Outreach Plan

- With the Notice of Preparation, expanded outreach will begin consistent with the Metro Community Outreach Plan for LA ART
- LA ART has initiated early outreach to key stakeholders along the route
- Metro staff has worked with LA ART to develop the Community Outreach Plan to expand engagement and broaden outreach during the environmental review process
- Numerous opportunities will be made available for environmental review participation
  - A “Virtual Open House” will be online during the NOP Scoping Period providing information about the proposed LA ART project and how to get involved
  - A “Virtual Scoping Meeting” will be held on October 22
- In conjunction with Metro’s NOP mailing, LA ART is mailing information to community members along the route and additional stakeholders, including a link to website information with translation available in English, Cantonese, Spanish and other languages





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RETHINK GETTING THERE

Thank You



LA ART