



Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Impact Report
Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project (proposed Project). LA Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC is the Project Sponsor for the proposed Project. The Draft EIR evaluates the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed Project and provides mitigation measures where required. This notice is being provided to announce and solicit input on the Draft EIR.

Project Location: The proposed Project is located in the City of Los Angeles, situated northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The proposed Project would originate adjacent to the Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) and El Pueblo de Los Angeles (El Pueblo) in the south and terminate at Dodger Stadium in the north, with an intermediate station at the southernmost entrance of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. Figure 1 provides an overview of the proposed Project location. The proposed Project would generally be located within public right-of-way (ROW) or on publicly owned property, following Alameda Street and then continuing along Spring Street in a northeast direction through the community of Chinatown to the southernmost corner of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The alignment would then continue northeast over the western edge of the Los Angeles State Historic Park and the Metro L Line (Gold) to the intersection of North Broadway and Bishops Road. At this intersection, the proposed Project alignment would turn and continue northwest following Bishops Road toward its terminus at Dodger Stadium, located in the Elysian Park community.

Project Description: The proposed Project would connect LAUS to the Dodger Stadium property via an aerial gondola system. The proposed Project would include an intermediate station at the southernmost entrance of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The proposed Project would provide an aerial rapid transit (ART) option for visitors to Dodger Stadium, while also providing access between the Dodger Stadium property, the surrounding communities, including Chinatown, Mission Junction, Elysian Park, and Solano Canyon, and the Los Angeles State Historic Park, to the regional transit system accessible at LAUS. The aerial gondola system would be approximately 1.2 miles and consist of cables, three passenger stations, a non-passenger junction, three towers, and gondola cabins. When complete, the proposed Project would have a maximum capacity of approximately 5,000 people per hour per direction, and the travel time from LAUS to Dodger Stadium would be approximately 7 minutes. The proposed Project would provide pedestrian improvements, including hardscape and landscape improvements, as well as amenities at the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The ART system has the ability to overcome grade and elevation issues between LAUS and Dodger Stadium and provide safe, zero emission, environmentally friendly, and high-capacity transit connectivity in the Project area that would reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as a result of reduced vehicular congestion in and around Dodger Stadium and on neighborhood streets, arterial roadways, and freeways. The proposed Project would operate daily to serve existing residents, workers, park users, and visitors to Los Angeles.



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Established aerial gondola transit systems worldwide, such as in La Paz, Bolivia, and Mexico City, Mexico, are being used as rapid transit for the urban population that they serve. The proposed Project would employ a Tricable Detachable Gondola system (also known as “3S”). 3S Gondola system cabins carry approximately 30 to 40 passengers. Similar systems are used in Koblenz, Germany, Phu Quoc, Vietnam, and Toulouse, France. Figure 2 provides examples of gondola systems that are currently operating in several urban locations around the world.

Summary of Environmental Effects: This Draft EIR is a public information document that assesses the potential physical environmental impacts that could result from construction and use of the proposed Project, recommends mitigation measures to lessen or eliminate adverse impacts, examines feasible alternatives to the proposed Project, and is intended to inform Metro, the responsible agencies, and the general public. The Draft EIR evaluates potential physical environmental impacts that could result from the proposed Project and identifies that the proposed Project may have significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas:

- Noise and Vibration

COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIR: Metro issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft EIR on October 1, 2020. The Draft EIR for the proposed Project is in compliance with the CEQA (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, §§ 15000 et seq.). The Draft EIR for the proposed Project is also being prepared under the California Senate Bill 44 judicial streamlining legislation (California Environmental Quality Act: Environmental Leadership Transit Projects) that added provisions to CEQA as Public Resources Code Section 21168.6.9 for environmental leadership transit projects.

The Draft EIR is being made available for public review for a 60-day comment period, commencing on October 17, 2022 and concluding on December 16, 2022. In addition to the above and consistent with the procedural requirements of Section 21168.6.9, the Draft EIR and all other documents submitted to or relied upon by the lead agency in the preparation of the Draft EIR can be accessed and downloaded from the following website: <https://www.metro.net/projects/aerial-rapid-transit/>. Electronic copies of the document can be made available upon written request to Metro and mailed to recipients for the cost of materials and shipping.

Hard copies of the Draft EIR (and electronic copies of the supporting appendices and technical documents) will be available for public review at the following repositories. Please check hours of operation at the repositories listed prior to visiting.

- Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Chinatown Branch Library, 639 N Hill St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Cypress Park Branch Library, 1150 Cypress Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90065
- Metro Headquarters, Dorothy Peyton Gray Library, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

In addition, a document prepared by the lead agency or submitted by the applicant after the date of the release of the Draft EIR that is a part of the record of proceedings, and comments received on the Draft EIR, will be made available to the public on the same website



(<https://www.metro.net/projects/aerial-rapid-transit/>) in a readily accessible electronic format within the timeframes specified by Section 21168.6.9.

Also consistent with and in addition to the procedural requirements of Section 21168.6.9, which requires one informational workshop and one public hearing to be conducted, Metro will conduct two informational workshops within 10 days after the release of the Draft EIR to inform the public of the key analyses and conclusions of the Draft EIR, and will hold two public hearings to receive testimony on the Draft EIR within 10 days before the close of the public comment period.

INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE DRAFT EIR

Meeting details for the informational workshops and public hearings on the Draft EIR are available at the following website: <https://www.metro.net/projects/aerial-rapid-transit/>.

Metro will conduct two **informational workshops** to inform the public of the key analyses and conclusions of the Draft EIR:

Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, an informational workshop will be held on-line via Zoom.

Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, an informational workshop will be held in person at the Los Angeles Union Station Ticket Concourse. (Subject to change depending on County guidance on COVID-19).

Metro will conduct two **public hearings** to receive testimony on the Draft EIR for the proposed Project.

Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, a public hearing will be held in person at the Los Angeles Union Station Ticket Concourse. (Subject to change depending on County guidance on COVID-19).

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, a public hearing will be held on-line via Zoom.

All informational workshops and public hearings will offer simultaneous Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin interpretation.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIREMENTS: Upon request, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats, and other accommodations are available to the public for Metro-sponsored meetings and events. All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other language must be made at least three working days (72 hours) prior to the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (323) 466-3876 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + Metro phone number.



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Metro is hereby releasing this Draft EIR, finding it to be accurate and complete and ready for public review. Members of the public are invited to comment on the Draft EIR and the proposed Project. There is no fee for commenting, and all comments received will be considered by Metro prior to finalizing the EIR and making a decision on the proposed Project. Comments on the Draft EIR should focus on the Project area and description, sufficiency of the EIR in discussing possible impacts on the physical environment, ways in which potential adverse effects might be minimized, and alternatives to the proposed Project in light of the EIR's purpose to provide useful and accurate information about such factors.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR. Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing, by phone, or orally during the public hearings described above. Written comments and comments by phone concerning the Draft EIR should be submitted to the below email address or to the below mailing address or below phone number. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2022.

By Email LAART@metro.net

By Mail Mr. Cory Zelmer
Deputy Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6
Los Angeles, CA 90012

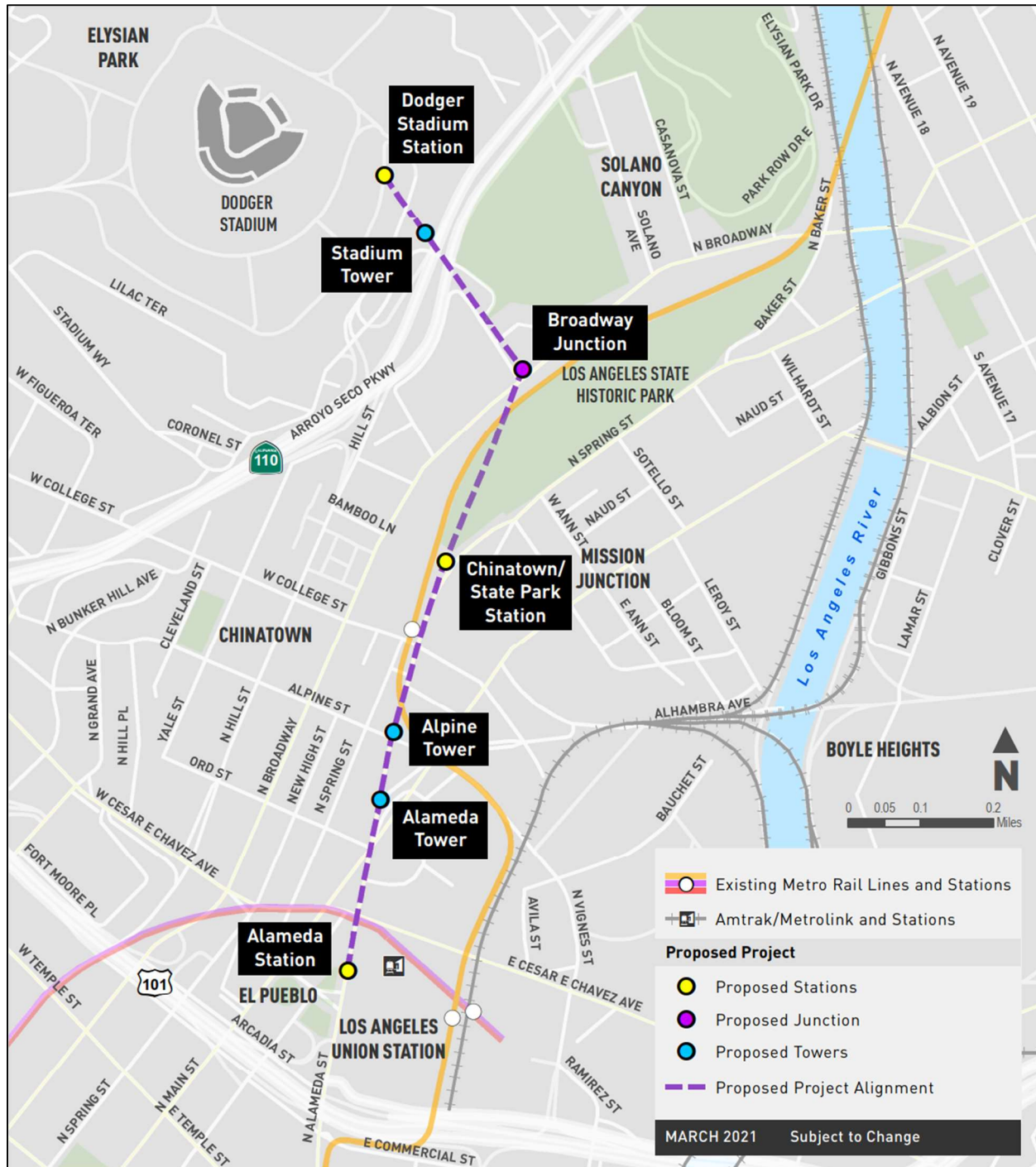
By Phone (213) 922-6913

All comments received during the Draft EIR public review period will be compiled and responded to as part of the Final EIR. If there are any questions regarding this notice, or how to review available documents, please contact Metro at (213) 922-6913.



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Figure 1: Proposed Project Location





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Figure 2: Examples of Gondola Systems



Portland, Oregon



London, England



Toulouse, France



Koblenz, Germany



Roosevelt Island, New York



Mexico City, Mexico



Phu Quoc, Vietnam



La Paz, Bolivia