

## **Appendix B**

### **Public Hearing Transcripts**

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**B.1 – Public Hearing, December 10, 2022 (In-Person)**

**B.2 – Public Hearing, December 13, 2022 (Virtual)**

**B.3 – Public Hearing, January 12, 2023 (In-Person)**

**B.4 – Public Hearing, February 8, 2023 (Virtual)**

## **Appendix B Note Regarding Transcripts**

The Appendix B transcripts for the public meetings on December 10, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 12, 2023, and February 8, 2023 are presented as certified by the court reporters. Accordingly, these transcripts contain a few typographical errors as they present the phonetic spelling or understanding of the court reporter tasked with compiling the transcript. Examples of such errors include spelling typos (e.g., “Dodger Scandium” rather than Dodger Stadium) and similar sounding words replacing the intended meaning of the speaker (e.g., “zero admissions transit” rather than zero emissions transit, and “Legion Park” rather than “Elysian Park”).

**Appendix B.1**  
**Public Hearing, December 10, 2022**  
***(In-Person)***

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)  
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 10, 2022

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The Public Comment Session took place  
on the Ticket Concourse at Los Angeles Union  
Station, 800 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles,  
California, at 10:00 a.m.

COMMENTERS

XIANGTIAN XU  
ANDY HALL  
JULIE RICO  
MIGUEL MELGOZA  
JENNIE LINHEYA  
PATRICK CHEN  
REBECCA OCEGUEDA  
ESPERANZA RAMIREZ  
ROBERT MACIAS  
GLORIA ANDRADE

RENEE YOUNG

JUNIPER WONG

BILL CHIN

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:18 a.m.

Comment - PH1

MS. XU: My name is Xiagtian Xu. I've been a resident of Chinatown for over 20 years and now that the government has invested a lot of resources into the LA ART project, once I heard of the news, I was very happy along with a lot of my neighbors. Not only is this project not going to cause any environmental impact in any negative way, it provides great convenience to people who want to get around.

In Chinatown, many years we haven't seen many other issues and I hope that the government is able to invest more resources to bring about more projects like this that is going to provide great convenience and reap benefits to the people who live in this area.

In terms of our environment and our ecology, these are the things that we find very beneficial. And other problems that I mentioned before, the bus arriving on time, is making our commute very difficult and inconvenient. So this

PH1-1

PH1-2

PH1-3

1 time, the LA ART project is bringing huge  
 2 benefits to us. We are very much supportive.  
 3 We're happy and we hope to see more of similar  
 4 projects in our community to benefit the people  
 5 and to benefit our environment.

cont'd  
PH1-3

6 And I would like to thank the  
 7 government and everybody who are in involved in  
 8 this project to bring such great convenience and  
 9 benefits to us and as a community.

Comment - PH2

10 MS. HALL: I was born and raised in LA  
 11 and I'm a long time community member of  
 12 Chinatown. I, my family, my neighbors, and the  
 13 people of LA do not need the gondola project.  
 14 This project is yet another misuse of our  
 15 collective time, funds, and energy. No one asked  
 16 for this and no one wants it. There are already  
 17 public transportation and shuttles that bring  
 18 people specifically to Dodger Stadium.

PH2-1

PH2-2

19 \$125 million for a limited worth and  
 20 limited use project is an irresponsible use of  
 21 funds when what we desperately need is better  
 22 public transportation and infrastructure. I am

PH2-3

1 all my elderly-working neighbors should not have  
2 to wait an hour or two hours for the bus just to  
3 get home or anywhere.

cont'd  
PH2-3

4 There is no hospital in Chinatown  
5 because of gentrification. Many residents have  
6 to go to the USC hospital and the quickest bus  
7 route from Chinatown can be a 28 minute bus ride.  
8 Nineteen minutes of that is walking.

PH2-4

9 Many residents in Chinatown are  
10 elderly or disabled living on \$1,000 a month with  
11 limited support networks. Put \$125 million more  
12 towards eliminating transit fare and faster  
13 public transit to station hygiene to bus shelters  
14 and real ventures to affordable and free housing.

PH2-5

15 Chinatown and LA as a whole has seen  
16 too many developments that ultimately harm this  
17 place and gentrify our communities. It's  
18 insulting that the people behind this project  
19 tried to mislead us into thinking that this  
20 project is a community good, to fool people into  
21 thinking that this is good for us. We know  
22 better than that.

PH2-6

cont'd  
PH2-6

1

Yes, that's it. Thank you.

Comment - PH3

2

MS. RICO: I am opposed to the gondola

3

project. I don't want the cars that are going to

4

be displaced from the Dodger Stadium parking lot

5

sent down to Chinatown where I live as a senior.

6

It will create havoc in our neighborhood. It

7

will suck all of the energy out of our

8

neighborhood. There will be pollution, garbage,

9

disease, and people will get run over because

10

there's a lot of seniors in Chinatown.

11

It doesn't -- the gondola does not

12

belong in Chinatown or anywhere near Chinatown.

13

It will be intrusive to homes. It will be

14

intrusive to our lives. It will change the flow

15

of Chinatown as it is now.

16

I'm just vehemently opposed to the

17

gondola project. That's it.

Comment - PH4

18

MR. MELGOZA: I have been a proponent

19

of this project from the beginning. As a 15 year

20

business operator in East Chinatown, I believe

21

that this will be helpful to the community and

22

also with transportation to Dodger Stadium. It

PH3-1

PH3-2

PH4-1



1 will ease up on congestion with traffic.

cont'd  
PH4-1

2 I think that we need to push this  
3 project and with the new city council coming  
4 into office, I think that she should also be very  
5 supportive of this project. Thank you very much.

PH4-2

Comment - PH5

6 MS. LINHEYA: I find the gondola ugly  
7 because I've been to like several cities and I've  
8 never seen a gondola in big cities. The only  
9 city that I saw that gondola is Medellin, Colombia  
10 because they have no roads and it would cause --  
11 I don't want the taxpayer to shoulder the cost of  
12 this project because McCourt is rich enough to  
13 pay for his own.

PH5-1

14 If that's going to be built with  
15 public funding, the public funding should be for  
16 the people, not for a private company. And I  
17 know that they -- I read somewhere that it would  
18 cost \$300 million with the inflation rate. I  
19 don't think it would be costing us more than \$300  
20 million to build this gondola. I'm done.

PH5-2

Comment - PH6

21 MR. CHEN: My name is Patrick. I'm a  
22 resident of Chinatown for over seven years and I

PH6-1

1 just want to give my comment on this proposed  
 2 project, LA ART. It does not look like it has  
 3 the community's welfare in mind with its proposed  
 4 plans. It doesn't seem like it's prioritizing  
 5 the needs of the community in terms of  
 6 transportation, housing, and other impacts. It  
 7 seems like it's just like a vanity project for a  
 8 billionaire.

cont'd  
PH6-1

PH6-2

9 And yes, Chinatown is facing lots of  
 10 challenges, especially around gentrification,  
 11 displacement of tenants, due to rising costs of  
 12 housing and threats of eviction and another Metro  
 13 project like that does not have community  
 14 interest in mind does not seem like it would help  
 15 the community at all.

PH6-3

16 So I oppose this project as it stands  
 17 and I don't see really a path forward for it to  
 18 actually benefit the community. Thank you.

Comment - PH7

19 MS. OCEGUEDA: Hello, good morning.  
 20 My name is Rebecca Ocegueda. And I am a resident  
 21 of Northeast Los Angeles.

PH7-1

22 As a resident, I am concerned about

PH7-2

1 this project for many reasons. First of all, the  
 2 enormous towers of the gondola will cause  
 3 aesthetic impacts on my community. I am  
 4 concerned that the towers and the views of the  
 5 wagons of the gondola will be used for publicity  
 6 and as billboards. The gondola project will  
 7 promote gentrification of our communities, in  
 8 particular in Chinatown.

cont'd  
PH7-2

PH7-3

9 The gondola project will have a great  
 10 impact on our public lands, especially in the Los  
 11 Angeles State Historic Park with its enormous  
 12 towers. This project will increase the impacts  
 13 of air pollution on account of the emissions from  
 14 the vehicles in the area that are already  
 15 overloaded with air emissions.

PH7-4

PH7-5

16 This project will provoke displacement  
 17 and will increase the cost of rent in the area  
 18 and we cannot allow that and this is especially  
 19 because for a lot of people it will increase the  
 20 cost of rent and people will not be able to pay  
 21 that and then we will have more homeless people.

PH7-6

22 And I beg you not to approve this

PH7-7

1 project which will use federal funds and will use  
 2 our taxes. And this will just enrich one person  
 3 who will be benefitted by the project. And do  
 4 not allow yourselves to be deceived by Mr.  
 5 McCourt who has plans to develop the parking lot  
 6 in the Dodger Stadium with the pretext that he's  
 7 concerned about environmental pollution.

cont'd  
PH7-7

8 Thank you very much. Thank you.

Comment - PH8

9 MS. RAMIREZ: My name is Esperanza.  
 10 And I'm here regarding the gondola project that  
 11 does not have benefits for our community. It is  
 12 a lie that they will replace the vehicles that  
 13 are going to the Dodger Stadium. The gondola  
 14 project will impact our cultural and historical  
 15 resources such as our state parks, Union Station,  
 16 and El Pueblo.

PH8-1

PH8-2

17 The Chinatown community and our  
 18 neighbors will be seriously impacted with the  
 19 displacement from the property. The draft  
 20 environmental report does not take into account  
 21 our complaints and is concentrated on the  
 22 benefits for our community and it's nothing but

PH8-3

1 lies.

2 The gondola will be nothing more than  
3 an invasion of the properties of the Chinatown  
4 residents whose homes are underneath the  
5 trajectory of the gondola.

6 Mr. McCourt is taking advantage of our  
7 resources for his personal benefit. We do not  
8 want the gondola and we will fight for this  
9 project not to take place. That's all. Thank  
10 you.

Comment - PH9

11 MR. MACIAS: My name is Robert Macias.  
12 And I am the president of the Youth Soccer  
13 organization and community organization, the name  
14 is Anahuak. For many years, we have been  
15 fighting for the welfare of our families and for  
16 better recreational opportunities for our  
17 community.

18 We are strongly opposed to someone  
19 with personal interest constructing an air  
20 highway over our state parks. I ask myself where  
21 will we retain privacy for persons?

22 I beg you not to approve this project

cont'd  
PH8-3  
PH8-4  
PH8-5  
PH9-1  
PH9-2  
PH9-3  
PH9-4

1 which will be use our federal funds and our  
 2 taxes. We oppose this gondola. Our communities  
 3 have stated our opposition and now it corresponds  
 4 to you to say no to the gondola.

cont'd  
PH9-4

5 We do not want you to repeat the  
 6 history that removed hundreds of Latino families  
 7 from Chavez Ravine. Thank you very much.

PH9-5

Comment - PH10

8 MS. ANDRADE: Hello. My name is  
 9 Gloria Andrade. I am 76 years old. I have lived  
 10 in East LA here for 35 years and for me I would  
 11 say stop the gondola forever.

PH10-1

12 Our taxes and federal funds should not  
 13 be used to make rich people richer. At this  
 14 time, there's a lot of problems in the streets  
 15 and we should also focus on these homeless people  
 16 who are human beings. And we should be watching  
 17 out for them. That's all.

PH10-2

18 INTERPRETER: Interpreter correction.  
 19 Where it said -- where I said there are a lot of  
 20 problems in the streets, I should have translated  
 21 as there are a lot of indigent people in the  
 22 streets. Thank you.

1 MS. OCEGUEDA: Thank you very much for  
2 your time. So I already said part of it.

cont'd  
PH10-2

3 It is nothing but lies. Mr. McCourt  
4 only wants to fill up his pockets with more money  
5 from our taxes. We oppose this gondola. Our  
6 communities have already stated their opposition  
7 and now it corresponds to you to say no to the  
8 gondola.

PH10-3

9 We do not want to repeat the history  
10 that pushed so many hundreds of Latina families  
11 out of Chavez Ravine. The gondola will not do  
12 anything to save the environment. Those are  
13 lies. Thank you very much for everything.

PH10-4

Comment - PH11

14 MS. YOUNG: My name is Renee Young and  
15 I am the president of NAWBO-LA, the National  
16 Association of Women Business Owners and we are  
17 the unifying voice for more than 750,000 local  
18 women business owners in the region and we are  
19 very excited about the LA ART project. We believe  
20 very strongly that this will bring business to  
21 local, small businesses in particular,  
22 entrepreneurs.

PH11-1

PH11-2

1                   We, as women, are one of the fastest-  
 2 growing groups of entrepreneurs in the country  
 3 and anything that drives business into our  
 4 community, into our stores, into our companies we  
 5 support. So we're very, very excited about this.

cont'd  
PH11-2

6                   We are also very excited about the  
 7 local business participation goal for 35 percent  
 8 and we encourage the project as they move forward  
 9 to make sure that we keep that as part of the  
 10 goal and engagement because again the more we can  
 11 drive business into our community, the more women  
 12 business owners and all business owners can  
 13 thrive and bring money back into our communities  
 14 and this just goes to build back. Women who left  
 15 the business world in droves during COVID, we  
 16 want to be able to re-engage those women. We  
 17 want to be able to offer them jobs and we believe  
 18 that this project allows us to do that.

PH11-3

19                   So again, we encourage the Metro and  
 20 the team to really move forward with this project  
 21 and we're looking forward to seeing it soon.

PH11-4

22 Thank you.



1 MS. WONG: As a volunteer and worker  
 2 in Chinatown who works with low income Chinese  
 3 seniors, I do not support this project. Seniors  
 4 with limited mobility do not want to be lifted  
 5 into the sky. They want suspended buses and  
 6 services in the area. They want reduced traffic  
 7 on game days, not redirecting more traffic from  
 8 the stadium to Chinatown where most people are  
 9 projected to park with no accommodations.

PH12-1

10 This past year, I've been canvassing  
 11 for civic outreach in Chinatown. I've knocked on  
 12 every door, met with nearly every resident asking  
 13 what people wanted for the city. The answer was  
 14 not a train in the sky to watch baseball games.  
 15 The answer was affordable housing, a market, a  
 16 grocery market in the neighborhood, a halt to the  
 17 rising cost of living which this gondola, as a  
 18 tourist attraction, would only contribute to.

PH12-2

19 Where College Station was built, where  
 20 one of the towers for this project is slated for,  
 21 has already been developed into a Chinese center  
 22 catering to well-off newcomers, not the long-

PH12-3

1 time, low-income residents who they've already  
2 displaced and who continue to displace.

cont'd  
PH12-3

3 I believe LA Metro's priorities are  
4 skewed. There are other entryways to Dodger  
5 Stadium. Why choose to run this project through  
6 the second poorest neighborhood in LA? It says  
7 everything that you would spend time and money  
8 catering to a seasonal entertainment issue and  
9 not the truly urgent actually life-threatening  
10 issues of displacement that our most vulnerable  
11 Chinatown residents face which is becoming  
12 unhoused.

PH12-4

13 And to that greater point, this whole  
14 process has been obfuscated and inaccessible for  
15 community input. Just today, I had tenants,  
16 Chinese seniors in attendance who wrote written  
17 comments. One of the interpreters read her  
18 comments in Chinese, came up to me and said her  
19 point of prioritizing affordable housing over the  
20 gondola was illegitimate. That is not his  
21 jurisdiction to say that to me. He cannot  
22 overrule a long time resident's personal point of

PH12-5

1 view, that the land this is being built on should  
2 be used to better the most vulnerable in the  
3 neighborhood is absolutely a legitimate and  
4 glaringly urgent point of all of this.

cont'd  
PH12-5

Comment - PH13

5 MR. CHIN: Okay. My name is Bill  
6 Chin. B-I-L-L C-H-I-N. I've been looking at the  
7 boards that are on the easel. They tend to be  
8 very vague and I think they're very vague  
9 intentionally, so it's not within the  
10 capabilities of actually seeing towers when there  
11 are supposed to be towers very long and tall and  
12 they look very faint on purpose.

PH13-1

13 And there's also no scaling on there  
14 and the people from, I guess, MTA, who are  
15 running the show, they're kind of vague in terms  
16 of their language. They say it's a station as  
17 Bishop and Broadway. I said are you sure it's a  
18 station? Oh, no, it's a tower. No, it's a  
19 facility. I said what do you mean by facility?  
20 Well, it's like a tower, but it's bigger than a  
21 tower. I said well, what does it do? And he  
22 wasn't sure except that it has to be big, so they

1 could turn.

2 So at that point I thought even I  
3 speak very clearly, concisely, and correctly in  
4 English, and when somebody is trying to help me  
5 understand the project, it doesn't seem to work  
6 out very well. It's very frustrating to read and  
7 not read too much which is vague and then  
8 somebody not being very clear, it's even worse.  
9 So I don't know if reading and listening is going  
10 to do anything because I can't experience it or  
11 understand it without some kind of preliminary  
12 sources. That's all I want to say.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 went off the record at 11:55 a.m. and resumed at  
15 11:55 a.m.)

16 MR. CHIN: Okay, my name is Bill Chin,  
17 B-I-L-L C-H-I-N. I don't -- I'm against the  
18 gondola, but there are two things that I do like  
19 that I think can be done to improve the community  
20 where I live in Chinatown. One is to put more  
21 parkway that was proposed around the Chinatown  
22 station on the sidewalk, like trees and bathrooms

cont'd  
PH13-1

PH13-2

PH13-3

1 and bicycle facilities that could be used for the  
2 Gold Line.

cont'd  
PH13-3

3 And the other things is the bridge,  
4 pedestrian bridge, they come from Broadway into  
5 the park could be very useful to cut down on  
6 traffic, so I don't have to take my car to the  
7 east side of the historical park in order to walk  
8 into the park. I can just walk while I'm shopping  
9 across Broadway into the park by way of a  
10 pedestrian bridge.

PH13-4

11 So I am officially against the  
12 gondola, but I do see these two things as  
13 beneficial. I also want to say that the gondola  
14 station and the Union Station gondola station  
15 seems to be repetitive of the Gold Line since we  
16 do have people coming from Union Station who  
17 would go to Chinatown by way of the Gold Line and  
18 there is a Gold Line station in Chinatown  
19 already.

PH13-5

20 So I think all that's needed is  
21 electric vehicles that would transport people  
22 from wherever that they need to come to to Dodger

PH13-6

1 Stadium either from Union Station or from Gene  
2 Autry Museum or from the airport or any other  
3 places, just like they do with the Hollywood  
4 Bowl. You can take a charter bus from Gene Autry  
5 to Hollywood Bowl. Thank you.

cont'd  
PH13-6

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
7 went off the record at 11:57 a.m.)

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**7**  


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**8**  


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**800** 1:9

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-10-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)  
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 10, 2022

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place  
on the Ticket Concourse at Los Angeles Union  
Station, 800 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles,  
California, at 10:00 a.m.

COMMENTERS

ANDREW VOUGHT  
BILL CHIN  
MARC FUTERNICK  
TERI VANDERBERG  
DOUGLAS CARSTENS  
KENNETH CHAN  
JONATHAN BERMAN  
BALDOMERO CAPIZ  
MARIA ELENA PADINO  
DISRAELY BUTLER  
  
TANY LING  
  
PHYLLIS LING

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(10:00 a.m.)

Comment - PH14

1  
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22

MS. KING: All right. Recording is going. If you please state your name and spell it for the record.

MR. VOUGHT: My name is Andrew Vought. V as in Victor, O-U-G-H-T.

MS. KING: Great.

MR. VOUGHT: And I'm an Angeleno resident. I'm here today to voice my strong opposition to the proposed gondola. The only benefit from the gondola is that it allows a real estate developer to get richer developing the Dodgers parking lot. The rest of us all lose. Private gain equals public pain.

The Angelenos who use our beautiful state park lose. Two acres will be carved out of Los Angeles State Historic Park for a station, and gondolas will fly directly over the park. No more kite flying.

Dodger fans lose because the arithmetic does not work for the thousands of

PH14-1

PH14-2

PH14-3

PH14-4

1 rides promised. Fans will need to wait one or  
2 two hours after the game for a six-minute ride.  
3 Who wants that?

cont'd  
PH14-4

4 Taxpayers lose because the cost of  
5 operating the gondola will not be paid by the  
6 billionaire developer. These costs will be paid  
7 by tax-payers.

PH14-5

8 This park was won in 2000 in a fight  
9 with real estate developers who wanted to put in  
10 big box warehouses. The people wanted a park  
11 instead, and we got our State Park. Now the  
12 State Park is again threatened by a real estate  
13 developer. Please don't destroy our State Park.  
14 Thanks. I'm sorry, I tapped that --

PH14-6

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
16 went off the record at 10:17 a.m. and resumed at  
17 10:22 a.m.)

CONTINUED  
Comment - PH13

18 MR. CHIN: What do you need from me?

19 MS. KING: If you could just state and  
20 spell your name, please, and then you can begin  
21 your comment.

PH13-7

22 MR. CHIN: Bill Chin. B-I-L-L, C-H-I-

1 N.

2 MS. KING: Great.

3 MR. CHIN: So this is being recorded  
4 and typed?

5 MS. KING: Recorded. The typing is  
6 just notes for now. It will later be transcribed  
7 I believe.

8 MR. CHIN: Oh, okay. So I heard that  
9 there might -- I heard that the California State  
10 Park that runs the historical park has not given  
11 permission yet or they're thinking about the  
12 gondola being part of or on the State Park  
13 property. So I was wondering, why is that? Is  
14 that because they're not committed? Or they just  
15 want to see what the interest level is before the  
16 state decides, okay. We'll go with public  
17 interest and compromise the design and the plan  
18 of our state park. Period.

19 My concern is, the state park has a  
20 goal in mind, and they've designed it well for  
21 the community. And I would not like to see their  
22 original plan compromised in any way by the

cont'd  
PH13-7

PH13-8

PH13-9

1 gondola project, whether that means cutting trees  
2 or putting structure very close to the State Park  
3 where the State Park will feel like there is a  
4 compromise of the original design and landscaping  
5 or of cutting of trees because the cables are too  
6 low, or they need some height in the park to run  
7 their cars through the park. Period. Is that  
8 concise enough?

9 PARTICIPANT: That was perfect.

10 MR. CHIN: Oh, really?

11 PARTICIPANT: Yeah.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 10:24 a.m. and resumed at  
14 10:32 a.m.)

15 MS. KING: All right. Your name  
16 again?

17 MR. CHIN: Bill Chin. B-I-L-L, C-H-I-  
18 N. I looked at the project and the  
19 environmental. I probably don't have any  
20 problems with the five or six towers in terms of  
21 the height. But LA and Los Angeles being so  
22 creative and also very close to the art industry

cont'd  
PH13-9

PH13-10

PH13-11

PH13-12



1 and Hollywood, that there should be something  
2 done about concrete and more fashionable other  
3 than flat surface and square corners.

4 If you make it look like a tree or  
5 round off the corners like you see in modern  
6 apartments, where you take a piece of metal and  
7 nail it on the stud and then put sheet rock to  
8 it, then it softens the corner, just like in  
9 museums throughout the world. So that's not much  
10 to ask for because concrete can be molded into  
11 rounder corners. Make it look more organic.  
12 Period.

13 MS. KING: Thank you.

14 MR. CHIN: I have something --

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
16 went off the record at 10:34 a.m. and resumed at  
17 10:40 a.m.)

cont'd  
PH13-12

PH13-13

Comment - PH15

18 MS. KING: -- minutes. Great, we're  
19 recording.

20 MR. FUTERNICK: Hi. My name is Marc  
21 Futernick. M-A-R-C. Last name F-U-T-E-R-N-I-C-K.

22 MS. KING: Please.

PH15-1

1                   MR. FUTERNICK: I'm an emergency  
 2                   physician. I live in Pasadena, but I drive,  
 3                   every day that I come to work, through this area.  
 4                   I'm really focused on the impact of climate  
 5                   change and air pollution on our health, and this  
 6                   gondola will improve both of those. It'll open  
 7                   the door to another mode of zero-emission  
 8                   transportation here in Los Angeles.

cont'd  
PH15-1

PH15-2

9                   The gondola will serve as a first and  
 10                  last-mile connector from our main central  
 11                  transportation hub at LA Union Station to Dodger  
 12                  Stadium, the most-attended venue in major league  
 13                  baseball that lacks a permanent transit option,  
 14                  and not just for games but for many events. This  
 15                  also makes a key transit connection to Elysian  
 16                  Park, the city's oldest and second-largest park  
 17                  and, again, is not currently served by transit.

PH15-3

18                  And my main interest, personally, are  
 19                  the co-benefits of connectivity, active  
 20                  transport, reduced congestion, reduced greenhouse  
 21                  gas emissions, and decreased local air pollution  
 22                  in the surrounding communities of Solano Canyon,

PH15-4

1 Victor Heights, and William Mead Homes. This  
2 will protect their health and improve people's  
3 daily lives in the area.

cont'd  
PH15-4

4 And lastly, zero-emission transit was  
5 formed to advance and accelerate zero-emission  
6 technology in the transportation sector, which is  
7 critical to a climate-resilient future for Los  
8 Angeles. And this project will demonstrate the  
9 value of this approach to the community and to  
10 our environment. Please approve this project.

PH15-5

11 MS. KING: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 10:42 a.m. and resumed at  
14 10:46 a.m.)

Comment - PH16

15 MS. KING: All right. We are  
16 recording.

17 MS. VANDERBERG: Hi. My name is Teri  
18 Vanderberg, and I am a resident of Chinatown.  
19 I've lived here over a year. And the whole idea  
20 of a gondola would upset the entire feeling of  
21 Chinatown and all the elderly Chinese people that  
22 live here. And this is their livelihood. This

PH16-1

1 is where they work.

2           They created that park for a safe  
3 place for us to all go walk, and I use that park  
4 twice a day for peace and quiet and tranquility.  
5 And having a gondola placed over in the park  
6 where people are going to be, by the thousands,  
7 getting on a gondola that is going to be charging  
8 \$30 a person to go one mile, which is a free ride  
9 if you take it on the bus here at the train  
10 station, and which is what thousands of us do.  
11 And then they all park free on our little  
12 streets, and we all take a bus over there.

13           There's no reason for a gondola. This  
14 is all about money. This is all about the  
15 gentleman who's proposing it because he wants to  
16 build beautiful buildings up there when the  
17 Dodgers aren't playing. So this has nothing to  
18 do with helping people, nothing for our  
19 community. It's all about money and wealth, and  
20 I'm very much against the gondola.

21           MS. KING: Thank you.

22           (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

cont'd  
PH16-1

PH16-2

PH16-3

1 went off the record at 10:48 a.m. and resumed at  
2 10:49 a.m.)

Comment - PH17

3 MS. KING: All right. We are  
4 recording.

5 MR. CARSTENS: Hello. I am Douglas  
6 Carstens on behalf of the California Endowment.  
7 We've been reviewing the gondola EIR and have  
8 some initial comments with more to follow in  
9 writing. We oppose the gondola project. Metros  
10 should not be pursuing this private project at  
11 Frank McCourt's behest at all, and Metro should  
12 not be the lead agency because the city of Los  
13 Angeles is in a much better position and is more  
14 properly designated as the lead agency. These  
15 points will be expanded in our comment letter.

16 First, regarding the EIR, the  
17 California Environmental Quality Act, it's a bill  
18 of rights for an environmental democracy. It  
19 ensures the twin goals of public participation  
20 and environmental protection are met, and EIR is  
21 the heart of CEQA. An EIR is not supposed to be  
22 a sales brochure or an infomercial for the

PH17-1

PH17-2

PH17-3

1 project.

2 It's supposed to be a unbiased, full-  
3 disclosure document that advises the public and  
4 decision makers of the impacts of a project and  
5 how those impacts can and will be reduced. The  
6 draft EIR presented by ARTT and Metro falls  
7 woefully short of these legal requirements for  
8 full and accurate disclosure and is biased in  
9 favor of the project.

10 The aesthetic impact analysis is a  
11 good example of how, instead of meaningful and  
12 accurate depictions of what the gondola towers  
13 and stations will look like in context, the EIR  
14 preparers have chosen distortions and force  
15 perspective depictions that minimize the visual  
16 impact of the towers and stations in context.

17 Instead of --

18 MS. KING: It's been two minutes.

19 MR. CARSTENS: Okay. Thank you.

20 Useful information, the EIR provides misleading  
21 depictions and half-truths. Information about  
22 whether the gondola cars will be used for

cont'd  
PH17-3

PH17-4

PH17-5

1 advertising and billboards is not disclosed,  
2 though it's known advertising will be a major  
3 component of the project. The omission and  
4 misleading half-truths is a common theme of  
5 different types of analysis in the EIR. In fact,  
6 the gondola's entire financial plan, when -- is  
7 my time up? It looks like you're --

8 MS. KING: Your time is up.

9 MR. CARSTENS: I just wonder, like can  
10 I make another set of comments or come back?

11 MS. KING: You can come back and  
12 restart your two minutes. Yeah.

13 MR. CARSTENS: Okay.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 10:51 a.m. and resumed at  
16 10:52 a.m.)

17 MS. KING: And we are recording.

18 MR. CARSTENS: Hello. This is Douglas  
19 Carstens, and this is the second half of my  
20 testimony because it was apparently two minutes  
21 on the first half.

22 In fact, the gondola's entire

cont'd  
PH17-5

PH17-6

PH17-7

1 financial plan, which the Metro board was  
 2 promised would be made available before the end  
 3 of September 2022, is missing altogether. The  
 4 gondola's missing financing is critical to  
 5 understanding how impacts identified in the EIR  
 6 will be mitigated by the project proponent and  
 7 how they will not be.

8           Since the proponent, Frank McCourt,  
 9 and his company, McCourt Global, has only  
 10 committed to funding about three percent of the  
 11 entire project budget, the shortfalls in  
 12 construction and operating revenues will need to  
 13 be made up somewhere, and it is most likely that  
 14 some, if not all, will come from public transit  
 15 funding sources, better used for public projects.  
 16 Mitigation of identified impacts will be  
 17 expensive but will be critical to protect the  
 18 neighborhoods and people living and working near  
 19 the project route.

20           Traffic, air pollution, parking,  
 21 noise, and recreation will all be impacted. The  
 22 noise section of the EIR identifies that there

cont'd  
PH17-7

PH17-8

PH17-9



1 will be significant and so-called unavoidable  
2 impacts from construction equipment. This noise  
3 and vibration will affect the neighborhoods  
4 around El Pueblo and in Chinatown. The vibration  
5 will threaten the physical integrity of the El  
6 Grito Mural and the Avila Adobe.

7 These impacts can be avoided by  
8 denying the project altogether or choosing the  
9 environmentally-superior alternative which, in  
10 the EIR is called transportation systems  
11 management, what comes down to enhancement of the  
12 Dodger express buses system.

13 The California Endowment opposes Frank  
14 McCourt's gondola and the potential waste and  
15 gifting of tax-payer resources that it  
16 represents, including public land, such as  
17 allowing Alameda Street and at the State Historic  
18 Park. The implications of which --

19 MS. KING: Thank you.

20 MR. CARSTENS: Oh, is that time?

21 MS. KING: That's time.

22 MR. CARSTENS: Okay. And let me see

cont'd  
PH17-9

PH17-10

PH17-11

PH17-12

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(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:54 a.m. and resumed at 10:55 a.m.)

MS. KING: And just your name again.

MR. CARSTENS: Okay. My name is Douglas Carstens, and I'm here on behalf of the California Endowment. So the California Endowment opposes Frank McCourt's gondola and the potential waste and gifting of tax-payer resources that it represents, including public land such as allowing Alameda Street and at the State Historic Park, the implications of which the Environment Impact Report only partially discloses in more incomplete and misleading half-truths.

Instead of promoting a private gondola to a private sport stadium, more like an amusement park ride than actual public transit, Metro should focus on enhancing actual public transit options with its limited resources and staff and board time.

cont'd  
PH17-12

PH17-13

PH17-14

1 We ask that you terminate the project  
2 review process immediately. If you do not  
3 terminate the project immediately, you, Metro,  
4 should transfer lead agency status to the city of  
5 Los Angeles to complete review and processing of  
6 the gondola project. Metro should not let itself  
7 be co-opted to serve the private interests of a  
8 billionaire, especially one who has bankrupted  
9 such a revered organization as the Los Angeles  
10 Dodgers. Stop the gondola now. Thank you.

11 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 10:57 a.m. and resumed at  
14 10:58 a.m.)

PH17-15

Comment - PH18

15 MS. KING: We're recording. If you  
16 could just state your name and spell it before  
17 you begin.

18 MR. CHAN: Yeah. Kenneth Chan. K-E-  
19 N-N-E-T-H. Last name, C-H-A-N.

PH18-1

20 MS. KING: Thanks. Go ahead.

21 MR. CHAN: Yeah. Coming out. I think  
22 I'm against this project. There's not enough

1 analysis on housing and gentrification from what  
 2 we've seen. Every time Metro comes in here and  
 3 builds one of these projects, it encourages  
 4 market-rate development and displaces longtime  
 5 tenets.

cont'd  
PH18-1

6 In addition, this is really treating  
 7 our neighborhood like a playground. It is not a  
 8 good use of funds. You know, we still have some  
 9 of the worst-maintained sidewalks, streets in our  
 10 neighborhood. We have a huge demand and need for  
 11 affordable housing in our neighborhood. This will  
 12 not resolve Chinatown's transportation issues.  
 13 It should not take me two buses to get to  
 14 downtown.

PH18-2

15 Overall, I think this project is a  
 16 waste of funds, and the show that's been put on  
 17 today completely ignores the community. And  
 18 yeah. I think that building this project would  
 19 be a huge waste of funds and a huge mistake, and  
 20 if folks continue to proceed with this and ignore  
 21 the voices of the community, they're going to  
 22 meet some real resistance. And I think it'll be

PH18-3

1 a waste of time for everybody.

2 So again, you know, we have a real  
3 need for affordable housing and a real need for  
4 real transit solutions, not some playground BS  
5 that's being funded by Frank McCourt.

6 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

7 PARTICIPANT: All right. Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
9 went off the record at 11:00 a.m. and resumed at  
10 11:05 a.m.)

cont'd  
PH18-3

Comment - PH19

11 PARTICIPANT: State and spell your  
12 name

13 MS. KING: All right.

14 MR. BERMAN: Does the two minutes  
15 include my name-spelling?

16 PARTICIPANT: No. I'm going to start  
17 it right after you finish.

18 MS. KING: We're recording now, so.

19 MR. BERMAN: I have a very long name.  
20 Ready?

21 MS. KING: Yes.

22 MR. BERMAN: Jonathan Berman. J-O-N-

PH19-1

1 A-T-H-A-N, B-E-R-M-A-N.

2 MS. KING: Please.

3 MR. BERMAN: Now? I am currently  
4 against this project for a number of reasons.  
5 First of all, it feels like a massive boondoggle  
6 of the ownership of the area of Dodger Stadium.  
7 My understanding of it is Frank McCourt and  
8 related people, who's already bankrupted the  
9 Dodgers and other professional teams, and that  
10 the end game of all of this is the development of  
11 those parking areas in Dodger Stadium as some  
12 kind of mall or LA live type of situation. So  
13 not being transparent about what that is.  
14 Furthermore -- let me know if I'm going too fast.

15 MS. KING: Okay.

16 MR. BERMAN: Furthermore, this  
17 particular event here is incredible biased. You  
18 have 20 booths manned by people, persons, by  
19 people who are in the employ of the people who  
20 want to move this forward. And the results seem  
21 pretty ordain. It's always no significant  
22 impact.

1                   Crowd control. You're going to have,  
 2                   for the games, 10 -- are we out of time? Are we  
 3                   going to have like 10,000 more people getting out  
 4                   of the stadium at the same time getting into  
 5                   these gondolas? That's going to be a special  
 6                   show of consternation. So yeah.

PH19-4

7                   My main -- also the environmental  
 8                   review. The idea that there are 10,000 parking  
 9                   spots in Chinatown is laughable at best given  
 10                  that most of these, many of these properties are  
 11                  being redeveloped as commercial or residential  
 12                  properties, some of the lots close at night.

PH19-5

13                  So I just think it's not that well  
 14                  thought out. I mean the ultimate thing is that  
 15                  this funding that will ultimately come out of  
 16                  taxpayers' dollars should go towards homeless,  
 17                  helping get people off the streets, mentally-ill  
 18                  people and other people who are living on the  
 19                  streets, rather than putting billions towards a  
 20                  project that's not going to happen in the four --  
 21                  that this will come out in four years is insane.  
 22                  That's not going to happen.

PH19-6

1 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

2 MS. KING: Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 11:08 a.m. and resumed at  
5 11:09 a.m.)

cont'd  
PH19-6

Comment - PH20

6 MS. KING: So we're recording now, and  
7 you can just start by stating his name and  
8 spelling.

9 MR. CAPIZ (Speaking through  
10 translator): My name is Baldomero Capiz. B-A-L-  
11 D-O-M-E-R-O. I am the president of the  
12 organization National Union of Ex Berceros. As a  
13 community leader, it is our responsibility to  
14 ensure that our taxes are not used for the  
15 benefit of third parties.

PH20-1

16 The gondola project is nothing more  
17 than an attraction, which has nothing to do with  
18 the protection of the environment. Metro already  
19 has a bus system which takes fans to the Dodger  
20 Stadium, and it is free. This project will only  
21 take advantage of our taxes for the benefit of a  
22 person who wants to make him or herself more

PH20-2



1 rich.

2 The gondola will only displace many  
3 residents in Chinatown, just as Latino residents  
4 were displaced from the lands where they now are  
5 living in Dodger Stadium -- where Dodger Stadium  
6 is now located, rather. Correction.

7 We oppose the gondola in honor of  
8 people who are known as landless, including the  
9 Ex Barceros. We robustly oppose that anyone with  
10 personal interests would construct an aerial  
11 transport.

12 MR. CAPIZ: That's it.

13 MS. KING: Great. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 11:12 a.m. and resumed at  
16 11:14 a.m.)

Comment - PH21

17 MS. KING: Okay. Name and spelling,  
18 please.

19 MS. PADINO (Speaking through  
20 translator): My name is Maria Elena Padino. M --  
21 or sorry. Correction. M-A-R-I-A, E-L-E-N-A, P-  
22 A-D-I-N-O.

1 MS. KING: She can begin.

2 MS. PADINO: I am a member of the  
3 organization Anahuak. Our organization has  
4 fought to be able to have more green spaces and  
5 parks so that our children are able to play. For  
6 many years, we have fought for our well-being,  
7 the well-being of our families, rather, and for  
8 better recreational opportunities for our  
9 community.

10 We do not want people with money, with  
11 personal interests to build an air highway above  
12 our State Park because it is abusing the privacy  
13 of people by having a gondola that would go over  
14 the homes of these people. Doesn't the privacy  
15 of these people count?

16 We ask for you to listen to us and for  
17 you to reject this project which will use our  
18 federal funds and our taxes. We oppose this  
19 gondola. Our communities have already  
20 demonstrated our opposition, and now it  
21 corresponds to you all to say no to this gondola.  
22 Thank you so much.

cont'd  
PH21-1

PH21-2

PH21-3

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
2 went off the record at 11:16 a.m. and resumed at  
3 11:19 a.m.)

Comment - PH22

4 MS. KING: We are recording. If you  
5 could please state and spell your name.

6 MR. BUTLER: My name is Disraely  
7 Butler. D as in David, I-S-R-A-E-L-Y. Butler  
8 the way it sounds.

9 MS. KING: Got you. And you can  
10 begin.

11 MR. BUTLER: All right. And do I need  
12 to state my case, honey?

13 MS. KING: Yes, please.

14 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Wonderful project.  
15 Of course, our Founding Fathers would be so proud  
16 of what we're doing here and what you guys are  
17 doing. And, of course, the great Nubian  
18 Pharaohs. My only concern is the noise factor.  
19 LAPD needs to relocate their heliports. They're  
20 flying too low, it's too noisy, and because of  
21 the Kobe Bryant incident, there is a situation  
22 that could be very dangerous, you know, with some

PH22-1

PH22-2

1 mechanical failures.

2 The other situation, there needs to be  
3 more regulation of the actual train horn  
4 industry. You can't always have everything on 16  
5 when you can turn it down to 8 and 7 and still  
6 have the same results. What's happening in our  
7 communities? People are getting vertical, the  
8 rooms are spinning around, blood pressure levels  
9 are going up, and all the other complicates  
10 related to frequencies. So those can be taken  
11 care of, I think everything else will take care  
12 of itself.

13 MS. KING: Great.

14 MR. BUTLER: See? I made it short.

15 MS. KING: Look at that. Thank you  
16 very much. Appreciate you.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
18 went off the record at 11:21 a.m. and resumed at  
19 11:30 a.m.)

CONTINUED 19  
Comment - PH13

20 MS. KING: Go right ahead.

21 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-  
22 L-L, C-H-I-N. I was at the booth for the

1 aerospace. So the question was, will there be  
2 trees that will be cut? They said yes. And then  
3 I asked, why is it that all the maps in your EIR  
4 and on your project shows no scaling? Like no  
5 millimeter per feet or how many feet per  
6 millimeter on the two-dimensional maps? And he  
7 says, oh, we don't know. I said, it's not  
8 appropriate within your capabilities if you guys  
9 are all engineers.

10 But it's appropriate if somebody told  
11 all the engineers, don't put any scaling on it  
12 because we don't want the public to figure out  
13 how much distance or height is involved. And  
14 therefore there's not scale. Just a map and a  
15 legend. And I really, really oppose that. Why  
16 do you want people to review the information when  
17 they can't scale down any distances on every map  
18 on thousands of pages?

19 PARTICIPANT: All done?

20 MR. CHIN: Thank you.

21 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

22 Appreciate that.

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
2 went off the record at 11:32 a.m. and resumed at  
3 11:36 a.m.)

Comment - PH23

4 MS. KING: All right. So just your  
5 name and the spelling, first, please?

6 MS. T. LING: My name's Tany Ling. T-  
7 A-N-Y, L-I-N-G.

8 MS. KING: Perfect. And you can  
9 begin.

10 MS. T. LING: Okay. I'm a resident of  
11 Chinatown. I am against this project. I think  
12 it's a giveaway to a billionaire, and I think  
13 Metro should listen very closely to the people  
14 who are raising alarms about this. Why are we  
15 constantly giving away the city to billionaires?  
16 Who are they really serving because it's not  
17 really the people? It's usually -- and the  
18 bottom line is, it's all about money, okay?

19 So I think the project is masquerading  
20 as a, it's masquerading as a public transit  
21 project for the greater good, but it's really a  
22 means for a billionaire to use public money to

PH23-1

1 take a step forward towards achieving his planned  
 2 huge development project at Dodger Stadium and  
 3 all the while promising that it won't cost  
 4 taxpayers money. But he has already transferred  
 5 the operation of this project to a nonprofit.  
 6 And guess what? Nonprofits can apply for federal  
 7 and state funding, which is paid for by  
 8 taxpayers.

cont'd  
PH23-1

PH23-2

9 There's been studies done to show that  
 10 this will not improve traffic in the area. It  
 11 will not improve air quality. It will actually,  
 12 could possibly bring more cars into the area.  
 13 It's going to be traveling not near people's  
 14 homes but over people's homes and not 400 feet in  
 15 the air but possibly as low as 40 feet in the air  
 16 above people's heads, above people's roofs.

PH23-3

PH23-4

17 I am against this project also because  
 18 it's going to completely change the character of  
 19 the State Park. Cutting down trees, putting  
 20 these tall imposing towers and stations in the  
 21 State Park that the community worked so hard to  
 22 bring to life and to have this beautiful, open

PH23-5

1 space for everybody to enjoy. It can't happen.  
2 Let's not let it happen.

3 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 went off the record at 11:38 a.m. and resumed at  
6 11:39 a.m.)

CONTINUED  
Comment - PH13

7 MS. KING: All right. Just state your  
8 name one more time for us, please.

9 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. And  
10 it's spelled C, B-I-L-L, C-H-I-N. As I  
11 demonstrated to the recorder here that the  
12 Cantonese speaker does not really speak Taishan,  
13 and there were four Taishan speakers that came  
14 in. But they chose not to come in because they  
15 saw the sign that says Cantonese and no Taishan.

16 And it makes a big difference because  
17 Taishan could be intimidated. They're not  
18 educated, they're barely skilled, and to come  
19 into a big, unfamiliar place like this, it's not  
20 comforting for them to know that people don't  
21 speak their dialect. And I hope that changes in  
22 the future because it's been a misleading thing



1 to not bring enough people from the community  
2 already. Thank you.

3 MS. KING: Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 went off the record at 11:40 a.m. and resumed at  
6 11:48 a.m.)

Comment - PH24

7 MS. KING: All right. And your name?

8 MS. P. LING: Phyllis Ling.

9 MS. KING: And could you spell that  
10 please?

11 MS. P. LING: P-H-Y-L-L-I-S, L-I-N-G.

12 MS. KING: Great. And please.

13 MS. P. LING: Yeah. I think with this  
14 draft Environmental Impact Report, I think  
15 something that needs to be said is that there's  
16 still no funding plan and that all of these  
17 impacts and mitigations proposed are meaningless  
18 if there isn't sufficient funding for this  
19 project.

20 The fact that Metro is doing this  
21 draft EIR before there is any funding plan is a  
22 huge disrespect to our communities. It's wasting

1 our time. It's putting residents like me in the  
 2 position of having to spend thousands of dollars  
 3 on consultants and thousands of hours reading an  
 4 8,000 plus page draft Environmental Impact  
 5 Report.

cont'd  
PH24-1

6 It costs a lot of money to operate and  
 7 maintain systems like this, and it would run over  
 8 our homes and public spaces. A system that isn't  
 9 properly maintained will be noisy and unsafe and  
 10 fall into disrepair, be graffitied over, and be a  
 11 visual blight.

PH24-2

12 Crowd control is a huge control. It's  
 13 largely ignored or dismissed in this draft EIR.  
 14 People can die from crushing injuries and  
 15 stampedes. It's a huge issue. You're trying to  
 16 squeeze 40 people into each cabin. After events,  
 17 a lot of people will be drunk. There's very  
 18 little consideration for the impacts that will  
 19 have, the liabilities that will impose on the  
 20 city if it takes responsibility for this system.

PH24-3

21 I think you have to consider what  
 22 happened after the Elton John concert in the

1 parking lot. People bumping into each other in  
2 crowded spaces, bumping into cars, bumping.  
3 That's a huge issue. A lot of fights start that  
4 way, especially at Dodger Stadium.

5 And crowd control at the stations is  
6 a big issue also. There's very little  
7 explanation for how the lines will be spread out.  
8 We can't expect a magical ticketing system,  
9 reservation system to spread people out evenly  
10 over a two-hour period before and after games.  
11 And how are people going to arrive on time for a  
12 gondola reservation if they're supposedly taking  
13 transit to the gondola stations? And who will be  
14 able to reserve these tickets anyway? Is this  
15 going to be equitable or will VIPs and certain  
16 members of clubs have early access to reserve  
17 tickets? I think I've used up my time, but can I  
18 keep going?

19 PARTICIPANT: Go ahead.

20 MS. P. LING: I think visual impacts  
21 are a big issue as well. You have these leaning  
22 towers that don't look very stable or balanced.

cont'd  
PH24-3

PH24-4

PH24-5

1 They don't have the sense of good Fung Shui. I  
2 don't know if that's going to be addressed in the  
3 final EIR. Seems that it would be important to  
4 consider Fung Shui in Chinatown.

5 And then visual blight of advertising  
6 all over the gondola cabins, stations, and  
7 towers. This is going to be owned by a private  
8 company. Are there any limits to what they can  
9 advertise? Personally, I wouldn't want to see  
10 advertisements for liquor, alcohol, online  
11 gambling, cannabis, campaign and political ads,  
12 ads for authoritarian governments' propaganda, PR  
13 during the Olympics constantly streaming over my  
14 neighborhood. Those are just a few things.

15 And would we have any say as a  
16 community as to what messages are constantly  
17 being streamed over our neighborhood? The visual  
18 impact is that this would turn our neighborhood  
19 into an advertising district and Disneyland type  
20 of amusement park. It would cause destructive  
21 driving, it would hurt seniors, pedestrians, and  
22 cyclists. All right. Thank you.

cont'd  
PH24-5

PH24-6

1 MS. KING: Thank you. Appreciate it.

2

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 11:53 a.m. and resumed at  
5 11:55 a.m.)

6 MS. KING: All right. Go right ahead.

7 MS. P. LING: Phyllis Ling. P-H-Y-L-  
8 L-I-S, L-I-N-G.

9 MS. KING: Oh, go right ahead.

10 MS. P. LING: Okay. So my comment is  
11 that the parking study, I think we were told it  
12 was not part of the Environmental Impact Report.  
13 But it is being presented here on a board, and so  
14 it's a little bit confusing. Personally, I do  
15 think it should be a part of the Environmental  
16 Impact Report because it would -- people driving  
17 to the gondola stations and parking in our  
18 neighborhoods will have an impact on traffic flow  
19 in our neighborhoods.

20 And the fact that it's being presented  
21 here but then not a part of the Environmental  
22 Impact Report, to me, that's just very confusing.

1 And it seems like it sets it up as where it's,  
 2 the parking study doesn't need to be as thorough  
 3 or doesn't need to meet a certain standard as a  
 4 separate study outside of the Environmental  
 5 Impact Report.

cont'd  
PH24-7

6 It's just very confusing as to the  
 7 status of that. And I think it should be  
 8 officially included in the final report. And I  
 9 think there should be additional public review  
 10 and extended review time when the final EIR is  
 11 released. Thank you.

PH24-8

12 MS. KING: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 14 went off the record at 11:57 a.m. and resumed at  
 15 12:02 p.m.)

CONTINUED  
Comment - PH13

16 MS. KING: And we're recording.

17 MR. CHIN: By name is Bill Chin. B-I-  
 18 L-L, C-H-I-N. I've lived here for over 54 years  
 19 in Chinatown. And I'm against the gondola  
 20 because it seems like a repeat of the Gold Line  
 21 with stations and Gold Line at Union Station and  
 22 in Chinatown. But I do like to have a couple of

PH13-17

1 the benefits, which is a pedestrian bridge from  
2 Broadway into the historical park and to maybe  
3 see more trees along where the Chinatown Gold  
4 Line is located.

5 But I wanted to say that, when I'm  
6 traveling on Alpine and going eastward toward the  
7 post office, I see that the Gold Line has three  
8 towers that are very thick. And it's daunting  
9 that there's no trees all around those towers,  
10 very grey, massive, concrete towers. And even  
11 though these towers may be just as thick and not  
12 as closely sequenced, they should also have very  
13 well-maintained vegetation, if not because there  
14 are towers. It is because those places where  
15 those towers are, they should be landscaped with  
16 even more vegetation and without the gondola.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. KING: Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 went off the record at 12:04 p.m. and resumed at  
21 12:10 p.m.)

22 MS. KING: Just go ahead and state

PH13-18

PH13-19

PH13-20

1 your name one more time.

2 MR. CHIN: Yes. My name is Bill Chin.

3 MS. KING: Okay.

4 MR. CHIN: B-I-L-L, C-H-I-N.

5 MS. KING: And go right ahead, please.

6 MR. CHIN: I'm still concerned that  
7 information on the board is so very vague. When  
8 I ask questions about the parking study, it  
9 wasn't articulated what day of the week and  
10 whether it was a weekend. It was just said that  
11 it was game day. And game day could fall on  
12 weekends as easy as it does on weekdays.

13 Especially on weekends, where  
14 Chinatown is highly, highly, highly tourist, and  
15 people from adjacent neighborhoods always come  
16 back to Chinatown to buy bags of rice or bring  
17 family members or even tourists. And they really  
18 occupy a lot of their private, as well as street  
19 parking, in the parking lot from very early  
20 morning all the way to the evening time on  
21 weekends throughout the year, especially during  
22 the summer months during game season as well.

cont'd  
PH13-20



1           So this is very vague because you  
2           don't read it on the board. You don't see it on  
3           the writing. You hear it only if you ask  
4           questions. But you don't get to experience it at  
5           a glance. And so you assume that the experts are  
6           telling the truth about how many parking spaces  
7           that are available.

8           But if you come on a weekend, it is  
9           not true. All the parking lots are filled, paid  
10          parking lots. And all the streets, you have to  
11          like double-park to wait for somebody to leave  
12          before you find parking. Thank you.

13          MS. KING: Okay. Thank you.

14          (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15          went off the record at 12:12 p.m. and resumed at  
16          12:15 p.m.)

17          MS. KING: Ready when you are. Just  
18          state your name one more time.

19          MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-  
20          L-L, C-H-I-N. I had a comment about LA Art,  
21          whether it's McCourt or whether it's a nonprofit.  
22          It seems the nonprofit, I have no confidence that

cont'd  
PH13-20

PH13-21

1 they will be around after a gondola project like  
2 this is built, that they would be able to sustain  
3 the maintenance and the ongoing operating  
4 expenses for an endeavor like This throughout the  
5 year.

6           Whoever was chosen may be certified  
7 with nonprofit with the state, but I don't see  
8 that they have any resources that could manage  
9 with the operating expenses of a project like  
10 this and the amount of experience that they have.  
11 Thank you.

12           MS. KING: Thank you.

13           (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 went off the record at 12:16 p.m. and resumed at  
15 12:17 p.m.)

16           MS. KING: Recording.

17           MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-  
18 L-L, C-H-I-N. I've seen and read parts of the  
19 EIR, so I understand the different heights of the  
20 tower, but they don't delineate where the heights  
21 are at every hundred feet or interval. It just  
22 is a very vague, saying that there's average

cont'd  
PH13-21

PH13-22

1 height and maximum height. But they don't  
2 demarcate where they're located.

3 But being vague like that still  
4 doesn't stop me from asking if you are able to  
5 calculate the height of the towers and where the  
6 cables need to be. I would like to see  
7 statistics on how deep each of the seven towers  
8 are in terms of footing and how deep they go into  
9 the ground and whether there's been any  
10 preliminary soil report to determine at what  
11 height those footings should be. Thank you.

12 MS. KING: Thank you. Appreciate you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 went off the record at 12:18 p.m.)  
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21  
22

cont'd  
PH13-22

PH13-23

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**typing** 4:5

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**0**


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**1**


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**10:17** 3:16  
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**12:17** 39:15  
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**16** 25:4

**2**

**20** 19:18  
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**3**

**30** 9:8

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**40** 28:15 31:16  
**400** 28:14

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**54** 35:18

**6**

**7**

**7** 25:5

**8**

**8** 25:5

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-10-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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**Appendix B.2**  
**Public Hearing, December 13, 2022**  
*(Virtual)*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)  
PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 13, 2022

+ + + + +

THE HEARING CONVENED VIA  
VIDEOCONFERENCE, AT 5:00 P.M. PST, JESSICA SISCO,  
MODERATOR, PRESIDING.

+ + + + +

PRESENT

JESSICA SISCO, FACILITATOR  
CORY ZELMER

COMMENTERS

KATHERINE CHRISTMAN  
CHRIS WILSON  
MARY  
KATHLEEN JOHNSON  
BILL CHEN  
ELIAS GARCIA  
PHYLLIS LING  
TABITHA  
SPEAKER 18  
SPEAKER 19  
ERNEST LI  
SPEAKER 21  
WONG

KING  
LUKE MACDONALD  
MICHAEL  
DOUGLAS CARSTENS  
SPEAKER 27  
JIM STARR  
MELISSA  
MICHAEL CHONG  
EDWIN LEE  
ALAN WEEKS  
DARRYL SAUCEDO  
SPEAKER 35  
CARLOS GOMEZ  
LESTER  
SPEAKER 40-41  
KAYLA  
MONICA VASQUEZ  
MS. WONG  
JASON  
SHARON COLEMAN  
SARAH VAN DE CAMP  
BILL  
DIANE WEISS  
DREW MILLER  
DAWN HUANG  
CARLOS  
ERIC  
MONICA CRUZ  
MICHAEL BERG  
ALEX ALVAREZ  
SPEAKER 58  
CRYSTAL  
RON  
KATIE

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 Jessica: Okay.

3 All right. We'll go ahead and get started. So I'd  
4 like to welcome you to this public hearing for the Los  
5 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project Draft Environmental  
6 Impact Report. This project is proposed by Los Angeles  
7 Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC. And thank you for  
8 taking time out of your day to participate in this meeting.  
9 I'm going to say a few words about language accommodations  
10 during the meeting, and as I do so, I just wanted to give  
11 you all a heads up that even if you're listening to the  
12 meeting in English, you're going to want to select English  
13 as I go through these instructions.

14 So let's see here. I'm going to provide this  
15 information in English, and then I'll ask our Spanish,  
16 Cantonese and Mandarin interpreters to repeat it. So you're  
17 going to want to click on the interpretation button in your  
18 Zoom screen. This button is typically at the bottom of your  
19 screen, but the location will depend on the device you're  
20 using. And when I get through, the instructions will go  
21 ahead and enable that so you can find it.

22 And you're going to want to either click English  
23 if you're listening in English or Spanish, Cantonese or  
24 Mandarin. Then you'll want to, you're also welcome to  
25 download a translated version of the presentation at  
26 [metro.net/aerialrapidtransit](https://metro.net/aerialrapidtransit) to follow along in the  
27 language of your choice. And we've got that URL in the chat  
28 for you. And on the next slide, I'll show you exactly where  
29 to access the translated PowerPoint.

1                   And I will now ask the Spanish interpreter to  
2 repeat these instructions.

3                   Spanish Interpreter: [Spanish]

4                   Spanish Interpreter: [Spanish]

5                   Jessica: Thank you. I'll now ask the Cantonese  
6 interpreter to repeat the instructions.

7                   Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

8                   Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

9                   Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

10                  Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

11                  Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

12                  Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

13                  Jessica: Great. Thank you. And finally, I'll ask  
14 the Mandarin interpreter to repeat these instructions.

15                  Mandarin Interpreter: [Mandarin]

16                  Mandarin Interpreter: [Mandarin]

17                  Jessica: Great. Thank you very much. Okay. So  
18 we'll now enable the audio interpretation feature so that  
19 you can access it. So you'll want to look for the  
20 interpretation globe and you're going to click on it and  
21 select your language. I see a few people joined a little  
22 bit after the hour, so I do want to reiterate that if  
23 you're listening to the meeting in English, you'll want to  
24 click on the globe and click English so that you can hear  
25 any comments that might come through that get interpreted  
26 back into English.



1           So everyone should select the language. And we're  
2 also going to activate the recording for the meeting. So  
3 you may hear a slight break in audio as we activate that  
4 recording. And finally, I do want to note that if you're  
5 calling in via the phone, the interpretation feature,  
6 unfortunately, is not available in Zoom for phone-only  
7 participants. So you'll want to please log in to Zoom to  
8 access interpretation if you can.

9           Okay. So I'll just make sure that we got the  
10 recording enabled and we'll move forward. And I see one  
11 note came in from someone that wasn't able to find the  
12 global marker on their Zoom screen. So I'm going to have my  
13 team reach out to you and see if they can help you find it.  
14 Okay, so this is a quick screenshot of where you can find  
15 the presentations in all four languages at [metro.net/aerial](http://metro.net/aerial)  
16 rapid transit.

17           And we'll put the links in the chat for you as  
18 well. All right. Now that we have the interpretation  
19 enabled, I'd like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting.  
20 And I know that we have some representatives from Janice  
21 Hahn's office and the supervisor herself wanted to welcome  
22 you all and appreciate you participating in the meeting  
23 tonight. And with that, we'll go through the agenda.

24           Item number one is the purpose of the meeting.  
25 Item number two is how to participate in this virtual  
26 meeting. Item number three is a general overview and  
27 introduction. And item number four is a sequel process  
28 overview. Then we'll move into the overview of the L.A.  
29 A.R.T. project and then an orientation to the draft EIR,  
30 Key analyses and conclusions and finally a public comment

1 session and we'll provide more information about how to  
2 participate in the public comment session later in the  
3 meeting.

4           The meeting is scheduled to conclude around  
5 7 p.m. And finally, if you need assistance with Zoom,  
6 please use the chat function or you can see up on the  
7 screen you can email mary.nooristani@aecom.com or call  
8 6192519180 and we'll put that information in the chat for  
9 you. And I think there might have been one or two people  
10 that were reaching out about the interpretation so we'll  
11 have the team get in touch with you.

12           All right. So the purpose of this meeting is to  
13 inform the public about the draft Environmental Impact  
14 Report, key analyses and conclusions and to accept public  
15 comment on the draft EIR. And today's meeting is one of  
16 three public hearings being held during the draft EIR  
17 public review period. At today's meeting, you will have an  
18 opportunity to learn about the draft EIR, key analyses and  
19 conclusions, as I said, and you'll have an opportunity to  
20 provide public comment. Since the focus of the meeting is  
21 to provide an opportunity for verbal public comment, there  
22 won't be Q&A today.

23           And I want to note that during tonight's public  
24 comment session, we'll be taking verbal public comment, and  
25 communications typed into the Zoom chat will not be  
26 considered a formal public comment. But on the next slide,  
27 I'm going to look at all of the additional opportunities  
28 that there are to provide official public comment through  
29 January 17th, 2023.

1           So let's take a look at the ways that you can  
2 comment on the draft EIR through January 17th. Our third  
3 public hearing will be held at Cathedral High School on  
4 Thursday, January 12th, from 5 to 7 p.m. And you can also  
5 comment via email, regular mail and phone, and we'll put  
6 that information in the chat for you. The phone number for  
7 providing official public comment through January 17th is  
8 2139226913.

9           Okay. So how to participate in this meeting. When  
10 we get to the public comment session, you can raise your  
11 hand icon in Zoom by clicking on the hand icon or dialing  
12 star nine if you're calling in via phone. And you'll be  
13 called on to unmute yourself and provide public comment. A  
14 few notes about today's meeting. I wanted to reiterate that  
15 the last four meetings that were held in October, we had an  
16 opportunity for questions and answers.

17           However, today, because we will be focusing on  
18 public comment, there won't be any Q&A, it will be all  
19 public comment. And with that, I would now like to  
20 introduce Cory Zelmer, Deputy Executive, excuse me,  
21 Executive Officer with L.A. Metro.

22           Cory Zelmer: Thank you, Jessica. Good evening,  
23 everyone. I will start with a brief overview of the roles  
24 and responsibilities for [both] project and as Jessica  
25 already mentioned, the Los Angeles Area Rapid Transit  
26 Project is proposed by L.A. Aerial Rapid Transit  
27 Technologies LLC. Metro's role in the project is to serve  
28 as the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental  
29 Impact Report, EIR are under the California Environmental  
30 Quality Act, or CEQA, for the draft.

1           The EIR, which is out now for review, evaluated  
2 the potential environmental effects associated with both  
3 the construction and operation of the proposed project. As  
4 the lead agency, Metro has the responsibility to ensure  
5 that the EIR adequately assesses the potential project  
6 impacts of the proposed project, that the proposed  
7 mitigation measures to address the project impacts are  
8 appropriate and the CEQA process has been complied with for  
9 all public noticing, public outreach and the distribution  
10 of documents.

11           And as Jessica mentioned, we're currently  
12 accepting public comments on the draft, the EIR for CEQA,  
13 and she also went through a few of the ways you can provide  
14 comments, the public hearings that we're having tonight, in  
15 January by email, by mail, and also by phone, and we  
16 encourage you to make comments at any time that's  
17 convenient for you and to make comments as many times as  
18 you like up until the of the commentary.

19           Also as part of this project, we are utilizing  
20 Senate bill 44, which contains the CEQA process and was  
21 adopted last year to streamline judicial review for what  
22 are called environmental leadership transit projects in Los  
23 Angeles County.

24           Jessica: Cory, I'm going to ask that you speak up  
25 a little bit. It looks like we've got a couple of comments  
26 that came in that folks are having trouble hearing you.

27           Cory Zelmer: Sure.

28           Jessica: Thanks very much.

1 Cory Zelmer: The proposed project would be the  
2 first in environmental leadership transit project under  
3 Senate Bill 44. As part of SB 44, there are several  
4 requirements related to two public meetings. The first  
5 requirement is to hold at least one informational workshop  
6 within the first ten calendar days of the public comment  
7 period to inform the public about the draft EIR, analyses  
8 and conclusions.

9 Cory Zelmer: The second requirement is to hold at  
10 least one public hearing within the last ten calendar days  
11 of the public comment period to obtain public testimony and  
12 comments on the draft EIR. Now transitioning to an overview  
13 of the CEQA process itself.

14 Jessica: Really quickly, Cory, I just want to  
15 interject. There were a couple of people that were saying  
16 they were having trouble hearing, so I wanted to provide a  
17 reminder that you're going to want to click on the globe  
18 icon at the, usually at the bottom of your screen and  
19 select whatever language you are listening to the meeting  
20 in. So if you're listening in English, you need to select  
21 English to preserve that audio for you.

22 Please go ahead. Cory. Sorry about the  
23 interruption.

24 Cory Zelmer: That's okay. So for CEQA.

25 CEQA is required for all projects undertaking  
26 funded or requiring approval by a public agency.

27 The process is intended to inform the public and  
28 decision-makers about the proposed project, to disclose any  
29 potential environmental impacts that may result from a

1 proposed project and to provide multiple opportunities for  
2 the public to comment on environmental issues.

3           Typically with the CEQA process, there are two  
4 public comment periods.

5           The first is a scoping period which happens at  
6 the beginning of the CEQA process, and the second is a  
7 draft EIR public review period, which is what we're in  
8 currently. And also, as I mentioned, this project is  
9 utilizing SB 44, which has certain requirements related to  
10 the number and timing of public meetings during the draft  
11 EIR public review period.

12           So here's a timeline for the CEQA process and the  
13 preparation of the environmental impact reports. In the  
14 yellow box is where we are today. To the left of the yellow  
15 box are the activities that we've completed to date and to  
16 the right of the yellow box for activities we still have  
17 yet to complete. Starting on the far left, we started the  
18 CEQA process with what's called a notice of preparation,  
19 which was released in October of 2020.

20           The notice was intended to inform the public and  
21 agencies about Metro's intent to prepare an environmental  
22 impact report. The notice also started what is referred to  
23 as the public scoping period, which is the time allowed for  
24 the public and agencies to provide comments about the  
25 project and about the scope of the environmental impact  
26 report itself. During the public scoping period, we held a  
27 virtual open house from October 1st to November 16th, 2020,  
28 and a virtual scoping meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following the  
29 public scoping period in June of 2021, we held a community  
30 information session which was intended to inform the public

1 about the project and any updates to the project since the  
2 start of the CEQA process.

3           We held a second round of community information  
4 sessions in October of this year where we informed the  
5 public about the upcoming release of the draft EIR and then  
6 as we mentioned, the EIR itself. The draft EIR was released  
7 on October 17th, which initially began a 60-day public  
8 review period, which we have since extended to 90 days, now  
9 concluding on January 17, 2023. After this public review  
10 period, the process includes preparing what's called a  
11 final environmental impact report.

12           In large part, it includes responses to all  
13 comments received during this period with the completion of  
14 the final EIR. We will then take it to the Metro Board for  
15 certification and project approval soon after followed by  
16 the filing of a notice of determination that the EIR  
17 process is complete and the project was approved by the  
18 lead agency.

19           In terms of the public meetings held during the  
20 draft EIR public review period, we held two informational  
21 workshops, both in October, which were intended to inform  
22 the public about the key analyses and conclusions in the  
23 draft EIR. We have also held one public hearing so far;  
24 tonight is the second of the public hearings, and we have a  
25 third and final public hearing scheduled for Tuesday,  
26 January 12.

27           And again the [inaudible] for tonight the third  
28 public hearing is to obtain public testimony from the  
29 public about the draft EIR. And with that, I'll turn it now  
30 to David Grannis to provide a project description.

1 David Grannis: Thank you very much, Cory. My name  
2 is David Grannis and I'm a long-term transportation  
3 consultant for the project. I'm going to go through the  
4 project description. The project would provide the first  
5 permanent transit connection to Dodger Stadium. The travel  
6 time between Union Station and Dodger Stadium would be  
7 approximately 7 minutes for the 1.2-mile gondola ride. Up  
8 to 20% of fans could ride the gondola before and after each  
9 Dodger game. In addition to games and events at the  
10 stadium, the project would operate daily to serve existing  
11 residents, workers, park users and visitors to Los Angeles.

12 The project is zero-emission, environmentally-  
13 friendly rapid transit that would reduce greenhouse gas  
14 emissions as a result of reduced vehicle trips in and  
15 around Dodger Stadium and on neighborhoods, streets,  
16 arterial roadways and freeways. The graphic on this slide  
17 shows the project location and alignment. The project would  
18 commence adjacent to Union Station and El Pueblo and  
19 terminate at Dodger Stadium with an intermediate station at  
20 the southernmost entrance to the Los Angeles State Historic  
21 Park.

22 The project would connect surrounding communities  
23 of Chinatown Mission Junction, the Legion Park, Echo Park  
24 and Solano Canyon, as well as the Los Angeles State  
25 Historic Park to the regional transit system at Union  
26 Station. This slide shows several modern aerial transit  
27 systems which are feasible modes of urban transit operating  
28 in numerous cities around the world. Established  
29 [inaudible] transit systems worldwide, such as La Paz,  
30 Bolivia; Mexico City, Mexico are being used as rapid  
31 transit for urban populations that they serve.



1                   Similar to the systems used in Koblenz, Germany;  
2 Phu Quoc, Vietnam and Toulouse, France, the proposed  
3 project is a 3S gondola with cabins that carry  
4 approximately 30 to 40 passengers and offer a smooth,  
5 stable ride. As shown in the graphic on this slide. Pardon  
6 me. A gondola system includes passenger stations, a non-  
7 passenger junction, towers to support the aerial cables  
8 that carried the gondola cabins. The 3S system includes  
9 three cables. That's two track ropes for stability, to hold  
10 the cabins, and a third [haul] rope to circulate the  
11 cabins.

12                   Cabins detach from the continuously circulating  
13 [haul] rope and slow down upon entering a station for  
14 passenger exit and entry. Then they re-attach to the [haul]  
15 rope. The cabins allow for sitting or standing. They're  
16 fully [ADA] accessible and provide room for baby strollers  
17 and bicycles. As to purpose and need, the project will be a  
18 first last mile connection between the regional transit  
19 system at Union Station and Dodger Stadium [at] Legion  
20 Park, which draws large regional crowds approximately 100  
21 days per year.

22                   The vast majority of visitors to Dodger Stadium  
23 drive their personal vehicles, creating congestion and  
24 associated emissions throughout the surrounding  
25 communities, which are identified as being in the 90th to  
26 100th percentile of communities disproportionately burdened  
27 by multiple sources of pollution in the state. The Draft  
28 EIR identifies numerous project objectives, including  
29 reducing transportation-related pollution and greenhouse  
30 gas emissions as a result of reduced vehicle congestion,  
31 providing a sustainable form of transit with the use of

1 zero emission electricity and battery storage backup,  
2 enhancing safety in the neighborhoods around Dodger  
3 Stadium, identifying comparable, affordable and accessible  
4 fare opportunities, attracting new riders to the metro  
5 system.

6           The project alignment maximizes alignment along  
7 public rights of way and publicly owned property and  
8 minimizes aerial rights over private properties, taking  
9 into account existing and future adjacent land uses. The  
10 graphic on this slide shows the alignment primarily over  
11 public right of way and publicly owned property in teal. A  
12 national standard for roadways governing California by Cal  
13 OSHA regulates vertical and horizontal clearances between  
14 the roadway and cabins, the elements such as vehicles,  
15 pedestrians, vegetation, buildings and other structures.

16           The project's design goal is to develop a common  
17 architectural design that unifies the overall aerial  
18 gondola system, while allowing for each component to  
19 contribute to the respective localized urban conditions and  
20 conform with the surrounding urban environment. Of equal  
21 importance is the desire to minimize the perceived scale  
22 and mass of the stations, non-passenger junction and  
23 towers.

24           This slide shows the Alameda Station, which will  
25 be over Alameda Street adjacent to the planned Los Angeles  
26 Union Station forecourt and [inaudible]. The station  
27 stairs, elevators and escalators would be introduced on the  
28 west to the north of the [inaudible] in a proposed new  
29 pedestrian plaza at El Pueblo and on the east from the  
30 planned forecourt at Union Station.

1           The Alameda Tower will be located on the Alameda  
2 Triangle, a city right of way between Alameda Street, North  
3 Main Street, and Alhambra Avenue. The project includes  
4 landscape and hardscape updates to the Alameda Triangle,  
5 including reuse and irrigation of existing pavers. In part  
6 the integration of existing pavers. The Alpine Tower will  
7 be located at the northeast corner of Alameda Street and  
8 Alpine Street, adjacent to the elevated metro L or Gold  
9 mine.

10           This site is a city-owned parcel currently being  
11 used as non-public parking storage for city vehicles. The  
12 Chinatown State Park Station will be located adjacent to  
13 Spring Street in the southernmost portion of the Los  
14 Angeles State Historic Park. The southern portion is  
15 located on city right of way, and the northern portion is  
16 integrated into the southern boundary of the park.

17           The project would integrate the park's granite  
18 pavers. Station amenities include a mobility hub where  
19 passengers would be able to access a suite of first and  
20 last-mile multi-modal options such as a bike share program,  
21 as well as pedestrian improvements, including hardscape and  
22 landscape improvements, shade structures and potential  
23 seating. The project also proposes park amenities,  
24 including concessions and restrooms.

25           The Broadway Junction is a non-passenger junction  
26 that would be located at the intersection of North Broadway  
27 and Bishop's Road. The junction will turn the alignment and  
28 cabins up toward Dodger Stadium. Stadium Tower will be  
29 located on Hillside private property north of Stadium Way  
30 between the Dodger Stadium, downtown gate and State Route

1 110 to carry the cabins over state Route 110 and to Dodger  
2 Stadium.

3           The Dodger Stadium Station will be located at the  
4 southeast portion of the Dodger Stadium property near the  
5 downtown gate. Cabins at this station would arrive and  
6 depart from an [inaudible] boarding platform. One Dodger  
7 Stadium station would also include a pedestrian connection  
8 to Dodger Stadium, including hardscape and landscape  
9 improvements and potential seating. This station would  
10 include a subterranean area below the platform for storage  
11 and maintenance of cabins.

12           The project would provide a sustainable high  
13 capacity, zero-emission aerial rapid transit option for  
14 visitors to Dodger Stadium, while also providing access  
15 between Dodger Stadium, the surrounding communities and the  
16 regional transit system accessible at Union Station.  
17 Gondola technology is quiet, and the project would reduce  
18 vehicle miles traveled and congestion, leading to reduce  
19 greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality.

20           The Draft Environmental Impact Report includes  
21 detailed construction assumptions and analysis, including  
22 the timeline. Project construction is anticipated to take  
23 approximately 25 months, working hours construction  
24 equipment, the number of construction jobs, temporary lane  
25 closures. The project would implement a construction  
26 traffic management plan that would include detours and  
27 ensure emergency access is maintained throughout all  
28 construction activities. And thank you very much.

1                   With that, I'll turn it over to D.J. Allison with  
2 AECOM, who will go through the draft EIR's key analyses and  
3 conclusions.

4                   D.J. Allison: Thank you, David. My name is D.J.  
5 Allison. I'm a member of the CEQA EIR team, and I'm going  
6 to be presenting on the CEQA draft analysis and conclusions  
7 today. We're going to be going, we're now going to move  
8 into the draft EIR, key analyses and conclusions. We want  
9 to note that we have included quite a bit of detail. Can  
10 you go back a few slides there? We have included quite a  
11 bit of detail on these slides to be able to summarize the  
12 key analyses and conclusions of the draft EIR. In the  
13 interest of time, we're not going to read through the full  
14 content of each slide.

15                   Instead, this portion of the PowerPoint will  
16 provide a summary of the draft EIR's analysis and  
17 conclusions. For those who would like to review the content  
18 of the PowerPoint in more detail, you may download it,  
19 download the PowerPoint from Metro's web page. I also  
20 believe links to the PowerPoint have been put in the chat  
21 of today's meeting. All environmental resource topics, CEQA  
22 guidelines Appendix G are addressed in the draft EIR.

23                   Next slide. The esthetics analysis concludes that  
24 the project would not significantly impact visual character  
25 in its urban environment, significantly block scenic views,  
26 including that of the downtown skyline from the Los Angeles  
27 State Historic Park, or create a substantial source of  
28 light or glare. Impacts to esthetics would be less than  
29 significant. Agriculture and forestry. While the Dodger  
30 Stadium property has agricultural zoning, the property does

1 not contain agricultural uses and is subject to a  
2 conditional use permit which allows for the operation of a  
3 major league baseball stadium and ancillary structures and  
4 uses including mass transportation service. Impacts to  
5 agriculture and forestry would be less than significant.

6           The air quality analysis concludes that impacts  
7 would be less than significant because 1) project  
8 construction emissions would be less than significant,  
9 would be less than the significance thresholds for  
10 pollutants and emissions, and the project would result in a  
11 net reduction in criteria pollutant emissions by reducing  
12 vehicle miles traveled and thereby decreasing emissions  
13 compared to existing conditions.

14           To minimize impacts off-road diesel powered and  
15 construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower must meet  
16 tier four emission standards for non-road diesel engines.  
17 The biological resources analysis concludes that the  
18 project area generally does not 1) provide a habitat for  
19 special status species or 2) contain riparian habitat or  
20 other sensitive natural communities or protected wetlands,  
21 or 3) serve as a regional wildlife corridor. The project  
22 would implement pre-construction nesting surveys and  
23 measures to avoid and minimize impacts to bats and nesting  
24 birds during construction.

25           The project would replace removed trees pursuant  
26 to the trees to the city's native tree protection ordinance  
27 and other applicable requirements. Finally, impacts to  
28 biological resources would be less than significant, with  
29 mitigation incorporated. The cultural resources analysis  
30 included analysis of potential impacts to build historic

1 resources within the area of potential impacts, which  
2 includes Los Angeles Union Station Passenger Terminal and  
3 Grounds, Los Angeles Plaza Historic District, Cathedral  
4 High School and Arroyo Seco Parkway Historic District.

5 Potential impacts from ground disturbance to  
6 archeological resources within the area of direct impacts,  
7 including [inaudible] and Southern Pacific Railroad  
8 Station. To minimize impacts to cultural resources, the  
9 project would implement 1) project design features for pre  
10 and post construction documentation and protection of the  
11 winery and El [inaudible] mural, as well as protection of  
12 the mural during construction and 2) vibration monitoring  
13 and restrictions on force-adjustable ground compaction  
14 devices during Alameda stations construction.

15 To minimize impacts archeological resources, the  
16 project would implement 1) a cultural resources monitoring  
17 and mitigation plan and archeological resources worker  
18 implementation program, 2) a pre-construction archeological  
19 testing plan for the Alameda Station and Chinatown State  
20 Park Station and 3) potentially redesign of the Los Angeles  
21 State Park amenities to avoid archeological resources.

22 Impacts to cultural resources would be less than  
23 significant, with mitigation incorporated. The energy  
24 analysis concludes that impacts would be less than  
25 significant because 1) temporary energy consumption  
26 associated with the project construction would allow for a  
27 long-term reduction in energy consumption associated with  
28 project operations.

29 And 2) the project would reduce vehicle miles  
30 traveled and increase the number of people using public

1 transit, resulting in decreased use of fossil fuels.  
2 Geology and soils analyzed seismic hazards, unstable  
3 geology and expansive soils. This section also analyzed the  
4 potential for project construction to destroy unique  
5 paleontological resources. With implementation of a site-  
6 specific final geotechnical report, impacts to geology and  
7 soils would be less than significant with mitigation.

8           The northern portion of the project has the  
9 potential to encounter paleontological resources. However,  
10 impacts would be mitigated to less than significant with  
11 compliance with a paleontological resources monitoring and  
12 mitigation plan. The greenhouse gas analysis concludes that  
13 impacts would be less than significant. The project would  
14 not result in an incremental contribution of greenhouse gas  
15 emissions and would reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
16 compared to existing conditions.

17           The lifetime emissions of the project would  
18 result in a reduction of approximately 166,000 metric tons  
19 of greenhouse gases. Hazards and hazardous materials. The  
20 hazards analysis assessed project activities to determine  
21 their potential impact on creating conditions hazardous to  
22 the public or the environment during construction and  
23 operation of the project. With implementation of a soil and  
24 groundwater management plan, which would specify methods  
25 for handling and disposal of hazardous materials in the  
26 event that contaminated groundwater or soil are encountered  
27 during construction impacts would be less than significant  
28 with mitigation.

29           Construction of the project would not  
30 substantially impair or physically interfere with an



1 adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation  
2 plan. Finally, the operation of the project would not  
3 affect emergency response. The hydrology and water quality  
4 analysis concludes that, 1) the project would comply with  
5 all applicable water quality protection laws and  
6 regulations and water quality control and sustainable  
7 groundwater management plans, and 2) the project would  
8 incorporate best management practices and implement low-  
9 impact development plans.

10           Impacts to hydrology and water quality would be  
11 less than significant. The land use and planning analysis  
12 concludes that through temporary closures during  
13 [inaudible] temporary closures during construction would  
14 disrupt vehicular pedestrian and bicycle access. There  
15 would be a variety of options available for connections and  
16 access within the project area that would prevent closures  
17 from physically dividing established communities.

18           The project would enhance community connectivity  
19 by providing first and last-mile transit and pedestrian  
20 access enhancements. The project is consistent with  
21 policies, regulations, goals and objectives of all  
22 applicable plans, codes and ordinances. State Parks  
23 considers there to be an inconsistency between the project  
24 in the Los Angeles State Historic Park general plan and  
25 therefore a potentially significant impact because the  
26 general plan does not identify transit as a use for the  
27 park.

28           With the implementation of mitigation measure  
29 LUP-A which would require the project to obtain a general  
30 plan amendment, impacts would be less than significant. The

1 project would have no impacts to mineral resources. Noise  
2 and Vibration. The noise analysis concludes that the  
3 project's significant and unavoidable on-site construction  
4 noise impacts would be a function of the noise generated by  
5 construction equipment, the location of the equipment, the  
6 timing and duration of the noise generated in construction  
7 activities and the relative distance to noise sensitive  
8 receptors.

9           Noise from offsite construction-related traffic  
10 would be less than significant, and noise from project  
11 operations would be lessened. The vibration analysis  
12 concluded that vibration generated from on-site  
13 construction activity would have significant and  
14 unavoidable human annoyance impacts. Potential building  
15 damage impacts during construction would be less than  
16 significant with mitigation and vibration generated from  
17 project operations would be less than significant.

18           The project will implement a construction noise  
19 management plan, including noise barriers, equipment  
20 maintenance and community outreach, including a noise  
21 disturbance coordinator with placement of vibration  
22 monitoring equipment for the Avalon Adobe, the 1970s  
23 edition, the [inaudible] mural and the winery, as well as  
24 restrictions on the use of force adjustable ground  
25 compaction devices during construction of the [Alameda]  
26 Station. Potential building damage would be less than  
27 significant.

28           The population and housing analysis concludes  
29 that impacts could be less than significant because, as a  
30 first and last-mile transit connection to Dodger Stadium,

1 the project would not induce substantial population growth  
2 either directly or indirectly, and the project would not  
3 displace existing people or housing. The public services  
4 analysis concludes that while project construction and  
5 operation would create an increased demand for emergency  
6 services, the project would not create an additional demand  
7 that would result in the need to add any new or physically  
8 alter any existing public facilities.

9           The Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los  
10 Angeles Police Department would have adequate access during  
11 project construction. The project does not include housing,  
12 so would not increase demand for school services or other  
13 public facilities. With the implementation of the Traffic  
14 Construction Traffic Management Plan, impacts related to  
15 emergency access would be less than significant, with  
16 mitigation incorporated.

17           The Parks and Recreation Analysis studied the  
18 potential to impact parks during construction and  
19 operation, including Los Angeles Plaza Park, and  
20 [inaudible], Los Angeles State Historic Park and Elysian  
21 Park. The project would not increase the demand for parks,  
22 such that substantial deterioration of parks would occur or  
23 be accelerated. Impacts to parks and recreation would be  
24 less than significant.

25           The transportation analysis utilized both the  
26 CEQA guidelines and the city's transportation assessment  
27 guidelines. The analysis of vehicle miles traveled for the  
28 project employed a variety of data, methodologies and  
29 models in order to estimate project ridership, vehicle  
30 trips reduced vehicle trip length, and ultimately the

1 vehicle miles traveled. Benefit of the proposed project  
2 Ridership estimates are provided for Dodger Stadium game  
3 and event attendees, employees, tourists, neighborhood  
4 riders and Los Angeles [inaudible] for park visitors and  
5 event attendees.

6           The lifetime vehicle miles traveled reduction for  
7 the project would be approximately 130 million miles  
8 traveled. The project would have no impacts to vehicle  
9 miles traveled. The project would have less than  
10 significant transportation impacts during construction,  
11 with implementation of a city-approved 1) construction  
12 traffic management plan, including street closure  
13 information, detour plans, [inaudible], and 2) a temporary  
14 disaster route plan, which would include street closure  
15 information and detour plans in order to facilitate the  
16 movement of emergency vehicles.

17           The project would implement visibility  
18 enhancements at the Alameda Tower and Chinatown State Park  
19 Station to reduce potentially unsafe physical conditions to  
20 less than significant with mitigation.

21           Tribal Cultural Resources. The draft EIR analyzes  
22 potential substantial adverse changes to significant tribal  
23 or cultural resources. Metro consulted with eight  
24 California Native American tribes pursuant to Assembly Bill  
25 52. During construction of the Alameda Station, the project  
26 will 1) implement a cultural resources monitoring and  
27 mitigation program and archeological testing plan for the  
28 planned Los Angeles Union Station forecourt and 2) retain a  
29 Native American monitor to monitor ground disturbing

1 construction activities at the location of the Alameda  
2 Station.

3           Impacts to tribal resources are less than  
4 significant with mitigation.

5           The utilities analysis concludes that  
6 construction of the project would require relocation of  
7 existing utilities, which would be coordinated with utility  
8 providers and conducted in compliance with the applicable  
9 codes and regulations. Existing utilities would be  
10 sufficient for project operations. To minimize the  
11 potential interference with existing utilities associated  
12 with utility relocations, the project would implement a  
13 utility relocation plan. Impacts to utilities and service  
14 systems would be less than significant with mitigation.

15           Wildfire. The portion of the alignment containing  
16 the Broadway Junction Stadium Tower and Dodger Stadium  
17 Station are classified as being within a very high fire  
18 hazard severity zone. The wildfire analysis concludes that  
19 construction and operation of the project would not inhibit  
20 access to identify disaster routes and would not  
21 substantially impair implementation of an emergency  
22 response or evacuation plan. The project would adhere to  
23 applicable codes and regulations and best construction  
24 practices and would not exacerbate existing wildfire risks.

25           Implementation of project design features,  
26 including a fire protection plan and a fuel modification  
27 zone surrounding the stadium tower construction site would  
28 further reduce these risks. Impacts to wildfire would be  
29 less than significant. Alternatives. The draft EIR includes  
30 analysis of three alternatives. First, the no project

1 alternative. Second, the Spring Street alignment  
2 alternative. And third, the transportation systems  
3 management alternative, which is an enhanced Union Station,  
4 Dodger Stadium express service.

5           The no project alternative and the transportation  
6 systems management alternative would not improve  
7 connectivity for the surrounding communities or provide the  
8 same reduction of vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas  
9 emissions or improved air quality as the proposed project.  
10 The transportation systems management alternative would be  
11 considered the environmentally superior alternative because  
12 it would not result in a [inaudible] determination of a  
13 significant and unavoidable impact and would result in the  
14 fewest environmental impacts overall.

15           However, the transportation systems management  
16 alternative's impact would be greater for air quality  
17 energy, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality and  
18 transportation. But the transportation systems management  
19 alternative would not meet the majority of the project's  
20 objectives. The draft EIR includes analysis of Los Angeles  
21 State Historic Park usage. Due to the location of the  
22 proposed project alignment, which traverses over the  
23 western edge of the park adjacent to the metro [L] line and  
24 pedestrian pathway, the project does not significantly  
25 reduce the safe high-flying area within the park.

26           Due to the location of the proposed project  
27 alignment, which crosses over a portion of the park not  
28 typically used for screens and stages and because events  
29 can take place under the majority of the project alignment,

1 the project does not significantly reduce the event space  
2 available within the park.

3 The draft EIR includes an airspace evaluation of  
4 heliports in the project vicinity, which concludes that the  
5 project will be clear of the airspace associated with the  
6 existing heliports and will not result in impacts to  
7 heliports in the project's vicinity. Design Option A The  
8 draft EIR includes analysis of project variations as design  
9 use options, which are included in response to stakeholder  
10 feedback.

11 Design Option A shifts the alignment between the  
12 Broadway Junction and Dodger Stadium Station to avoid the  
13 area rights over 451 East Savoy Street. This design option  
14 would result in additional utility relocations and  
15 construction durations. Design Option B analyzes the  
16 potential for a single tower along Alameda Street, which  
17 results in the removal of the Alpine Tower and a 50-foot  
18 overall height increase at the Alameda Tower.

19 The tall Alameda Tower has potential technical  
20 constraints and would potentially result in the need for  
21 additional private aerial rights. Design Option C analyzes  
22 a taller Chinatown State Park Station, which would result  
23 in additional construction activities and has the potential  
24 to reduce the passenger experience. Use Option D  
25 substitutes a non-passenger junction for the proposed  
26 Chinatown Park Station. This use option would have the same  
27 height, location, width, length and architectural finish as  
28 the project, but would not enhance community connectivity  
29 to the park, Chinatown and the Mission Junction  
30 Neighborhood.

1           Finally, Design and Use Option E analyzes the  
2 [inaudible] Americans with Disabilities Act accessible  
3 pedestrian and bicycle bridge that would provide safe  
4 access between the Chinatown, Savoy and Solano Canyon  
5 communities in the park. I'm now going to turn it over to  
6 Michael Kennedy to provide an overview of the project's  
7 [parking site].

8           Michael Kennedy: Thank you. Thanks. Good evening.  
9 I'm Michael Kennedy with [inaudible]. I'm going to share  
10 the key findings of the project's parking study. Parking  
11 analysis is not required for the EIR but was of key  
12 interest to Metro, the city and the community. Metro  
13 conducted a peer review of the study and it has been  
14 available on Metro's website for review. While our  
15 ridership modeling and data indicate that most riders will  
16 take transit to get to the project as Dodger Stadium  
17 Express riders do today, some riders will choose to drive  
18 and park.

19           The parking study counted all publicly available  
20 spaces in parking lots and garages and all on-street spaces  
21 within a half-mile walking distance of the Alameda and  
22 Chinatown State Park Stations. Nearly 10,300 parking spaces  
23 were counted. Next slide, please. Of those 10,300 spaces,  
24 nearly 6,900 of them are in publicly available off-street  
25 lots and garages.

26           On the Dodger game day when the study was  
27 conducted, Dodger Stadium had a paid attendance of over  
28 48,000, which is higher than the 2019 season average for  
29 weekday evenings. The study found that a bit less than  
30 2,200 vehicles were parked and over 4,700 spaces were



1 vacant in those off-street lots and garages. Since the  
2 study was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, we used  
3 historic data to develop an adjustment factor that we  
4 reviewed with Metro and L.A. DOT to estimate pre-pandemic  
5 conditions.

6           Based on the peer-reviewed ridership forecasting  
7 model and data for the projects, we forecast between 307  
8 and 790 vehicles are expected to park around project  
9 stations on game days. With the addition of this peak  
10 project-related demand, all of those vehicles can be  
11 accommodated in off-street lobbies and garages, and there  
12 would still be over 3,900 spaces remaining.

13           There's plenty of off-street parking capacity,  
14 even if future developments are constructed on some of  
15 those parking lots. While the project will work to ensure  
16 that as many people as reasonably possible take transit to  
17 connect to the system, a parking management plan will be  
18 finalized before project operation to ensure that riders  
19 will park where they will be welcome and are discouraged  
20 from parking where they are not.

21           Strategies such as business-to-business  
22 partnerships to pre-sell bundle packages that include off-  
23 street parking and patronage at a local restaurant are one  
24 example strategy under consideration. Through the  
25 preparation of the parking management plan, the project  
26 team will work with L.A. duty to support the implementation  
27 and expansion of on-street parking management strategies.  
28 Example strategies include adjusting time limit and parking  
29 meter hours during Dodger games to encourage riders,  
30 discourage riders rather, from parking in the community.

1 Thank you.

2 Jessica: We're going to get ready to move into  
3 the public comment session. As we do so, it looks like we  
4 have some representatives from Mayor Karen Bass' office,  
5 the City of West Hollywood Supervisor Hahn's office and  
6 Supervisor Solis office, so wanted to convey that we  
7 appreciate your participation in tonight's meeting. As we  
8 get started with the public comment session, I wanted to  
9 review some housekeeping items.

10 So just as a reminder, for those of you that  
11 might have joined late, you will need to click on the globe  
12 icon and select your language of choice.

13 Laura Adelman: Sorry, folks, I think we're having  
14 a technical difficulty. Give us a moment. I think... Sorry  
15 about that. I may have to step in here for Jessica. Sorry  
16 about that. I'm Laura Adelman, also part of the project  
17 team. Let me take over here, Jessica's portion, and maybe  
18 in just a moment she can come back in. So just to pick up  
19 where she left off.

20 As a reminder, everyone does need to select a  
21 language for this portion of the meeting. So that global  
22 icon appears at the bottom of your screen. So even if  
23 you're listening in English, please do select English from  
24 that icon. So the purpose of this session is to allow the  
25 public an opportunity to comment on the draft EIR here. And  
26 since we are focused on accepting public comments this  
27 evening, we won't be responding to questions.

28 Jessica, are you back with us?

1           Jessica: I am back. Thank you, Laura, for jumping  
2 in. I think I might have a little bit of an unstable  
3 Internet connection. So thank you for filling in.

4           Laura Adelman: No problem. Just getting started  
5 with those instructions. I'll let you, I'll let you pick  
6 up.

7           Jessica: Okay, great. Thank you. So apologies,  
8 everyone. So there will be a two-minute time limit for  
9 comment, just as we had at the in-person hearing recently.  
10 And we'll ask you to stay and spell your first and last  
11 name as you begin your comment. Once you have identified  
12 yourself, we will start the two-minute clock and you can  
13 provide your comment. If you're using interpretation, the  
14 interpreter will repeat your comment in English once you  
15 conclude your comment and we will allow extra time for your  
16 comment to be interpreted.

17           If you exceed your 2 minutes, we will interrupt  
18 you and thank you for your comment and will encourage you  
19 to provide any further comment at a future hearing. And  
20 we'll go over all that information again for you via email,  
21 phone or via mail. And it's important that we keep to the  
22 two-minute time limit because we want to be fair and give  
23 everyone who is providing comments in this meeting the same  
24 amount of time.

25           We also want to take a moment to remind everyone  
26 to be respectful of others and use appropriate language  
27 when making comments. And very quickly, before we get  
28 started, I just want to review on the next slide all of the  
29 various ways that you can provide comment through January

1 17th, 2023, so that you have that information. Tonight's  
2 hearing is not your only opportunity to provide comment.

3 We have an additional public hearing coming up at  
4 Cathedral High School on January 12th from 5 to 7 p.m. And  
5 you can also provide comment via email, phone and mail. And  
6 we're putting that information in the chat for you as well.  
7 All right. So with that, we're going to go ahead and move  
8 into the public comment session.

9 We'll ask that you please raise your hand if you  
10 would like to provide a verbal public comment. Okay. Looks  
11 like we've got some hands raised, so I'll go ahead and call  
12 on you and you can unmute yourself and provide your  
13 comment. We'll start with Katherine Christman, please.

Comment - PH280

14 Katherine Christman: Hello, can you hear me? Yes.

15 Jessica: Yes.

16 Katherine Christman: Hi, I'm Katherine Christman  
17 from West Los Angeles. I'm a 31-year-old entrepreneur from  
18 our city with Parkway [inaudible]. I'm also a proud board  
19 member on the National Association of Woman Business Owners  
20 [inaudible], currently serving in the VP role. I am in full  
21 support of this project for a variety of reasons, but to  
22 keep it short, the most pressing and urgent to me is the  
23 air quality for the beautiful community surrounding the  
24 stadium.

25 [inaudible] deserves a better scenario than  
26 they're currently enduring. I also love the opportunity for  
27 Dodger Stadium to become more accessible and available from  
28 other Southern California [inaudible] from Union Station.  
29 And so I think it's a beautiful project. I'm very proud of

PH280-1

1 the [inaudible] and I'm in full support of it, as is our  
2 Association of Women Business Owners.

3 We are so excited about it. A lot of value in it.  
4 Thank you so much.

5 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comments. I  
6 wanted to provide a reminder for those of you that are  
7 calling in on the phone that if you would like to raise  
8 your hand and you're calling in via the phone and you're  
9 not logged into Zoom, you can press star nine to raise your  
10 hand. And then when we call on you, we'll call on you by  
11 the last four digits of your phone number, and you'll be  
12 able to unmute yourself by pressing star six.

13 With that, I'm going to go to Chris Wilson.  
14 Chris, would you like to provide public comment?

Comment - PH281

15 Chris Wilson: Good evening. My name is Chris  
16 Wilson with the Los Angeles County Business Federation.  
17 This is in full support of this project as proposed. LA ART  
18 will provide the first public transit connection to Dodger  
19 Stadium, which has the highest attendance out of any  
20 stadium in the country and is one of the few without a  
21 dedicated transit connection. It will improve traffic and  
22 parking for residents by potentially removing up to 3,000  
23 car trips from neighborhood streets, easing local traffic,  
24 improving safety and reducing the need to park in the local  
25 community.

26 The LA ART system will be emissions free,  
27 emissions free and will provide the opportunity to connect  
28 communities who have been dis-appropriately impacted by  
29 traffic and pollution. This would significantly improve  
30 traffic conditions and air quality in the neighborhood for

PH281-1

1 these reasons, and more [inaudible] supports the zero-  
2 emission gondola from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.  
3 Thank you so much.

cont'd  
PH281-1

4 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I'm going to go  
5 to a phone number now, so I'm going to go to 3233657680. You  
6 can press star six to unmute yourself and provide your comment.

Comment - PH282

7 Mary: Hello, my name is [Mary] and I live in  
8 Solano Canyon.

9 I support the gondola since it would eliminate  
10 the traffic as well as the cars that park and block our  
11 driveway. That would be greatly appreciated that this  
12 project passes and it will make everyone happy in Solano  
13 Canyon. Thank you so much.

PH282-1

14 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comment. I  
15 appreciate it. I'm going to move on. It looks like Kathleen  
16 Johnson has her hand raised. So please go ahead and unmute  
17 yourself and provide your comment.

Comment - PH283

18 Kathleen Johnson: Hi, can you hear me? My name's  
19 Kathleen Johnson. I'm executive director of L.A. River State  
20 Park Partners, the support organization for our state  
21 historic park and the two other parts of the park. The  
22 gondola will not only adversely affect nearby neighborhoods,  
23 it will severely and permanently compromise people's  
24 experience of LA State Historic Park, a publicly funded green  
25 space that residents fought for decades, literally, to  
26 establish, and a site with deep historic significance to L.A.  
27 as the former home of the [inaudible] Station. LA ART seeks  
28 to take what we feel is a significant portion of land to the  
29 station with towers and gondola lines running over the  
30 southwestern section just 20 feet above people's heads.

PH283-1

1 This aerial road to the park will disrupt as much  
2 as an actual road would with at least 10% of the park under  
3 the constant traffic of gondola cars, the thoughtfully  
4 designed sense of tranquility and open space will be  
5 degraded and the park's open skies and magnificent views of  
6 the downtown skyline, [Legion] Park and Broadway Viaduct  
7 forever altered. These park impacts have been severely  
8 downplayed or glossed over in the draft EIR, so we request  
9 any use of this hard-fought public park, land airways  
10 [inaudible] for private enterprise.

PH283-2

PH283-3

PH283-4

11 And despite the traffic study, there are 3,000  
12 cars that the planners hope will be eliminated at Dodger  
13 Stadium we have little faith about. We feel that they would  
14 just be re-routed to the park and surrounding  
15 neighborhoods, just further compromising park users' access  
16 and experience of this treasured urban greenspace. Thank  
17 you very much.

PH283-5

18 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move  
19 to Bill Chen. Bill Chen, if you'd like to unmute yourself  
20 and provide comment. Okay. We'll come back to.

21 Bill Chen: Can you hear me?

22 Jessica: There we go.

23 Bill Chen: Thank you. I am not at my computer. I  
24 want to say that the park should have its own autonomy and  
25 that there should be no compromise from the original park  
26 design tree cutting and/or taking of any of the land. That  
27 said is one thing, but traffic with MTA and I understand  
28 events for athleticism, it's just discretionary money that  
29 is more important for MTA to look at transportation when

PH284-1

PH282-1

1 people are actually working in downtown [inaudible] into  
2 the downtown.

3 I'm talking about the intersection of Sunset and  
4 [inaudible], where the central city West specific plan says  
5 there should be widening of [inaudible] onto Sunset. And  
6 I'm talking about the 101 freeway that needs to have more  
7 lanes. If it has more lanes, it would help with commuter  
8 traffic going in and out of downtown. And it would also  
9 help with moving transportation into Dodger Stadium by way  
10 of traffic south of Sunset on [inaudible] going in and out  
11 on Sunset Boulevard by way of [inaudible] and to  
12 [inaudible] Way up to the mesa.

13 And I also wonder why people don't talk about  
14 having free shuttle from the Chinatown Go station to go up  
15 to the [inaudible] because there is buses from Union  
16 Station. Why not from Chinatown as well? Thank you.

17 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. Next, we'll  
18 go to Elias Garcia.

19 Elias Garcia: Good evening. My name's Elias  
20 Garcia. On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of  
21 Commerce, we'd like to offer our strong support for this  
22 project and join others on this call that have supported  
23 us, have stated their support. The Rapid Transit Project is  
24 a transformative project that offers the capacity to move  
25 approximately 5,000 people per hour per direction, using a  
26 quiet, safe, environment-friendly and a proven zero-  
27 emission technology.

28 It will connect such communities as [inaudible]  
29 Union Station, Chinatown, Mission Junction to Newark,  
30 Solano Canyon, while also providing access to the L.A.

cont'd  
PH284-2

PH284-3

PH284-4

PH285-1



1 State Historic Park, the LA River and [inaudible] Park. Of  
2 course, this connectivity is great, but it also means this  
3 project also means better health outcomes for these  
4 communities as a result of lower pollution and fewer  
5 congestion.

6 So we urge to move this project forward. Thank  
7 you.

8 Jessica: Thank you for your participation in the  
9 meeting and for your comment. We're going to move to  
10 Phyllis Ling.

cont'd  
PH285-1

Comment - PH286

11 Phyllis Ling: Hello.

12 Jessica: Hi, Phyllis. We can hear you.

13 Phyllis Ling: Okay, hi, my name is Phyllis Ling.  
14 I'm a resident by the Broadway Junction. I'm completely  
15 opposed to this project. It makes no sense. Logistically,  
16 it shifts parking and traffic further into Chinatown and  
17 this project would dangle less than 40 feet above my  
18 property, which invades my air rights. The noise study is  
19 vague and needs some more details. Gondola stations and  
20 junctions are noisy and you're talking about running this  
21 18 hours per day and then doing maintenance and testing  
22 during the other 6 hours.

PH286-1

23 You don't even name the gondola system that was  
24 used to take measurements to estimate the noise that the  
25 stations would cause. There's no discussion of the  
26 differences between these systems the drive [inaudible]  
27 pulling the gondolas all the way from Union Station is in a  
28 junction across the street from my house. So that's going  
29 to have a huge impact.

PH286-2

PH286-3

1           There's also hardly any disclosure about how this  
2 project would be operated and implemented, which would  
3 impact ridership and greenhouse gas emissions.

PH286-4

4           Security management of cues and crowd control are  
5 hardly discussed at maximum capacity. People could have to  
6 wait in line for 1 to 2 hours, and you're relying on a  
7 magical ticket reservation system to even out the crowds.  
8 You need to explain how that works.

PH286-5

9           I don't even have time to get into the flight  
10 from advertisements constantly streaming over our  
11 neighborhoods.

PH286-6

12           There's also cutting down 50-foot trees and oak  
13 trees in the park. And this faulty parking study that  
14 includes a lot of parking that isn't even open until, such  
15 as parking at the state park, which closes at sunset. So  
16 how are people going to get their cars out of the state  
17 park parking lot? And then also, I want to say that the  
18 pedestrian bridge into the park from Broadway, it shouldn't  
19 be held hostage to this project.

PH286-7

PH286-8

PH286-9

20           Of course, you want the bridge, you don't want  
21 the bridge to be held hostage.

22           And then I think an option to get to Dodger  
23 Stadium is all fine and good, but not when it sucks away  
24 resources from all other options that we're not even  
25 discussing. This would be a tourist trap. There should be  
26 additional studies. The Dodger Stadium Express from other  
27 locations, such as Pasadena.

PH286-  
10

28           Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I wanted to  
29 review the instructions for call in participants, so we've

1 had a couple of questions. If you're calling in via phone,  
2 you can press star nine to raise your hand, and then I'll  
3 remind you, when we call on you that you'll press star six  
4 to unmute. So again, if you are calling in via phone and  
5 you'd like to raise your hand to provide public comment,  
6 please press star nine and we'll get to the raised hands in  
7 the order that they're coming through in our Zoom box.

8 We'll go to Tabitha next.

Comment - PH287

9 Tabitha: Hi, my name is Tabitha, I'm an organizer  
10 with Power Out Way. We do organizing in this area,  
11 especially around Chinatown. I have a few issues with the  
12 draft EIR and I'm completely opposed to the project.

PH287-1

13 The first one being that the EIR studies are  
14 routinely conducted by outside entities that are selected  
15 by the developers of the project. [inaudible] disclosure,  
16 public input in deciding who's going to conduct the EIR.

PH287-2

17 So it's very convenient for them, that they found  
18 everything to be less than significant.

PH287-3

19 Second is it's unclear to me that this project  
20 will reduce vehicle miles traveled. It seems like we'll  
21 just displace those vehicle miles traveled to Union Station  
22 and Chinatown Station. Chinatown is the neighborhood with  
23 the lowest [inaudible] after Skid Row. And this community  
24 cannot become a giant parking lot.

PH287-4

25 Citizens need actual services. During the land use  
26 and planning analysis, they talk about how this will remove  
27 first the last mile transit. I don't see how that's possible.  
28 People are still going to have to drive to the gondola in order  
29 to take it. So that is, I don't see how that makes any sense.

PH287-5

1 I'm also opposed to giving any sort of exceptions to the  
2 general plan for the park to cut down the trees.

PH287-6

3 As several members of the communities have  
4 voiced, I don't know if you know, but Chinatown has an  
5 increasing aging community and the construction impacts, I  
6 don't know if they were calculated for average people of  
7 like average age or if they're calculated, considering that  
8 this elderly community has special needs. The elderly  
9 population is more sensitive to air pollutants and noise  
10 pollutants.

PH287-7

11 Will the gondolas affect property values?

12 A lot of planners like to say that displacement  
13 will not happen because you're not removing any houses,  
14 you're not building on an existing housing site. But if  
15 it's going to hike property values and that's going to  
16 cause gentrification to come into the neighborhood, again,  
17 this is the poorest house neighborhood in the city, but  
18 you're not going to add or alter any existing facilities.

PH287-8

19 This is a community that needs more investment in  
20 services. So the fact that you're making it harder to add  
21 more is a problem for wildfire. Existing wildfire routes  
22 are already inadequate a lot of times.

PH287-9

23 Jessica: Thank you for your comment.

24 We'll move to the phone number with the last  
25 4873.

26 You can press star six to unmute yourself.

Comment - PH288

27 Speaker 18: My name is [inaudible]. My family  
28 owns and operates the [inaudible] in Olvera Street, and we

PH288-1

1 are in full support of the project. Not only would it help  
2 reduce traffic, good for the environment and provide much  
3 needed infrastructure and resources to an underserved part  
4 of downtown L.A., but as we enter a global recession, the  
5 L.A. region would benefit greatly from this world class  
6 project, a proven, innovative mode of transportation, and  
7 would attract much needed visitors from around the region  
8 and the globe.

cont'd  
PH288-1

9 It can also be a catalyst for future innovative  
10 transport solutions. This is a huge opportunity for L.A.  
11 and I hope it is approved. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Thank you very much for your comment. To  
13 move to Free SoCal.

Comment - PH289

14 Speaker 19: Hello, my name is [inaudible],  
15 Manager of Advocacy and Public Policy for [inaudible],  
16 Southern California. We're an environmental health non-  
17 profit that focuses on clean air and healthy lungs. We  
18 would like to convey our support for the L.A. Aerial Rapid  
19 Transit Project. The project provides a zero-emission form  
20 of transportation that would decrease greenhouse gas  
21 emissions, cut smog and reduce the number of cars on the  
22 road, all of which provide significant public health and  
23 environmental benefits.

PH289-1

24 Thank you.

25 Jessica: Thank you for your comment.

Comment - PH290

26 We'll go to Ernest Li next.

27 Ernest Li: Thank you. My name is Ernest Li from  
28 the [inaudible] Chinese Consolidated Benevolent  
29 Association. I'm speaking in full support of the gondola

PH290-1

1 project. It is a good project that is almost zero emission.  
2 This green project is good for the environment. And also  
3 it's at the iconic structure through the Chinatown area,  
4 and this is good for Chinatown, and also it provides an  
5 opportunity to link up the key cultural institution like  
6 Olvera Street, the Chinese [inaudible] Museum, and it links  
7 to Chinatown and allow a lot of the traffic and the  
8 opportunity for the local merchants to promote visitors, to  
9 eat and shop locally.

10 So it's good for the local economy. So I'm  
11 speaking in full support of this project. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comment. We're  
13 going to go to phone number with the last four digits 4460.

14 To reiterate, if you could please state your name  
15 at the beginning of your comment. So, 4460, you want to  
16 dial star six. There you go.

cont'd  
PH290-1

Comment - PH291

17 Speaker 21: Hello? Hello? Can you hear me?

18 Jessica: I can hear you.

19 Speaker 21: Okay. What's [inaudible] this project  
20 cause the people that we live here, we get stuck when  
21 there's anything. And if we come back from work and we  
22 forget something from our groceries we have to go away to  
23 [inaudible] come back into our own houses. This will help a  
24 lot, you know, [inaudible] we move around the city.

25 Also, zero emissions. I am here to support the  
26 [inaudible]. Thank you very much.

27 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. That's  
28 [inaudible] Wong next.

PH291-1

1 Wong: Hi, I organize with Power L.A. and  
2 Chinatown Community for Equitable Development, providing  
3 tenant support to low-income Cantonese seniors and I  
4 absolutely oppose this project. Seniors with limited  
5 ability, with limited mobility have no need for a train in  
6 the sky that only goes to Dodger Stadium. Their needs are  
7 on staying housed, securing affordable housing and a halt  
8 to the rising cost of living, which this gondola as a  
9 tourist attraction would only contribute to.

PH292-1

10 If you look at just College Station alone, where  
11 one of these gondolas support towers is slated to be built,  
12 that area's already been flipped into this upscale  
13 expensive area to dire effects, pricing out long-time low-  
14 income residents. This gondola is just more of the same.  
15 And before you think that affordability of the neighborhood  
16 is not an issue with this project, which I know you're  
17 thinking because one of the L.A. ART Cantonese-speaking  
18 interpreters tried to tell me so after reading a resident's  
19 written comment at the Union Station hearing on Saturday,  
20 You're wrong!

PH292-2

21 This gondola is being built public land where  
22 that land should be used for public good. To serve the most  
23 good, you must protect and be in alignment with the most  
24 poor. You want to fly over red lanterns and go to rooftops.  
25 You want to flash Chinese culture without paying a lick for  
26 the Chinese immigrants who built it and risk being  
27 displaced from it.

PH292-3

28 This gondola is not a community serving project.  
29 It is a private billionaire serving project. Chinatown is  
30 the second poorest neighborhood in L.A. It doesn't even

1 have a full-service grocery store. It does everything that  
2 you would spend time and money catering to a seasonal  
3 entertainment issue and not honoring the truly urgent life-  
4 threatening issues of displacement that our most vulnerable  
5 residents face.

cont'd  
PH292-3

6 So every time I saw this project for the good of  
7 people, do not build this gondola. Thanks, maybe.

8 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We're going  
9 to move to King next.

Comment - PH293

10 King Cheung: Hi, my name is King [inaudible], a  
11 member of the Chinatown Community for Equitable  
12 Development, which is located in Chinatown. I strongly  
13 oppose the gondola project. It is nothing but a rip off of  
14 the taxpayers using public space, public money and is only  
15 for the good of one guy who want to build a kind of LA  
16 life, kind of a project up on the parking lot and near the  
17 Dodger Stadium.

PH293-1

18 And I think that is not going to be good for the  
19 Chinatown community, for small businesses. Why would  
20 anybody stick around Chinatown when they can just get up  
21 there, eat and drink and attend games? So I think that the  
22 line that is good for Chinatown business is not are not  
23 going to [inaudible], in fact it make things worse, make  
24 things a lot worse.

PH293-2

25 If there's a station near LA State Historic Park,  
26 who want to walk up there to Chinatown, maybe for  
27 [inaudible] and the [inaudible] area. But who are going to  
28 [inaudible] and Alpine area to eat and shop, which is a  
29 [inaudible]. Nobody would do that. Convenience is they're  
30 going to just take the gondola and go and shop up there.



1 So it is going to be worse for Chinatown, but  
2 that is going to be cause more gentrification, making  
3 housing a more expensive and less affordable for the low-  
4 income residents in Chinatown. [inaudible] oppose the  
5 project.

6 Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.  
7 We're going to move to Luke next. And please [inaudible]  
8 your comments. Thank you.

9 Luke MacDonald: Hello? Can you hear me? My name  
10 is Luke MacDonald. I live nearby Union Station and I wanted  
11 to comment that I think this is a really bad idea. I don't  
12 really trust the arguments for lower pollution and I think  
13 that the money would be much better invested in public  
14 transportation. The [inaudible] application, not just going  
15 to Dodger Stadium, baseball games.

16 I'm definitely also concerned with the  
17 gentrifying of the communities and also like the thing that  
18 like that's going to improve parking I think is also very  
19 [inaudible]. It seems like it's just going to move  
20 [inaudible] thing making Chinatown a big parking lot. It  
21 doesn't seem like great idea. So it's just kind of like a  
22 really strange and kind of a waste of money.

23 So yeah, yeah, I think [inaudible].

24 Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.  
25 We're going to move to Michael [inaudible] next.

26 Michael: Hi, good evening. Michael [inaudible]  
27 with Central City Association. We support the proposed L.A.  
28 ART zero emission project and appreciate the community  
29 engagement that the project team has conducted in downtown

PH294-1

PH294-2

PH295-1

1 and in surrounding areas. In addition to making progress on  
2 our state's climate goals, the proposed gondola would  
3 reduce emissions, and some of the L.A. community is very  
4 most impacted by air pollution.

5 I think LA ART is expected to take 3,000 cars off  
6 the road before and after Dodger Stadium events. It will  
7 reduce vehicle congestion, which frees up stadium visitors  
8 and the surrounding communities' time and improves  
9 accessibility to surrounding residences and local  
10 businesses in the project area. Thank you.

11 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move  
12 to Doug Carstens.

cont'd  
PH295-1

13 Douglas Carstens: Hello. Good evening. This is  
14 Douglas Carstens on behalf of the California Endowment. We  
15 oppose the gondola project. Metro should not be pursuing  
16 this private project at Frank McCourt's behest at all.  
17 Metro should not be the lead agency because the City of Los  
18 Angeles is in a much better position and there's more  
19 property designated as the lead agency. First, regarding  
20 the EIR CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act is a  
21 Bill of Rights for an environmental democracy. An EIR is  
22 the heart of CEQA, an EIR is not supposed to be a sales  
23 brochure or an infomercial for a project.

24 It's supposed to be an unbiased, full disclosure  
25 document that advises the public and decision-makers of the  
26 impacts of the project and how those impacts can be  
27 reduced. This draft EIR presented by ART and Metro falls  
28 woefully short of those legal requirements for full  
29 disclosure and accuracy, and instead it's biased in favor  
30 of the project.

PH296-1

PH296-2

Comment - PH296

1 I wish I could repeat verbatim everything that  
2 Kathleen Johnson, [inaudible], Tabitha, Phyllis Ling, Bill  
3 Chen, Luke McDonald said.

4 Because a lot of that I'd like to say, but I only  
5 have this 2 minutes, so I will say the analysis in the  
6 gondola, instead of being meaningful and accurate, is  
7 distorted and misleading.

8 The entire financial plan, which the Metro Board  
9 was promised would be made available before the end of  
10 September 2022, is missing altogether. The missing  
11 financial information is critical to understanding how  
12 impacts identified in the EIR would be mitigated by the  
13 project proponent and how they will not be.

14 The project proponent, Frank McCourt, has only  
15 committed to funding 3% of the entire project budget, so  
16 the shortfalls in construction and operating revenues will  
17 be need to be made up somewhere, most likely from public  
18 transit funding sources. Better use for public projects.

19 We ask that you terminate the project review  
20 process immediately if you don't terminate it immediately,  
21 Metro should transfer the lead agency status to the city of  
22 L.A. to complete the review and process it.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 Jessica: Thank you for providing comment this  
25 evening. Next, we'll move to [inaudible].

26 Speaker 27: Thank you.

27 From the very start of this project, I knew I  
28 wanted to keep an eye on it because it impacts both my

PH296-3

PH296-4

PH296-5

PH297-1

Comment - PH297

1 communities of Chinatown and my community of Pueblos or  
2 [inaudible]. My name is [inaudible], I grew up in  
3 Chinatown, and I am currently, after retiring from Cal  
4 State L.A. as a professor of [inaudible] education, I am  
5 now associated with the Chinese American Museum.

6           So from the very beginning I was keeping my eye  
7 on this project, and what I found very worthy of supporting  
8 is the fact that I agree that this project would benefit  
9 both Chinatown and El Pueblo. Very often when I had  
10 questions or wanted to push back on some of the plans, I  
11 was able to communicate with L.A. ART and they listened and  
12 they tried to incorporate as much of our community's  
13 suggestions as possible.

14           For the EIR tonight. I just want to comment that  
15 as an academic, I understand what significant means and  
16 what less than significant means. And so while on one hand,  
17 I like the reporting that it lessened significant with  
18 mitigation, but even then I like to connect that with  
19 community input to look at what that, what those  
20 mitigations might be so that we can have a more well-  
21 rounded view on how we can resolve some of the problems  
22 that not everybody would agree with. Thank you.

23           Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I just  
24 wanted to remind attendees that you can provide comments in  
25 languages other than English. We have interpretation  
26 available for Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin, so please  
27 raise your hand if you'd like to provide a comment. We'll  
28 move to Jim Starr.

29

cont'd  
PH297-2

PH297-3

Comment - PH298

1 Jim Starr: Hello, this is Jim Starr. I'm against  
2 Frank McCourt [inaudible] because it's Alameda Street  
3 Terminal, which is designed like a Disneyland attraction,  
4 will harm the view of Los Angeles Union Station's Hispanic  
5 architecture. And one of the reasons it is a national  
6 historic landmark. Thank you.

PH298-1

7 Jessica: Thank you for providing comment this  
8 evening. Next, we'll move to Melissa [inaudible].

Comment - PH299

9 Melissa: Hello.

10 Jessica: Hi, we can hear you.

11 Melissa: Hi, good afternoon.

12 I'm calling today because I support the gondola  
13 project.

14 One of the reasons is because I feel like, there  
15 will be actually more visitors to Chinatown than people  
16 just jumping into their cars after the game and going back  
17 home.

PH299-1

18 They'll pass by Chinatown. And, you know, be  
19 curious and come back and visit. Also because of the  
20 pollution and less traffic. Thank you for your time.

21 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move  
22 to Mary next. Mary, are you able to get yourself unmuted to  
23 provide your comment? If not, we'll come back to you.

24 Jessica: Okay. We'll come back to Mary. We're  
25 going to go to Michael [inaudible].

Comment - PH300

26 Michael Chong: Hi. This is Michael [Chong], and  
27 I'm calling in favor of the L.A. ART project. I'm currently  
28 a Chinatown resident, and, you know, Metro has, in the past

PH300-1

1 couple of decades, has made us understand that Los Angeles  
2 can have a strong network of public transportation along  
3 the side of cars and other variables. The [inaudible] is a  
4 good example of that.

5 But unfortunately, it doesn't [run] on non-Dodger  
6 events. We have a lot more activities in Dodger Stadium  
7 lately, which is a good thing, but also causes a lot of  
8 concerns in regards to traffic and congestion, air traffic  
9 congestion and pollution. I believe that the gondola  
10 project is the next step in our future. It would be a  
11 marker and an important infrastructure that people can  
12 visually see that Los Angeles can be centered around  
13 alternative modes of transportation, finding creative  
14 solutions for people to get out of their vehicles and  
15 hopefully as a result, supporting the surrounding  
16 businesses instead of driving past them.

17 Thank you.

18 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move  
19 to Edwin Lee next.

cont'd  
PH300-1

Comment – PH301

20 Edwin Lee: Hi, my name's Edwin Lee and I'm a  
21 resident at the Bishop and Broadway Junction and I'm  
22 against the project.

23 I don't, I think the visual impact assessment is  
24 biased and dismissive. These are massive concrete  
25 structures and five-ton gondola cabinets flying over our  
26 streets and parks. Of course, this will have a negative  
27 visual impact. If this was a more rich, more wealthier  
28 neighborhood, this would not be allowed.

PH301-1

PH301-2

1                   And the noise from the gondola station in our  
2 neighborhood is not adequately studied. The noise analysis  
3 is vague and does not even disclose the gondola system used  
4 to take reference measurements. We are the difference. What  
5 the difference and similarities in these gondola systems?

PH301-3

6                   And furthermore, there's still no funding plan  
7 for this project. Thank you.

PH301-4

8                   Jessica: Thank you for providing comment tonight.  
9 We will move to Alan Weeks.

Comment – PH302

10                   Alan Weeks: Okay. Okay. Thank you. My name is  
11 Alan Weeks and I'm very interested in the project. I think  
12 it's interesting, it's unique and it will make a great  
13 tourist attraction.

PH302-1

14                   But I do have one objection, and I think it's a  
15 major one. I've lived here, I'm 90 years old. I've lived  
16 here all my life. And I remember my mother took me to the  
17 Union Station opening in 1939.

18                   And as you know, when you come in from the Plaza,  
19 you get a tremendously beautiful view of really historical  
20 monuments. And if you build that station and it appears to  
21 be quite significantly large, and will definitely block the  
22 view from people coming in on the west side of the station,  
23 it's going to block their views. So for that reason alone,  
24 if you find another location for the station, otherwise I  
25 don't have any objection to the project.

PH302-2

26                   Thank you.

27                   Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.  
28 Let's try to go back to Mary.

1 She's able to unmute herself.

2 Mary, [inaudible]. Oh, looks like Mary is having  
3 some trouble getting unmuted, so I'm going to go to Darryl  
4 Saucedo. Okay, we'll come back to. Let's try for eight,  
5 six, nine, five.

Comment – PH303

6 Darryl Saucedo: Did it work?

7 Jessica: Yes, Darryl, go ahead.

8 Darryl Saucedo: Did it work? Okay. Well, good  
9 afternoon. My name is Darryl Saucedo. I'm the chairman of  
10 the board of the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce,  
11 and we support this project as well.

PH303-1

12 But I would like to go on record that the LA  
13 [LCC] has strongly recommended that if this project moves  
14 forward, that the project hires at least 35% small, local,  
15 small, diverse businesses, not only in construction but to  
16 provide maintenance and staffing through our local AGC  
17 participants.

PH303-2

18 And I think that they should be given a  
19 preference for anybody that uses our local workforce. Thank  
20 you.

21 Jessica: Okay. Sorry about that. We will next go  
22 to the phone number ending in 8695. Give me a moment. And  
23 we'll get you [inaudible]. Just one moment.

24 Eight, six, nine, five. It, can you unmute  
25 yourself?.

26 Okay, Maybe we'll. Okay, go ahead. Good.

27 Speaker 34: [inaudible]



1 Speaker 34: [inaudible]

2 Speaker 35: So my name is [inaudible]. I'm a  
3 local resident of the Chinatown community. I'm here in  
4 support of the gondola project because I believe it brings  
5 a lot of benefits to our neighborhood and community. First,  
6 it improves the traffic, improves the air quality, also  
7 brings visitors to different locations and thereby improve  
8 our business structure. Thank you.

9 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next,  
10 we'll go to the phone number ending in 4460.

11 Speaker 36: I already participate.

12 Jessica: Oh, sorry about that. Thank you very  
13 much for letting me know. If we could possibly go to phone  
14 number 513.

15 Thank you very much. 5137. Yes. Thank you very  
16 much. Go ahead if you're able to unmute yourself.

17 Phone number ending in 5137.

18 If you can go ahead. There you go. Five, one,  
19 three, seven. Are you able to go ahead?

20 Okay. Looks like we're not able to hear you at  
21 the moment. We'll move on. We'll give you a minute and  
22 we'll move on. Okay. Carlos Gomez, we'll take you next  
23 here. Carlos.

24 Carlos Gomez: Yes? Can you hear me?

25 Jessica: Yes.

26 Carlos Gomez: Hi. Yeah. Carlos Gomez, long-time  
27 Dodger season ticket holder. I fully support the gondola

PH304-1

PH305-1

1 project. I think it's very innovative. You know, this  
2 specific year, you know, attending so many games, I caught  
3 myself waiting longer than usual for the Dodger Stadium  
4 Express. I don't know if there was maybe like, a lack of  
5 funding or but I know there were just like, you know,  
6 maybe two buses going out every 50 minutes or so.

7 And, you know, anything that we can do to really  
8 alleviate any type of congestion or traffic, you know, for  
9 the what is 30 to 40,000 Dodger fans that go to the games  
10 or millions throughout the season would be great. I fully  
11 support this project. And we really need this project. I  
12 mean, I think it would help the surrounding community and  
13 Dodger fans in general. Go Dodgers!

14 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next, we  
15 will go to the phone number ending 8838. If you're able to  
16 speak. And just as a reminder, if you're dialing in by  
17 phone, you can dial star six to unmute yourself. Go ahead  
18 please

19 Speaker 38: [inaudible]

20 Jessica: Okay. Looks like we may have lost that  
21 commenter or maybe we can come back to them. Okay. Next,  
22 we'll take Lester [inaudible].

23 Spanish Interpreter: And while Lester's getting  
24 unmuted, I'll just note that we do have a number of hands  
25 raised still, so we will extend the meeting until 7:30 so  
26 that we can make through all of the hands raised to provide  
27 comment tonight.

28 Lester: Oh, hello.

29 Jessica: Yes, go ahead, Lester.

cont'd  
PH305-1

PH306-1

1 Lester: Yeah, Lester [inaudible].

2 I just wanna say that I'm a big Dodgers fan and I  
3 support this project.

4 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. Okay. And  
5 next, we'll ask 6909 to provide comment. And if you're able  
6 to unmute, 6909.

7 Spanish Interpreter: If you're on the phone press  
8 star six.

9 Jessica: Yes. Thank you.

10 Once again, phone number 6909. If you're able to  
11 provide your comment and unmute, you can press star six on  
12 the phone. Okay. Looks like we may have some technical  
13 issues, there you go. Please go ahead.

14 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

Comment - PH307

15 Speaker 41: I support the project.

16 Speaker 40: Hello?

17 Jessica: You may provide your comment.

18 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

19 Speaker 41: I support the gondola project in  
20 Chinatown because it brings more attention business to the  
21 area.

22 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

23 Jessica: Okay. I think that comment is complete.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 Okay. Next, I'll take Kayla

cont'd  
PH306-1

PH307-1

1 Kayla: Good evening. This is Kayla. I am a  
2 resident of Chinatown, and I wanted to call in today to  
3 oppose the gondola project for a few reasons. There's no  
4 additional parking accommodations for those 3,000 vehicles  
5 you mentioned that would presumably be arriving at Union  
6 Station. So the traffic won't really be alleviated at all.

PH308-1

7 The congestion will just shift south a few  
8 blocks. It's also hard to be convinced of an emission  
9 reduction plan that's only one mile long, especially when  
10 the vehicles will still be driving to the gondola terminal,  
11 but more so than the traffic in the parking.

PH308-2

12 I'm concerned about the impacts of gentrification  
13 and displacement that were mentioned by some other  
14 commenters earlier, especially due to that property value  
15 increase in this historic but unfortunately very under-  
16 supported neighborhood.

PH308-3

17 The gondola won't support Chinatown businesses.  
18 It'll detract from them, people going from Union Station  
19 and flying right over.

PH308-4

20 It's the gondola's plan to use public rights of  
21 way public airspace, public land. It'll impose itself on  
22 our skyline. Cars moving thousands of camera-phone equipped  
23 sports spectators back and forth between Union Station and  
24 Dodger Stadium with a full view down into our patios or  
25 gardens or homes.

PH308-5

26 The gondola's not needed year-round, but it'll be  
27 visible and audible year round like a permanent string of  
28 cables and towers and our sidewalks and our skies.

PH308-6

1                   Lastly, it's unclear who will pay for this  
2 project, but it's clear that a billionaire will profit from  
3 it. It's for these reasons that I oppose the gondola. Thank  
4 you. Thank you very much.

PH308-7

5                   Jessica: Okay. Next, we'll ask phone number  
6 ending and 6343.

Comment – PH309

7                   Monica Vasquez: Yes. Hi. Yes.

8                   My name is Monica Vasquez, and I fully support  
9 the gondola project. This not only will help with the  
10 traffic and pollution and stuff like that, but now I live  
11 [inaudible] and it has some of the worst traffic, too. And  
12 this is [inaudible]. Less traffic and more [inaudible]  
13 transportation, which the gondola will provide all of that.

14                   Plus it'll be good for the people. And this  
15 project will help the region with traffic. Like I said, the  
16 pollution, the time of traffic as well, because driving  
17 [inaudible] my house to the Dodger Stadium. It's only a  
18 short distance, but once in traffic it's a long way. And  
19 like I said, I just called to support the [inaudible] and  
20 gondola project and I hope you guys do, too.

PH309-1

21                   Thank you so much.

22                   Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll take the  
23 phone number ending in 7886.

24                   Please go ahead and unmute if you're able to.  
25 Just a reminder, you can press star six to unmute.

26                   Ms. Wong: Hello?

Comment – PH310

27                   Jessica: Yes, we can hear you.

PH310-1

28                   Ms. Wong: [inaudible]

1                   So my name Ms. Wong, I'm a local resident of the  
2 Chinatown area. I'm pulling support in favor of this  
3 project because it's going to bring a lot of good things to  
4 the area. It's going to help with the air quality and  
5 relieve the traffic and various benefits and welfare for  
6 the neighborhood. Thank you.

7                   Jessica: Thank you. And next, we will ask Jason  
8 to provide comment.

9                   Jason: Hi. Yes, this is Jason [inaudible]. I'm  
10 with the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation. We are the  
11 founding organization that actually founded Chinatown when  
12 it was displaced, when it moved from Union Station to where  
13 it's at now. We own Central Plaza and we are one of the  
14 oldest organizations in Chinatown. Conceptually, the board  
15 has voted to support the gondola project, but conceptually  
16 there are still things that still need to be worked out.

17                   But in general, we do support it for several  
18 reasons. Reasons to for reasons no other than Chinatown is  
19 completely dead. It has been dead for many, many years. I  
20 have lived in Chinatown before I moved out and nothing has  
21 happened. And so with the gondola project, this attraction  
22 will hopefully bring in visitors, people to see Chinatown,  
23 shop, visit, eat, and our merchants need it.

24                   Despite what all the opposing arguments are, our  
25 merchants do need some kind of revitalization and right now  
26 our merchants are suffering. I speak to our merchants all  
27 the time and they support the gondola because they need  
28 people in Chinatown to serve, to make money, and to  
29 hopefully get Chinatown out of being one of the poorest  
30 area in the community.

PH311-1

cont'd  
PH311-1

1 Thank you.

2 Jessica: Thank you very much.

3 Before we move to the next commentary, I'll just  
4 note that we are coming up on 7:00 and we are planning to  
5 extend the meeting until 7:30 and we'll take comments up  
6 until 7:30 this evening.

7 Thank you, Jessica. And next, we will take the  
8 phone number ending in 9509. 9509, if you're able to unmute  
9 yourself by dialing star six.

10 Phone number 9509, if you can hear us. Okay,  
11 maybe we'll come back to that participant. How about we  
12 move on to the phone number ending in 6909? Actually, I  
13 don't see that one on my list anymore. Okay, we'll try  
14 9520.

15 Participant ending in 9520.

16 If you're able to dial star six on your phone, to  
17 unmute your cell. We'll try one other. Sharon Coleman, if  
18 you'd like to provide your comment, Sharon.

**Comment – PH312**

19 Sharon Coleman: My name is Sharon Coleman. I am  
20 president of the National Association [inaudible]  
21 Contractors. And I just want to say I support this mission  
22 and I agree with the previous caller in reference to making  
23 sure that we have not only minority participation on the  
24 building of the actual structure, but on the long-term  
25 aspects of it. That's my comment.

26 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next,  
27 we'll go to Sarah Van de Camp.

PH312-1

cont'd  
PH312-1

Comment – PH313

1 Sarah Vande Camp: Hi. Thank you so much. My  
2 name's Sarah Van de Camp and I'm a resident of East L.A.,  
3 specifically Cypress Park. I support this project. I think  
4 it's really no secret that we desperately need zero-  
5 emission solutions and climate solutions. We also need more  
6 public transportation options and connectivity in Los  
7 Angeles. So I wholeheartedly support this project and the  
8 efforts by climate resolve.

PH313-1

9 And I'm also really excited about the opportunity  
10 that aerial gondola technology presents in Los Angeles as  
11 well. This is a super innovative idea and I really do think  
12 it would be good for the city. Thank you so much.

13 Jessica: Thank you, Sarah. Ground Game L.A., if  
14 you'd like to provide your comment.

Comment – PH314

15 Bill: Hi, my name is Bill [inaudible] with people  
16 organized for Westside Renewal. Yes, we oppose this  
17 project. I'm concerned about a couple of things in the EIR  
18 in particular.

PH314-1

19 One is I'm concerned about the way this project  
20 fits in with the larger plan to redevelop the parking lots  
21 around Dodger Stadium. I do not believe that the actual  
22 goal of this project is to facilitate the growth of  
23 business in Chinatown, but to facilitate an excuse to  
24 redevelop the parking lots that Frank McCourt still has an  
25 interest in.

PH314-2

26 This is not really a secret that this was part of  
27 the goal. They were discussing it in the press over a  
28 decade ago, and I always find very, very wealthy  
29 individuals boosting a project that serves their interests

cont'd  
PH314-2



1 and trying to use the public infrastructure to do that as  
2 very suspect.

3 I think people have already talked about the way  
4 that the traffic study is flawed.

5 I don't see how adding a gondola really takes  
6 cars off the road. It doesn't do anything to get people to  
7 take transit to where they can get the gondola. I do not  
8 believe it's a first and last-mile solution. I think it's  
9 going to become an only mile solution. And what folks will  
10 do in practice is really take the gondola as kind of more a  
11 tourist attraction type thing and bring traffic and parking  
12 into the community.

13 And of course, once that redevelopment around  
14 Dodger Stadium happens, I don't see those folks even  
15 spending that much money or time in Chinatown. When we talk  
16 to members in the community, nobody says the thing that we  
17 need most is a gondola. Folks need affordable housing, but  
18 they also need like local level traffic solutions, like a  
19 traffic light to get from William Meade Public housing  
20 community to the historic state park, for instance.

21 We need to invest in what folks actually need and  
22 do bottom-up planning. This is a misuse of the public  
23 process. Thank you.

24 Jessica: Thank you.

25 And next, we'll go to Diane Weiss.

PH314-3

PH314-4

1 Diane Weiss: Hi. Can you hear me? Okay. Hi. I am  
2 100% opposed to this project.

PH315-1

3 In the last 50 years, which is barely a blip of  
4 time, we have lost two-thirds of our worldwide wildlife.  
5 Two-thirds in 50 years. Recently, it was documented, also  
6 that documentation can be found through the World Wildlife  
7 Fund. It's also been documented that currently there are  
8 over 150,000 species that are threatened or extinction  
9 currently due to man-made endeavors such as this kind of  
10 short-sighted one,

11 We are the stewards of the environment and we  
12 just forget about that every time some billionaire wants to  
13 have a seasonal vanity project that they will benefit from.

PH315-2

14 I know the wildlife doesn't buy Dodger tickets.  
15 Wildlife doesn't buy amusement park tickets.

16 And it doesn't want a tourist trap. We already  
17 have enough of all of those things. At some point we have  
18 to realize that we have to preserve our environment because  
19 even if you're a billionaire developer, you have to  
20 understand that when we kill the environment, we kill  
21 ourselves.

22 And even the highly skilled greenwasher, like  
23 this whole plan has been presented as, it's pretty dubious.

24 We need to get our priorities straight and quit  
25 thinking so short term in our city.

26 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll go to Drew  
Miller.

28 Drew Miller: Hi, my name is Drew Miller, and I am  
29 calling to voice my full support for the gondola. The  
30 proposed Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project presents

PH316-1

1 an important opportunity to advance zero emissions  
2 transportation and slash carbon emissions at a crucial time  
3 in human history. It would be the first permanent rapid  
4 transit connection from the region's transportation hub,  
5 Union Station, to Dodger Stadium, as well as a region park.

6 This will remove thousands of vehicles from the  
7 road, reducing congestion and pollution while providing a  
8 unique and safe experience for the community. As rising  
9 temperatures from human-caused greenhouse gases threaten  
10 the city of Los Angeles and the world as we know it, the  
11 time for action is now. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Thank you very much. Next comment will  
13 be [inaudible].

cont'd  
PH316-1

14 Dawn Huang: Hi. Can you hear me? My name is Dawn  
15 Huang and while I agree that Los Angeles is much more in  
16 need of public transportation, a gondola going to a sports  
17 stadium is a bizarre choice. Have any of you ridden a  
18 gondola? How many people does a gondola move and how  
19 quickly? I know taking gondolas in my life, including the  
20 Roosevelt Island gondola, known as the aerial tramway,  
21 they're very slow and they're huge expense that will be  
22 funded by our city for a slow moving mile that doesn't take  
23 that many people.

24 I lived in New York City for years and saw the  
25 aerial tramway overhead and underneath.

26 Few people felt like walking underneath it.

27 Apparently only two properties in the world,  
28 according to Roosevelt Island's aerial tramway, can make  
29 these systems. So it's a French company that built the

PH317-1

PH317-2

PH317-3

1 Roosevelt Island one that was only used temporarily and  
2 meant to be used temporarily.

3           It's currently privately run and pays New York  
4 City a franchise fee, while subways and cars are much more  
5 often used by residents due to speed. I never went to  
6 Roosevelt Island in those 20 years on the tramway while I  
7 did drive and take the subway. Not all people are  
8 comfortable with aerial travel.

9           There's a large percentage of the population who  
10 are afraid of heights. The tram often wasn't used by the  
11 residents because of its slowness and was used often by  
12 tourists or in a Spider-Man movie. Although the tramway was  
13 opened in 1976 in July it was intended to be just temporary  
14 transportation while the subway was getting connected. And  
15 then the subway fell behind schedule and it became a  
16 permanent fixture.

17           But in the 50 years it was in existence, it was  
18 only moved 26 million people while the subway moved  
19 millions a day, billions of people since. And then when the  
20 subway was completed in 1989, ridership drastically went  
21 down. So as a historian and documentary filmmaker, I've  
22 studied the impacts of public policy and transport policies  
23 on community [inaudible].

24           Chinatown's historically suffered from being  
25 moved already, past harassment and a past massacre  
26 perpetrated by non-Chinese. In the past, China and the US.  
27 California looks like.

28           Jessica: Looks like we're at the two-minute mark.  
29 I need to move to the next comments.

cont'd  
PH317-3

PH317-4

PH317-5

PH317-6

PH317-7

1 Dawn Huang: Well, racism is a part here. You  
2 chose a community that can't speak enough for itself and is  
3 in depression. So I believe that I should be able to speak  
4 and to use fund public funding to fund a private enterprise  
5 for a specific group of people, baseball fans, which is not  
6 the whole population. You could funnel your money into  
7 actual metro service for the entire city. Thank you very  
8 much.

cont'd  
PH317-7

9 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. Next, we'll  
10 go to the phone number ending in 4080. Go ahead.

Comment – PH318

11 Carlos: Hi, my name is Carlos [inaudible] Senior.  
12 [inaudible] I support the project, the gondola. We are  
13 taking people out of town, so I'm fine with [inaudible] and  
14 it's really a pain in the neck trying to get parking  
15 [inaudible]. Now [inaudible] much benefit for the  
16 community. It will be [inaudible] the gondolas going to go  
17 through [inaudible] support the project is also [inaudible]  
18 going to Dodger Stadium and it's good for people who don't  
19 [inaudible] parking lot [inaudible] and they like to take  
20 their kids and their families for, you know, [inaudible]  
21 and bottom line 100%, hopefully that this project can get  
22 approval. Thank you for listening.

PH318-1

23 Jessica: Thank you.

24 Okay. Next, we will go to Ron. Ron, if you're  
25 able to provide your comment. Ron, can you provide your  
26 comment please? Looks like Ron is unmuted. Ron, are you  
27 there? Okay. Maybe we will come back to Ron. Next, we will  
28 go to Eric.

29

1 Eric: Yeah. Hello. My name is, my name is Eric.  
2 I've lived in Echo Park within a gondola ride of Dodger  
3 Stadium for about 13 years, but on the other side of the  
4 stadium. On game nights when I'm leaving my house, it often  
5 means waiting like ten minutes just to exit my driveway. So  
6 I totally understand how important it is to find new ways  
7 to bring visitors to Dodger Stadium.

PH319-1

8 But this project won't bring enough people fast  
9 enough to justify the intrusion into the community's  
10 backyards. It's not the answer to our problems. It will  
11 divert cars to Chinatown in Union Station if anything. If  
12 you don't get rid of the parking, you'll never get rid of  
13 the cars. Let's call this gondola project what it is. It's  
14 silly. It's a novelty and it's a [inaudible].

15 This [inaudible] achievement will enrich Frank  
16 McCourt and be a shiny new thing to show up at the  
17 Olympics. The community doesn't want this. Stop wasting  
18 time and money talking about it.

PH319-2

19 Please just run more buses and dedicated lanes to  
20 run even when there is no game. There's a beautiful park up  
21 there that's more or less inaccessible by transit. We don't  
22 want novelty tourist transit. We want robust systems to  
23 access our green spaces. This project ain't it. Thank you.

PH319-3

24 Jessica: Thank you. The next commenter will be  
25 phone number ending in 8635. If you're able to press star  
26 six on your phone to unmute. Just give us one moment here.  
27 Perhaps that person is not on anymore. Okay. Next, we will  
28 go to Monica Cruz.

29 Monica Cruz: Hi everyone. I am Monica and I  
30 support the [inaudible] congestion wants to find a solution

1 that will enhance our communications [inaudible] as a zero  
2 emission transit. So in this case, [inaudible] we support  
3 this project as we know that aerial rapid transit through  
4 this road, through extraordinary innovation [inaudible].

PH320-1

5 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll go to Michael  
6 [inaudible]. Let's go ahead, Michael [inaudible]. Please go  
7 ahead. Michael, if you're able to unmute.

Comment – PH321

8 Michael Berg: Hello.

9 Jessica: Yes, go ahead.

10 Michael Berg: I'm so sorry. I started talking  
11 without even [inaudible]. Anyway, thank you. My name is  
12 Michael Berg and I am a Los Angeles Union Station  
13 Historical Society board member, also the founder of the  
14 Aliso Street Manufacturer [inaudible] Society, and also a  
15 member of the Chinese Historical Society that's along the  
16 route. This is nothing more than a carnival ride.

PH321-1

17 Los Angeles private transport projects  
18 historically have proven to be financially and viable for  
19 carrying [inaudible] passengers, i.e. [inaudible]. And I  
20 agree with the California Endowment's position that the  
21 ruining of the view scape of their building severely  
22 degrades the quality of their company, and that by doing  
23 the same, [inaudible] damage in front of Union Station by  
24 that enormous terminal on Alameda Street blocks a world  
25 class architectural wonder, one of the most iconic and  
26 culturally significant architectural masterpieces in all of  
27 Los Angeles.

PH321-2

PH321-3

28 We would like to, I would like to say that I  
29 believe this project is not viable for anything, and the

1 damage to these [inaudible] is completely irresponsible and  
2 unacceptable. And it's amazing to me to think that all of  
3 this could be changed if they just put in a subway to  
4 Dodger Stadium would solve all of the issues you're talking  
5 about.

PH321-4

6 And I did a little calculation. You have to  
7 unload 80 people every minute, to 5,000 people an hour. And  
8 I'd like to know how you plan to load and unload 80 people  
9 a minute to meet that 5,000 number. I believe that traffic  
10 stats that you gave a flood of.

PH321-5

11 Jessica: Thank you, Michael. We've reached the  
12 end of your time here.

13 Michael Berg: Thank you.

14 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay, next, we'll  
15 take Alex Alvarez.

Comment – PH322

16 Alex Alvarez: Oh, sorry about that. Good evening.  
17 My name is Alex Alvarez. We all have to deal with the  
18 traffic around Dodger Stadium on game days.

19 The gondolas could take 3,000 cars off the road,  
20 making it easier to get around and reducing our pollution  
21 from cars.

22 I support the gondola, [inaudible] because it  
23 would be great for Los Angeles, for the Dodgers and their  
24 fans.

PH322-1

25 And you for taking the opportunity to take my  
26 comment and have a good night.

27 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we have the phone  
28 number ending in 0616.

Comment – PH323



1 Speaker 58: Hello?

2 Jessica: Yes.

3 Speaker 58: Yes, my name is [inaudible] for the  
4 community and I am [inaudible] and I would like to thank  
5 you for your time.

6 Jessica: Thank you.

7 Next, we have the phone number ending in 0569.

8 Let's see if they are still available here.

9 Actually, my team could help me out here. I don't think  
10 they're on the line any longer.

11 Going to [Crystal] at this point. Okay. Yes,  
12 Crystal, go ahead.

PH323-1

Comment – PH324

13 Crystal: Hi. My name is [Crystal]. [inaudible].  
14 Thank you.

15 Jessica: Thank you.

16 And Laura, I think we've made it through all the  
17 folks that had their hands raised at 7 that are still on  
18 the line. I know we did get a note from Ron Frank that he  
19 was having some trouble with his computer. So let's take a  
20 quick look and see if he's on. Otherwise, I think we'll do  
21 one last double check and wrap up the public comment.

22 Laura Adelman: Thank you Jessica.

23 Spanish Interpreter: Ron, are you on and able to  
24 unmute yourself?

PH324-1

Comment – PH325

Jessica: Looks like Ron is on.

26 Ron: Hello.

PH325-1

1 Spanish Interpreter: Yeah, there we go. We can  
2 hear you.

3 Ron: Right. Thank you. I can't stress enough how  
4 opposed I am for this project.

5 There's not enough time really to address the  
6 countless reasons that this is a bad idea. Even if I didn't  
7 live in the neighborhood, I'd still be against this  
8 project. I'm all for environmental protection and for  
9 business people to do well and to be successful. But this  
10 whole project is built on a lie. It's not about saving the  
11 environment, but about increasing the fortunes of a  
12 billionaire.

13 There's no way that this project will be paid for  
14 by proponents or pay for itself, and taxpayers do not need  
15 to be put on the hook for this. There are other ways to  
16 reduce emissions. California's already on track to have  
17 automobiles become environmentally safer. If you live in  
18 the neighborhood, there's nothing environmentally friendly  
19 about this project. Rather, it's environmentally ruinous to  
20 everything it touches or is in its vicinity.

21 It offers nothing but [inaudible]. Generally  
22 impacts would not be significant until they are, and they  
23 will be. If whatever benefits to the business community  
24 there could possibly be would already be provided by the  
25 Metro rail. This will not add to anything. If anybody  
26 thinks Chinatown is dead, maybe they could encourage  
27 businesses to paint their buildings so that the buildings  
28 looked alive.

29 Jessica: Thank you very much, Ron.

cont'd  
PH325-1

PH325-2

PH325-3

PH325-4

1 Ron: But actually I have one more comment. The  
2 scheme just screams the old saying about preferring to ask  
3 for forgiveness instead of permission. And surely things  
4 are going to go wrong and there'll be no way to forgive  
5 those things from happening. Thank you.

6 Jessica: Thank you.

7 Spanish Interpreter: Jessica. I think we just  
8 have one more that that commenter that perhaps could not  
9 unmute earlier. We'll just give them one more try five nine  
10 excuse me, 9509. Would you be able to try again? 9509 if  
11 you're able. Okay. Looks like we're having trouble there.

12 Jessica: Okay. I think I'll go ahead and move us  
13 into wrapping up the meeting and providing an overview of  
14 all the additional ways that the public can provide comment  
15 through January 17th, 2023. So we do have an additional  
16 public hearing in addition to the one that we held tonight  
17 and also on Saturday, December 10th. There's one more  
18 public hearing on Thursday, January 12th, from 5 to 7 p.m.  
19 at Cathedral High School.

20 And you can also provide comment via email or  
21 mail through January 17th, 2023. And again, you can access  
22 all of this information as well as the draft EIR at  
23 metro.dot/aerialrapidtransit.

24 It looks like I'm getting a note that we have one  
25 more commenter with a hand up. Okay. It looks like Katy.  
26 Let's see if we can get you unmuted and then we'll move  
27 into wrapping up the meeting once you conclude your  
28 comment.

1           Katie: Hey, can you hear me? Yes, thank you. My  
2 name is Katie. I live right by Dodger Stadium. I do agree  
3 that we need better public transit on game days. It's very  
4 difficult to leave my house and go anywhere, but the  
5 gondola is the opposite of that. The gondola won't make it  
6 easier to take public transit to Dodger Stadium. It won't  
7 help our neighbors access effective and affordable public  
8 transit.

PH326-1

9           And frankly, it won't help anyone get anywhere  
10 that they need to go. It's going to disrupt our  
11 neighborhood. And it's, as other people have said, an  
12 entirely unrealistic plan. The numbers that are, that it  
13 says it will bring of people is just like, that's a wish.  
14 That's not reality. And as a taxpayer, I do not agree with  
15 the city paying hundreds of millions of dollars, of dollars  
16 of our own money for something that none of us want or  
17 need.

PH326-2

18           We need affordable housing. We need streets where  
19 we can ride our bikes and use accessible public  
20 transportation. We need to be able to have public  
21 transportation that goes to places that we actually need to  
22 go in a way that gets us there.

PH326-3

23           And that's not what the gondola does. So we  
24 really do not need the gondola and we are opposed to it in  
25 our neighborhood. Thank you.

26           Jessica: Thank you for that final public comment.  
27 We'll move back to the overview of all the ways that the  
28 community can provide comment during the public review  
29 period. So we'll move on to the next slide here.

1                    Jessica: Okay. So we were reviewing all of the  
2 various ways that you can provide public comment. So again,  
3 we do have the additional public hearing on January 12th  
4 and you can provide public comment via email, phone and  
5 mail through January 17th, 2023. We had a very good turnout  
6 tonight, and I want to thank everyone for their  
7 participation this evening and for staying on the line a  
8 little bit longer to allow more of our community members to  
9 provide public comment.

10                    So we appreciate your time this evening and we'll  
11 go ahead and conclude the meeting. So moving on, just a  
12 final thank you. And we will now conclude this virtual  
13 public hearing.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Hearing

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-13-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my  
direction; further, that said transcript is a true  
and accurate record of the proceedings.



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Manager, Linguistic Services



Vancouver Head Office  
#200-1892 West Broadway  
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866-936-3833

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**Appendix B.3**  
**Public Hearing, January 12, 2023**  
***(In-Person)***

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)  
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 12, 2023

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place  
at Cathedral High School, 1253 Bishops Road, Los  
Angeles, California, at 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTERS

KEVIN LAU  
KATHLEEN JOHNSON  
OLIVIA VIERA  
MELISSA ARECHIGA  
XIANGTIAN XU  
CHRIS GIBSON  
GABRIEL OWENS-FLORES  
XULAN CHEN  
EDWIN LI  
CHRIS HANNAN  
HOWARD AMSTER

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

5:02 p.m.

Comment - PH171

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MR. LAU: All right. I just wanted to express concern about the gondola in Chinatown. There are a lot of questions I don't think have been like really answered.

Economically, I'll ask, like how much will the project cost? How much will riders be charged? Will they be charged each way? I know top parking usually is \$40 to \$50 regularly over at Dodger Stadium.

Will the gondola be open during non-event days? Who would use it and why? Do they plan on holding other events up in the parking lot?

I'm concerned for the businesses in Chinatown and Olvera Street that I think will be negatively affected by having less of a friction from Union Station up to the Dodger Stadium.

I don't want it to be just something like Angels Flight, some sort of like something stupid that's there.

PH171-1

PH171-2

PH171-3

1 Will air rights be negotiated for  
2 property owners that have the gondola over them?

PH171-4

3 Environmental impact. I'm concerned  
4 about the positive, what they're saying about the  
5 traffic reduction. Because if they're just

PH171-5

6 taking passengers from Union Station who would  
7 normally take the Dodger Express, are you really  
8 reducing any traffic? All right. What are the

9 carbon emissions that will be used to build the  
10 gondola system? All right. How many passengers

PH171-6

11 have to use the gondola in order to offset the  
12 carbon produced in order to build the gondola?

13 Safety. Definitely, especially with  
14 the past week with the amount of rain we had,  
15 there's a lot of soil instability.

PH171-7

16 And then, let's see. I don't see any,  
17 I haven't seen any third-party independent data  
18 that states if it supports this is a good idea.

PH171-8

19 Are there any? Can that be provided? All right?

20 Is there any data about Dodger fans or  
21 people in Chinatown that want this?

22 I think we need to focus more on

PH171-9

1 affordable housing or getting a supermarket.

2 Let's see. I don't think I have  
3 enough time for anything else. It's like two  
4 seconds. I just wanted to make a closing. Oh,  
5 okay.

6 So, a lot of my research says that the  
7 '84 LA Games of the Olympics was one of the most  
8 successful Olympics ever, and a lot of that was  
9 because it did not lose any money. But, more  
10 importantly, it revitalized the urban core of the  
11 cities, but not at the expense of its residents.  
12 And I feel as if this is just a plan that's being  
13 pushed without actually taking into account the  
14 actual people affected by this being built in our  
15 community.

PH171-10

16 And I just want these -- I want these  
17 answers, as a resident.

18 Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH172

21 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Kathleen  
22 Johnson, K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N J-O-H-N-S-O-N. My name

PH172-1



1 is Kathleen Johnson, Executive Director of the  
2 nonprofit LA River State Park Partners, the  
3 support organization for LA State Historic Park.

4 A gondola through LA State Historic  
5 Park would significantly alter the park's  
6 southern and middle sections and their mature  
7 native landscapes and compromise users'  
8 experience of the peaceful, quiet, open land and  
9 skies of the entire park.

10 Taking public parkland for a looming  
11 station building and 98-foot tower, the route  
12 would convey cars just 26 feet overhead on six  
13 massive cables. The gondola would destroy 81  
14 mature trees, permanently alter the park's  
15 thoughtfully-designed vistas, jeopardize event  
16 revenues and vital maintenance, and threaten  
17 historic features.

18 These major park impacts, grossly  
19 underexamined in the Draft EIR, represent an  
20 environmental injustice. The park was born from  
21 community activism that transformed a former rail  
22 yard brownfield into an urban green oasis -- with

cont'd  
PH172-1

PH172-2

PH172-3

1 all of the related health and community benefits.  
2 After this long struggle, residents deserve to  
3 have their original designs and uses for the park  
4 respected and their land protected.

cont'd  
PH172-3

5 I'm not here to comment on the wisdom  
6 of the gondola enterprise, but simply to insist  
7 that taxpayer-funded public parkland not be  
8 commandeered for its use.

PH172-4

9 Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
11 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH173

12 MS. VIERA: Hi. My name is Olivia  
13 Viera, spelled O-L-I-V-I-A V-I-E-R-A.

14 I'm a resident of Solano Canyon, which  
15 is east, adjacent to Dodger Stadium. So, I've  
16 been affected by the traffic for the last 22  
17 years.

PH173-1

18 I'm also the founder of a community  
19 arts organization called Indigenous Wellness  
20 Collective, which serves hundreds of BIPOC folks  
21 in the area.

22 There is a lot of trauma in this area

PH173-2

1 going back to the era of my great uncle, Tony  
2 Montez, who was displaced when the Dodgers moved  
3 from Brooklyn to Los Angeles. His family was  
4 robbed of housing.

5 So, I'm distinctly aware of the trauma  
6 in the area regarding government or big  
7 corporations coming in and making decisions for  
8 the community that directly affect the community.

9 One of the best things that has  
10 happened so far is the Metro non-gas buses coming  
11 in and bringing hundreds of people to the  
12 stadium. This has relieved traffic immensely,  
13 although I realize there are some improvements  
14 that need to be made there.

15 The gondola is offensive to the  
16 neighborhood of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Echo  
17 Park, and Lincoln Heights. It is blatant  
18 capitalist greed.

19 If the gondola were a free ticket, I  
20 would reconsider my position. But, as of now, I  
21 stand 100 percent against the construction of  
22 this gondola in this part of the city. I would

cont'd  
PH173-2

PH173-3

PH173-4

1 like to see it overlooking the marina instead.

2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH174

5 MS. ARECHIGA: Melissa Arechiga, M-E-  
6 L-I-S-S-A Arechiga, A-R-E-C-H-I-G-A.

7 Okay. My name is Melissa Arechiga.

8 I stand here before you as a representative of  
9 surviving families that were vitally evicted from  
10 Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop, three Mexican  
11 indigenous communities that were destroyed to  
12 build Dodger Stadium.

PH174-1

13 I am here today opposing the gondola  
14 project from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.  
15 While this may be exciting to some, it is a sign  
16 of change, and change that is not inclusive to  
17 all, specifically people of color.

18 The Dodgers Corporation and the City  
19 of Los Angeles have a long partnership together  
20 working to destroy and exploit communities of  
21 color. The gondola represents gentrification,  
22 the destruction of not only our communities, but

PH174-2

1 environment and our beloved wildlife.

2 The gondola project is no different  
3 than the deal that was made to take away our  
4 families' generational wealth by destroying our  
5 three communities to build Dodger Stadium. The  
6 Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council set to  
7 build the gondola in the middle of our  
8 communities, and this would only benefit the Los  
9 Angeles Dodgers. Our residents and small  
10 business owners will suffer. And with the so-  
11 called Revitalization Project, this is code word  
12 in our communities of color as gentrification, a  
13 long term that leaves our most vulnerable  
14 community members displaced with no benefits.

15 The history between the Los Angeles  
16 Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council has left  
17 our city in worst conditions from the deal in the  
18 1950s, when our homes in our three communities  
19 were destroyed, and the lies that were told to  
20 the public of building public housing today leave  
21 us with the current issues of our houseless, our  
22 unhoused and affordability crisis that affects us

cont'd  
PH174-2

1 all today.

2 It is a win-win for the Dodgers and  
3 has been since Black Friday, May 8th, 1959, when  
4 our three communities were bulldozed and our  
5 families dragged out.

6 It is time to put a stop to Dodgers  
7 Corporation on exploiting the people of Los  
8 Angeles. I am strongly urging that everyone in  
9 the public and all elected officials oppose this  
10 project, as it will have damaging effects for  
11 generations to generations.

12 (Pause.)

13 It is time to put a stop to the  
14 Dodgers Corporation of exploiting the people of  
15 Los Angeles. I strongly urge that everyone in  
16 the public and elected officials oppose this  
17 project, as it will have damaging effects that  
18 will last for generations to generations.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 briefly went off the record.)

21 MS. XU: (Speaking through a  
22 translator): My name is Xiangtian Xu. I have

cont'd  
PH174-2

PH175-1

Comment - PH175

1       been a resident in the Chinatown area for more  
2       than 28 years.

3                   I came here today to -- I want to say  
4       that I am very happy and I welcome and express  
5       support to the project, the LA ART Project by  
6       Metro.

7                   Chinatown has had a lot of problems in  
8       the past, and I think this project is going to  
9       bring a great solution to those problems because  
10      it's going to alleviate the traffic issues. It's  
11      going to bring great businesses to this area.  
12      It's going to bring extra tourists. It's going  
13      to revitalize the Chinatown area, and it's also  
14      going to make the air quality much, much better.

15                  In the past, we don't have a  
16      supermarket; we don't have a hospital; we don't  
17      have a library. People don't come to our area  
18      because the traffic is too bad.

19                  But the LA ART Project is going to  
20      change all of that. It's going to make our  
21      community more prosperous and it's going to bring  
22      a lot of benefits for its residents. It's going

cont'd  
PH175-1

1 to make our area more lively, and this project  
2 brings great effect on the aesthetics. I really  
3 like it.

4 In the apartment community that I live  
5 in, there are more than 500 residents just like  
6 me. Because of the weather, because they're old  
7 age, they are not able to come here today, but  
8 they have told me to must tell you that they also  
9 express support and welcome to this project. And  
10 they also wish for this project to finish  
11 rapidly, so we can start enjoying the benefits  
12 that it brings to us.

13 I want to express my sincere thanks  
14 and gratitude to the project and the company  
15 behind it.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
17 briefly went off the record.)

18 MR. GIBSON: Hello. My name is Chris  
19 Gibson, G-I-B-S-O-N, and I'm here to say that we  
20 do not want the gondola, for a variety of  
21 reasons, one being that there's no guarantee that  
22 the city won't be paying for this and the

cont'd  
PH175-1

PH176-1

Comment - PH176



1 benefits of it will be privatized.

2 Another issue is that the UCLA  
3 Mobility Lab has shown that it won't reduce  
4 traffic, and it certainly won't help with  
5 emissions because it's not an actual public  
6 transit. It's a novelty.

7 And then, the third is that it will be  
8 a disaster for the people who live in this area  
9 and who are already being burdened by increasing  
10 rents, and will only be further pushed out by the  
11 gentrification as a result of the gondola.

12 And that's it. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH177

15 MR. OWENS-FLORES: Hey, my name is  
16 Gabriel Owens-Flores. That's Gabriel Owens, O-W-  
17 E-N-S, dash, F-L-O-R-E-S.

18 As a member of this community, I've  
19 lived here all my life. We're vehemently opposed  
20 to this. Every single one of my neighbors that I  
21 talk to on my street is opposed to this.

22 There has truly been no period of

cont'd  
PH176-1

PH176-2

PH176-3

PH176-4

PH177-1

PH177-2

1 public comment where we felt that we've been  
2 listened to. Every single part of this process  
3 has felt very -- has not felt transparent at all.

4 COURT REPORTER: Give me one second.  
5 (Pause.)

6 Whenever you're ready.

7 MR. OWENS-FLORES: Okay, cool.

8 It has not felt transparent in the  
9 slightest.

10 What we need, instead of a very  
11 expensive gondola, is more sidewalks. We need  
12 buses. We need all of these other resources that  
13 we've been systematically denied all this time.

14 I remember, like from my house, I have  
15 to walk about 30 minutes to get to a bus.

16 There's no reason the buses can't go through  
17 every single one of the major arteries in and out  
18 of Dodger Stadium, and a single gondola is both  
19 something static that cannot be reused in other  
20 days and it is also way more expensive. Buses  
21 can be recommissioned and can be put on any  
22 different route on any different day; whereas,

cont'd  
PH177-2

PH177-3

1 with the gondola, 283 days of the year, it  
2 supposedly will have no service.

cont'd  
PH177-3

3 The other thing is I'm afraid of the  
4 gentrification that will occur. Like I said, 283  
5 days of the year, this won't be used for game-day  
6 transit, which means it will just not be used at  
7 all. Instead, I suggest that it will be used,  
8 and what it will be used for is for building up  
9 of, basically, like a mall at Dodger Stadium and  
10 the continued gentrification of Chinatown, where  
11 people come, drive in, park at Dodger Stadium,  
12 and then, shop around there, and then, go to  
13 Chinatown to get food, or whatever, or go to any  
14 of the new, like any of the new buildings, then  
15 all of the commercial properties there and do  
16 retail there as well.

PH177-4

17 So, I'm entirely against this. I  
18 think that it is a very, very wild and  
19 disrespectful use of public funding.

PH177-5

20 And I just want buses. I just want  
21 more buses. Just like have a bus at every single  
22 artery in and out, on Scott, on Academy, every

PH177-6

1 single one. Just have them run through and just  
2 like create a network of buses instead.

3 Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH178

6 MS. CHEN (Speaking through a  
7 translator): She wants to stop the gondola in  
8 Chinatown. We waste a lot of tax money. I hope  
9 the tax money can be spent on the hospitals and  
10 the low-income housing. We want the tax money to  
11 spend on senior housing and housing for the  
12 homeless.

13 So, we want the tax money spent on  
14 building a hospital, 24-hour urgent care, a  
15 hospital, so the seniors, then, have a place to  
16 go to when they need it.

17 Also, we would like our tax money  
18 spent on building more -- a grocery store,  
19 shopping more, public restrooms. Also, the  
20 bridge across the street to help the people with  
21 disability.

22 Thank you so much.

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(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
briefly went off the record.)

MR. LI: All right. My name is Edwin  
Li. I am a Chinatown resident. My name is  
spelled E-D-W-I-N L-I.

And I am against the gondola. I don't  
believe that it will benefit Chinatown or its  
residents. Most of the business that the gondola  
people claim will benefit Chinatown, those people  
will fly over Chinatown. The gondola will not  
help.

I also believe it's such an invasion  
of privacy.

(Pause.)

I am definitely against this gondola,  
and I believe this whole meeting is a farce.  
Everything here is promoting the gondola with  
these big-time billboards. I don't think the  
people with the gondola have the community's best  
interests. Most of the people who are pro-  
gondola don't live in the neighborhood, and I  
think it will displace a lot of elderly.

PH179-1  
PH179-2  
PH179-3  
PH179-4

Comment - PH179

1                   Before, I never knew what a gondola  
 2                   was. It never even came into my vernacular. I  
 3                   think a more reasonable and practical form of  
 4                   transportation, if that is their goal, which I do  
 5                   not believe so, is to use the Dodger Express  
 6                   which we already have. It will be a lot less  
 7                   money and it would actually transport people in  
 8                   and out of Dodger Stadium.

9                   Thanks. Yes, that's it.

10                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 11                   briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH180

12                   COURT REPORTER: Whenever you're  
 13                   ready, sir.

14                   MR. HANNAN: Hello. My name is Chris  
 15                   Hannan, C-H-R-I-S, separate word Hannan, H-A-N-N-  
 16                   A-N.

17                   Again, my name is Chris Hannan. I  
 18                   represent the Los Angeles/Orange Counties  
 19                   Building and Construction Trades Council. We  
 20                   represent 48 affiliates with over 140,000  
 21                   members. We're located at 1626 Beverly  
 22                   Boulevard, Los Angeles 90026.

PH179-5

PH180-1

1                   Our members are going to build the  
 2 project which is going to take cars off the  
 3 streets. It's going to reduce traffic. It's  
 4 going to reduce pollution. We're going to do it  
 5 all union with local hire, giving an entry point  
 6 into our apprenticeship programs and our local  
 7 unions for local community.

8                   We 100 percent support the project and  
 9 believe it will be good for the City of Los  
 10 Angeles. It will be good for workers and it  
 11 would be good for the environment.

12                   Thank you.

13                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 14 briefly went off the record.)

15                   MR. AMSTER: Okay. My name is Howard  
 16 Amster, A-M, as in Mary; S, as in Sam; T, as in  
 17 Tom; E-R. I live in the San Fernando Valley.

18                   I am very much for the gondola.  
 19 However, I posted the LA Daily News article from  
 20 a couple of days ago. I posted that on Facebook  
 21 and I got back a bunch of replies, one of which  
 22 said, from a fellow named David Swartz, "I don't

cont'd  
PH180-1

PH181-1

PH181-2

Comment - PH181

1 know, Howard. I used to ride the red line to  
2 work every day and I stopped because it got so  
3 unpleasant." I have since spoken with him. He  
4 is referring to the homeless problem.

5 I would be riding the red line to get  
6 to the gondola at Union Station. I often ride  
7 the gondola to the Ahmanson and the Dorothy  
8 Chandler. And I'm embarrassed to take a date  
9 there because it is so unpleasant because of the  
10 homeless problem.

11 My concern is affecting ridership on  
12 the gondola and just I have to drive down there  
13 now to the Ahmanson, but I would prefer to take  
14 the red line to get there, and to the gondola,  
15 when it's running. But something needs to be  
16 done to make this red line -- and I am also told  
17 the blue line is an even bigger problem -- to  
18 make it a more pleasant ride.

19 Another friend of mine said, "I'm not  
20 going to bring my 8-year-old son on a homeless  
21 train like this. This is like a billion-dollar  
22 mobile homeless shelter, is what the subway has

cont'd  
PH181-2



1       become."

2                       Those are my concerns. Thank you very  
3 much.

4                       (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 briefly went off the record.)

6                       COURT REPORTER: Whenever you're  
7 ready.

8                       MR. AMSTER: Wait. I forgot my --  
9 don't start again because now I forgot what I was  
10 going to say.

11                      COURT REPORTER: Okay. That's fine.

12                      (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-12-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)  
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 12, 2023

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place  
at Cathedral High School, 1253 Bishops Road, Los  
Angeles, California, at 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTERS

KEVIN JAMES  
CHRIS WILSON  
ANDREW VOUGHT  
ELEANOR BRAY  
KENNETH CHAN  
RICHARD ZALDIVAR  
SUAN LEE  
ANNE FREIERMUTH  
WILLIAM WONG  
JUDY CHOW  
ELVA YANEZ  
JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ  
MIRIAM BAR-ZEMER  
RON FRANK  
XOCHITL MANZANILLA  
MIHO MURAI

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

5:03 p.m.

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Comment - PH182

REPORTER: Hi, your name?

MR. JAMES: My name is Kevin James, K-E-V-I-N J-A-M-E-S. Okay, I'm here representing almost 19,000 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Number 12, the majority of which reside here in Southern California.

Our members are the people who survey, inspect, build, and repair roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure such as water systems, sewers, and storm drain systems, along with high-rise buildings and rail systems.

I'm here today to communicate the International Union of Operating Engineers' unconditional support for the proposed project labor agreement.

Please consider the benefits of project labor agreements such as providing contractors with a reliable and uninterrupted supply of qualified workers, ensuring the project

PH182-1





1 will be completed on time and on budget due to  
2 the consistent supply of skilled and trained  
3 labor and creating an avenue to implement  
4 provisions to require contractors to participate  
5 in the improvement of local residents, and  
6 providing access to Union employment  
7 apprenticeship and training programs for women,  
8 minorities, veterans, and other under-represented  
9 groups.

10 I encourage you to join our membership  
11 in support of this important project labor  
12 agreement. Thank you for your time and  
13 consideration.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 5:05 p.m. and resumed at  
16 5:09 p.m.)

17 REPORTER: And your name?

18 MR. WILSON: My name is Chris Wilson,  
19 spelled C-H-R-I-S. Last name is W-I-L-S-O-N.

20 REPORTER: Okay, please proceed.

21 MR. WILSON: Good evening, and thank  
22 you. My name is Chris Wilson, representing the

cont'd  
PH182-1

PH183-1

1 Los Angeles County Business Federation, known as  
2 BizFed. We are a grass roots alliance of 213  
3 diverse business groups mobilizing 410 employers  
4 with five million employees in LA County.

5 We continue to be in support of the  
6 proposed aerial gondola for several reasons. For  
7 one, this project will have the capacity to move  
8 approximately 5,000 people per hour out of the  
9 cars and into a zero admissions transit, thus  
10 reducing traffic congestion, pollutants, and  
11 greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to  
12 climate change. In other words, you will be able  
13 to get to a Dodger game without having to get  
14 into a car.

15 And secondly, the LA aerial rapid  
16 transit will operate daily to connect communities  
17 of El Pueblo, Chinatown, Mission Junction, Solana  
18 Canyon, and William Mead Homes to Union Station  
19 while creating a pedestrian link between the  
20 Chinatown goal line and LA's State Historic Park.

21 This is a win/win for LA, its local  
22 economy, and Angelenos everywhere, to get there

cont'd  
PH183-1

1 by air. Thank you so much.

2 REPORTER: Thank you.

Comment - PH184

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 5:09 p.m. and resumed at  
5 5:11 p.m.)

6 MR. VOUGHT: My name is Andrew Vought,  
7 V-O-U-G-H-T. I'm a resident of Los Angeles. I'd  
8 like to state my opposition to the proposed  
9 gondola which goes over Los Angeles State  
10 Historic Park.

PH184-1

11 The project would defile an  
12 historic state park for the private profit of a  
13 real estate developer, and none of the economics  
14 add up.

PH184-2

15 This costly solution will be an  
16 environmental disaster, lots of un-needed  
17 investment in concrete while, according to UCLA  
18 research, it would be many times worse for the  
19 environment than that current free, commissions-  
20 free shuttle solution for electric vehicles.

PH184-3

21 The project will gentrify our  
22 community, but the whole point here will vastly

PH184-4

cont'd  
PH184-4

1 enrich the real estate developers. The idea of  
 2 gifting the gondola to a non-profit merely means  
 3 that the developer will wash his hands of any  
 4 responsibility for operation and maintenance.  
 5 That will be paid for either by your tax dollars  
 6 or by philanthropy which, instead, should be  
 7 going to support our community and our open  
 8 space.

PH184-5

9 People say LA should get on the  
 10 program because countries like Bolivia, Chile,  
 11 and Germany use gondolas. I say we don't need to  
 12 imitate these other countries. We need to do  
 13 what is right for Los Angeles. Shame on Metro  
 14 for promoting this sham project which will  
 15 destroy our community. Thank you.

PH184-6

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 17 went off the record at 5:14 p.m. and resumed at  
 18 5:17 p.m.)

Comment - PH185

19 REPORTER: Thank you.

20 MS. BRAY: My name is Eleanor. It's  
 21 spelled E-L-E-A-N-O-R, last name, Bray, B as in  
 22 boy, R-A-Y. So Los Angeles has been my home for

PH185-1

1 the past seven years. I am deeply concerned  
2 about the Los Angeles aerial rapid transit  
3 project.

4 I'm currently pursuing my Master's in  
5 Social Work at Cal State LA, and social work is a  
6 profession where the foundation of it is to solve  
7 problems, but solving problems with the  
8 understanding that those closest to the problem  
9 are closest to the solution.

10 So what problems does the gondola  
11 solve, and who determined that billionaire Frank  
12 McCourt is the right person to be providing a  
13 solution to these problems.

14 Problem number one is the claim that  
15 the gondola will have a traffic. However, based  
16 on the research done by the UCLA Mobility Lab, it  
17 only reduces traffic around the stadium by one  
18 percent on game nights, but it does significantly  
19 increase traffic in other areas.

20 Problem number two is the claim that  
21 the gondola will help reduce greenhouse  
22 emissions. However, the likelihood that people

cont'd  
PH185-1

PH185-2

PH185-3

1 will simply just drive to the gondola station  
2 instead of driving to the stadium means that  
3 emissions won't be reduced at all. The traffic  
4 will just be displaced.

5 Problem number three is the claim that  
6 the gondola provides much needed public  
7 transportation to Dodger Stadium, but we already  
8 literally have a shuttle bus that runs from Union  
9 Station on game night. And it's free, and people  
10 like using it.

11 So why are we asking those in the  
12 communities this will affect what their actual  
13 problems are and going to them for actual  
14 solutions. What about problems like investing in  
15 real public transit in needed areas of LA,  
16 affordable housing, community services, services  
17 for unhoused. No one asked for this gondola, and  
18 we shouldn't allow billionaires to use low income  
19 areas of Los Angeles as their play place. Thank  
20 you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22 went off the record at 5:19 p.m. and resumed at

cont'd  
PH185-3

PH185-4

PH185-5

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5:33 p.m.)

Comment - PH186

MR. CHAN: My name is Kenneth Chan, K-  
E-N-N-E-T-H, last name, C-H-A-N. I'm a resident  
of the neighborhood. I am against this project.  
I think that the process has been undemocratic.  
I think that the fact that we've had these fake  
public hearings where they shuttered everyone out  
in the back to make public comment without  
actually being public comment, that's no  
definition of public.

And I'm also against this project  
because it's a bad use of public lands and it's a  
bad use of public funds. There's no transparency  
around the financing and what any of that looks  
like.

It's so obvious that McCourt funneled  
this project through a non-profit to get this  
through and has plans to develop the outlying  
area. This neighborhood needs more grocery  
stores, needs more affordable housing, needs an  
actual laundromat. And we are barely, you know,  
we're fighting for crumbs.

PH186-1

PH186-2

PH186-3



1                   And yet whenever people come into this  
 2 neighborhood, developers, et cetera, people like  
 3 LAR, they just see it as a playground where they  
 4 can throw up the gondola under the guise of  
 5 public transportation, which we know is BS.

6                   They haven't given us any indication  
 7 on what the pricing will be. They haven't given  
 8 us any indication on, like, how efficient it will  
 9 be as use of public transit. There's the UCLA  
 10 study out that actually shows that it won't  
 11 improve traffic.

12                   This is just another luxury type  
 13 development that they're trying to push into this  
 14 neighborhood just like every luxury apartment  
 15 that they build in this neighborhood that they  
 16 say will be good for us. Yeah, and I'll yield  
 17 the rest of my time.

18                   REPORTER: Thank you.

19                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 20 went off the record at 5:35 p.m. and resumed at  
 21 5:41 p.m.)

22                   REPORTER: And your name, please?

cont'd  
PH186-3

PH186-4

PH186-5

PH186-6

Comment - PH187



1 MR. ZALDIVAR: Yeah, it's Richard  
 2 Zaldivar, R-I-C-H-A-R-D , Zaldivar, Z-A-L-D-I-V-  
 3 A-R. I am a community leader and I own, run a  
 4 non-profit here in Los Angeles in downtown.

PH187-1

5 I oppose this project. One, it is not  
 6 environmental friendly. It will create a lot  
 7 more noise in the community. Our civic leaders  
 8 fought many years to develop a state park, not to  
 9 have something that's not natural to fly over  
 10 their heads. It's not going to alleviate traffic  
 11 going to cause called more traffic and new access  
 12 points.

PH187-2

PH187-3

13 And finally, I don't think that it  
 14 makes sense, when the Dodgers have such a big  
 15 problem with alcohol abuse, and fights, and  
 16 stabbings, to entice Dodger fans to ride over a  
 17 park.

PH187-4

18 And lastly, in any kind of business,  
 19 when you apply for a license, when you apply for  
 20 funding, or any kind of permit, you are also  
 21 looked upon in your past history. The current  
 22 owners or the leaders of this, the McCourts, have

PH187-5



1 had a poor record of bankrupting the Dodgers and  
2 bringing in embarrassment to the City of Los  
3 Angeles. I don't think we want to do this again  
4 with a gondola project.

5 REPORTER: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
7 went off the record at 5:43 p.m. and resumed at  
8 5:50 p.m.)

9 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

10 MR. LEE: Okay, my name --

11 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

12 REPORTER: Go ahead, you're next.

13 MR. LEE: My name is Lee Suan, L-E-E  
14 S-U-A-N. I live in Chinatown. My zip code is  
15 90012. I am living here almost, like, in  
16 Chinatown, on this area, around this area 30  
17 years. I grew up here, almost a traffic jam  
18 every night when the games started. And after  
19 the game, it would get worse until people  
20 complained.

21 People from outside parking on, I  
22 mean, like, housing area, you know, public area,

cont'd  
PH187-5

PH188-1

Comment - PH188

1 and not convenient for tenants to come back to  
2 park their car. So I agree that they want to  
3 build, they call it a train, so what, like ---

4 REPORTER: The gondola.

5 MR. LEE: The gondola, yes. I agree  
6 they build the gondola. It's the best thing that  
7 -- even other countries are doing that. And why  
8 can't our area do it?

9 And people need for Chinatown, people  
10 moving around easy, you know, that area. And  
11 then from that side, I mean, from, I mean, area  
12 town that even every, what do you call,  
13 Medicenter, Civic Center, and here they have, I  
14 mean, how do you say. And even they have a  
15 traffic jam and then for three hours for people  
16 to get in the parking lot.

17 And we come back to that, on that side  
18 of any concert, you know, for an area that they  
19 are not, I mean, inconvenient for us to pass  
20 through any traffic lights, and even a lot of  
21 people moving around the area looking for  
22 parking.

cont'd  
PH188-1

1           My comment is I agree with them to  
2 build, I mean, the location is okay. It's not  
3 big deal, and we'll get dollars for it too.

4           And convenient for people from outside  
5 who are taking the line, red line, blue lines,  
6 any line from Union Station so that is easy for  
7 them to go to Dodger Stadium. And even at night,  
8 you know, there's more traffic. I mean, for  
9 this, I mean, what do you call, is a thing --

10           REPORTER: The gondola.

11           MR. LEE: Okay. And then at least no,  
12 I mean, after the season is over people can go  
13 and see Chinatown and go downtown. That area  
14 people, I mean, the people from other counties  
15 can visit, get down from Union Station.

16           REPORTER: Is that your comment?

17           MR. LEE: Yes.

18           REPORTER: Thank you very much.

19           (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 went off the record at 5:54 p.m. and resumed at  
21 5:55 p.m.)

22           REPORTER: And we're recording.

cont'd  
PH188-1

1 MS. FREIERMUTH: Thanks. My name is  
 2 Anne Freiermuth, F as in Frank, R-E-I-E-R-M, as  
 3 in Mary, U-T-H. I live in West Los Angeles, and  
 4 I am opposed to the gondola project.

5 I really troubled at the idea that the  
 6 city would spend billions if dollars for a  
 7 tourist trap that has nothing to do with public  
 8 transit. I would love to spend billions of  
 9 dollars improving our public transit system.

10 And I don't think the gondola, which  
 11 covers a very small amount of land, is going to  
 12 get people out of their cars, it's not going to  
 13 improve any part of going to Dodger Stadium.

14 It just seems so insanely, just such  
 15 a insanely bad way to spend money and does not, I  
 16 think, accomplish any of the goals that as  
 17 they're stated.

18 This proposal was put forth earlier.  
 19 The community defeated it. It has now been moved  
 20 to Metro, given brand new branding, but the base  
 21 problem is still there. This doesn't help  
 22 transportation, it's very much opposed by the

PH189-1

PH189-2

PH189-3

1 people who live nearby. It's a poor use of  
2 resources and makes no sense.

cont'd  
PH189-3

3 REPORTER: Thank you so much.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 went off the record at 5:57 p.m. and resumed at  
6 6:04 p.m.)

Comment - PH190

7 REPORTER: We are on the record for  
8 William Wong.

9 MR. WONG: I oppose the gondola being  
10 built here in Chinatown.

11 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

12 MR. WONG: The reason being the  
13 gondola is very detrimental to the interests of  
14 Chinatown. The airspace above Chinatown should  
15 not have any gondola going through it.

PH190-1

16 The developer had the freedom and  
17 liberty to develop the gondola all the way over  
18 by the hilltop but definitely not in the airspace  
19 above Chinatown, because it has no advantage or  
20 benefits to Chinatown.

21 I am just wondering what's the reason  
22 behind centering the project here in Chinatown.

PH190-2

1       What was the reason behind all this? I suppose  
2       its motivation is to stop Chinatown from ever  
3       developing again.

4               Currently, Chinatown is not doing well  
5       economically. The gondola is not going to bring  
6       any kind of benefit to Chinatown. Instead it  
7       will be all detriment.

8               Chinatown is ours, for the Chinese  
9       community, the general Asian population. It's  
10      the home to this group of people. I don't know  
11      how long -- it's about 200 years of U.S. history  
12      with Chinatown here.

13              There are more and more illegal  
14      structures, which goes against the planning for  
15      the land, a lot of buildings whose purpose are  
16      against the interest of the park, the skyscrapers  
17      or tall buildings where low income foreigners  
18      will never be able to afford, those with limited  
19      resources, or the low income earners find some  
20      way to improve our living conditions.

21              You know what I'm saying? Do you  
22      agree with me? I'm just talking practically.

cont'd  
PH190-2

PH190-3

1 Again whatever defines the facility they're  
2 setting up, who will be there? How many people  
3 are visiting that stadium?

4 I've been here about 30 years. I  
5 never visited there even one time, no money, no  
6 talk. They're not going to be happy. That's  
7 why. I'm 75 years of age. So we fight for our  
8 interest. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
10 went off the record at 6:08 p.m. and resumed at  
11 6:09 p.m.)

PH190-4

12 REPORTER: Ready when you are.

13 MS. CHOW: First of all, I really  
14 oppose the construction if the gondola.  
15 Chinatown should have more hospitals, more  
16 markets, so that we get more prosperous.

17 Immediately stop the construction of  
18 the gondola. Whatever they're doing is not  
19 respecting the citizens and residents of  
20 Chinatown. If they want better public  
21 transportation, do some subway building,  
22 whatever, but never a gondola, never.

PH191-1

PH191-2

Comment - PH191



1                   Also implication in terms of air  
 2                   quality will obviously get even worse.  
 3                   Construction should immediately cease and never  
 4                   again. I recommend build some more bus stations,  
 5                   more metro subway stations, probably that.

PH191-3

6                   That's all, thank you.

7                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
 8                   went off the record at 6:11 p.m. and resumed at  
 9                   6:13 p.m.)

Comment - PH192

10                  REPORTER: And we are recording.

11                  MS. YANEZ: My name is Elva Yanez.  
 12                  I'm a resident of El Sereno. I'm also active in  
 13                  environmental and environmental justice issues.

14                  (Simultaneous Speaking.)

15                  MS. YANEZ: And I am here today to  
 16                  basically say that I'm a former California State  
 17                  Park and Recreation Commissioner. I served from  
 18                  2011 to 2019 during the time when LA State  
 19                  Historic Park was finishing up the interim use  
 20                  and moving into construction.

PH192-1

21                  That entire time there was never a  
 22                  mention of a gondola. There was never a mention

1 of the gondola during the environmental impacts  
2 report process. There was never a mention of  
3 gondola to public members who attended 65 public  
4 meetings about what they wanted to see in the  
5 start park when it was constructed.

6 And very simply, this is a violation  
7 of CEQA. The idea that the EIR indicates no  
8 major impacts on the park and it's users is  
9 ludicrous.

10 So I fully expect a law suit. And  
11 really, at the end of the day, I believe that is  
12 where this issue will be resolved and justice for  
13 the communities who fought so hard to stop the  
14 warehouses on this land and to put a state park  
15 to provide rest, respite, for the people who have  
16 no park, who had no park before this park built  
17 in this region. So thank you.

18 REPORTER: Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
20 went off the record at 6:15 p.m. and resumed at  
21 6:17 p.m.)

22 REPORTER: We are recording.

cont'd  
PH192-1

PH192-2

Comment - PH193

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Jennifer  
2 Rodriguez, J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R, Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-  
3 G-U-I-E-Z.

4 REPORTER: Thank you.

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: And my public comment  
6 is to not build this project, the gondola  
7 project, on our land. Because it is not  
8 something that the community wants or needs at  
9 this time.

10 We need more public infrastructure of  
11 not in this manner. We also need more park  
12 space, more open space. And this project would  
13 take that away. And we also need the Metro to  
14 listen to the community that clearly does not  
15 want this project as well.

16 And this will not help with traffic,  
17 or congestion, or whatever the project is  
18 claiming to help with. I know this because I  
19 live in Cypress Park, so I'm a nearby resident  
20 and I ride my bike though here all the time.

21 And Dodger Scandium just makes the  
22 traffic awful when they have games. And I am

cont'd  
PH193-1

PH193-2

PH193-3

1 pretty certain that adding an, like, an  
2 attraction is only going to increase that  
3 traffic, not decrease it as is proposed or  
4 thought to happen.

5 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
7 went off the record at 6:19 p.m. and resumed at  
8 6:20 p.m.)

Comment - PH194

9 REPORTER: We are recording. Your  
10 name, please?

11 MS. BAR-ZEMER: Miriam Bar-Zemer.

12 REPORTER: And could you spell that  
13 for me, please?

14 MS. BAR-ZEMER: M-I-R-I-A-M, last  
15 name, Bar-zemer, B-A-R - Z-E-M-E-R.

16 REPORTER: Great, and please proceed.

17 MS. BAR-ZEMER: So I have been opposed  
18 to the gondola project since I first learned  
19 about it, that it hadn't gone through a proper  
20 bidding process. And there didn't seem to be an  
21 honest review of various transportation modes  
22 that could potentially serve the Dodger Stadium

cont'd  
PH193-3

PH194-1

PH194-2

1 if that was the initial intention.

2 LA transportation is notoriously  
3 horrible. And I don't think the proposal really  
4 reveals the continuity of the cost that will be  
5 basically revealed for this -- sorry, I'm not  
6 expressing myself.

7 REPORTER. No, that's okay. If it  
8 gets a little loud, we'll give you some extra.

9 MS. BAR-ZEMER: Okay. And I started  
10 the draft environmental report. I have lived in  
11 downtown for basically 30 years at this point. I  
12 was raised here. And I am really saddened to  
13 know that the path -- I'm not anti-gondola in  
14 principle, but the path that it's taken is  
15 directly over our beloved state park which will,  
16 honestly, just ruin the view shed.

17 And all the concerns that this  
18 community is raising in terms of gentrification I  
19 find very valid. It's been a long battle for  
20 Chinatown to maintain its status here. And  
21 reportability is obviously one of the biggest  
22 concerns. And this is just not a asset to the

cont'd  
PH194-2

PH194-3

PH194-4

PH194-5

1 people who live here.

2 It really feels like a vanity project.

3 Yeah, it's really more about the transparency of  
4 the process that feels really lost. So thank  
5 you.

6 REPORTER: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
8 went off the record at 6:23 p.m. and resumed at  
9 6:25 p.m.)

Comment - PH195

10 REPORTER: We are recording.

11 MR. FRANK: Okay, I'm Ron Frank, R-O-N  
12 F-R-A-N-K.

13 REPORTER: And please proceed, Ron.

14 MR. FRANK: I do live in this  
15 neighborhood, but if I didn't I would still be  
16 against this project. It's very much obviously a  
17 scam, and this should not be happening just to  
18 enrich one person.

19 Ostensibly, this is about saving the  
20 environment. Actually, it's a moving goal post,  
21 a moving horizon. They have so many different  
22 reasons for saying they want this gondola project

1 to go through, and none of them will solve any  
2 problem with our -- the gondola is not a solution  
3 to any environmental or neighborhood problems.

4 It's a solution for Frank McCourt's  
5 problem with what to do with his half of the  
6 Dodger Stadium parking lot. And nobody talks  
7 about all the environmental damage that will  
8 happen when he does end up developing his half of  
9 the parking lot. And that's down the line, and  
10 that's something that's not at all addressed in  
11 any way.

12 And I'm certain that whatever project  
13 he comes up with will create environmental damage  
14 in the building of it and in the people  
15 patronizing it afterwards. It'll increase the  
16 attendance at Dodger Stadium when there's not a  
17 game.

18 As well, and this is just a personal  
19 thing, I have come to really love the wildlife in  
20 my neighborhood. And this would greatly affect  
21 that. I realize that's seen as a lesser thing in  
22 these matters, but the wildlife is important in

cont'd  
PH195-1

PH195-2

1 the neighborhood. And it's great that it's here.

2 REPORTER: That concludes your  
3 comment?

4 MR. FRANK: I'm sure I have much more  
5 to say, if I was a little more organized, but  
6 that's it off the top of my head.

7 REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
9 went off the record at 6:27 p.m. and resumed at  
10 6:34 p.m.)

11 REPORTER: We're recording. If I  
12 could have you say and spell your name, please.

13 MS. MANZANILLA: Yes, my name is  
14 Xochitl Manzanilla.

15 REPORTER: And could you spell that  
16 for me?

17 MS. MANZANILLA: I spell it, like, X-  
18 O-C-H-I-T-L.

19 REPORTER: Yes.

20 MS. MANZANILLA: And my last name is  
21 Manzanilla, M-A-N-Z, as in zebra, A-N-I-L-L-A.

22 REPORTER; Okay, and your comments,

cont'd  
PH195-2

PH196-1

Comment - PH196



1 please?

2 MS. MANZANILLA: My comments is that  
3 I oppose the gondola project very strongly for  
4 many reasons. We do not need it, the first --  
5 number one. We do not need it. We already have  
6 free transportation to Dodger Stadium.

7 And it will be a big mistake doing it  
8 on areas where only low income families live.  
9 These are communities, the people work hard to  
10 put the bread on the table. And this will be a  
11 big mistake for that reason, because they are  
12 poor people. And having to pay \$40 to ride the  
13 gondola, I think it will be not fair.

14 And it will affect terribly all the  
15 programs that we have at LA State Historic Park,  
16 Los Angeles State Historic Park. Like, flying  
17 the kites is a program, the farmers market that  
18 we have in the park, CiBiC Bike, Art in the Park,  
19 Tai Chi class, Yoga class, baseball, and all  
20 concerts in the park, and more programs that I  
21 cannot mention.

22 The real estate will be affected very

cont'd  
PH196-1

PH196-2

PH196-3

PH196-4

1 badly with this gondola. People fought very hard  
2 so this land will be the beautiful park that it  
3 is today. And it's our beautiful LA State  
4 Historic Park. We don't want nothing to mess or  
5 destroy, come and destroy our beautiful park that  
6 we enjoy so wonderfully. Thank you.

7 REPORTER: Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
9 went off the record at 6:37 p.m. and resumed at  
10 6:40 p.m.)

Comment - PH197

11 REPORTER: We're recording. If you  
12 could please state and spell your name?

13 MS. MURAI: Am I being recorded? Oh,  
14 can I start?

15 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

16 REPORTER: So you can state your name  
17 and spell it now for the record, please.

18 MS. MURAI: Okay. Miho Murai, M-I-H-  
19 O, last name is M-U-R-A-I.

20 REPORTER: And then now you can begin  
21 your comments.

22 MS. MURAI: Hi, my name is Miho Murai.

cont'd  
PH196-4

PH197-1

1 And I am a Chinatown resident. And I am here  
 2 because I want to show my opposition to the  
 3 gondola project. I do not believe there's enough  
 4 transparency regarding the funding for the  
 5 project from Metro and Frank McCourt.

6 The construction costs could go up to  
 7 \$300 million. And the question that I have is  
 8 who will be paying for this? Will taxpayers'  
 9 dollars be used to fund this project? And if so,  
 10 how much of our public funds are estimated to be  
 11 used? And when will we find out about this?  
 12 Also, who will pay for the maintenance and daily  
 13 operations of the gondola?

14 Another major issue is, as a resident  
 15 of Chinatown, there is no need for a gondola,  
 16 because the transportation from Union Station to  
 17 Dodger Stadium already exists as a free shuttle  
 18 system.

19 People that are going to use the  
 20 gondola are tourists that are going to come in  
 21 because they want to have the view. But the  
 22 reality is the people that live in the community

cont'd  
PH197-1

PH197-2

PH197-3

1 will be the ones affected by the transportation,  
2 by the traffic.

3 And we do not have -- and we don't  
4 even know how much the gondola is going to cost.  
5 Most likely, it's going to not even be affordable  
6 to the residents. Chinatown is one of the most  
7 lowest income and cities within the LA County.

8 And then finally, I want to -- the  
9 gondola project will impact historic and culture  
10 resources such as the LA State Historic Park, the  
11 Union Station, and the Pueblo de Los Historic  
12 Monument. The towers that are going to be built  
13 are not suitable to the locations at where  
14 they're at. And more importantly, a gondola,  
15 it's just going to look weird. I'm sorry.

16 And then finally, this project will  
17 lead to displacement and increase the cost of  
18 rent in the area. And that's already happening  
19 all the time, gentrification.

20 Where I live currently, there's an  
21 apartment building right across from me. For a  
22 two-bedroom apartment, it's \$5,000. And as a

cont'd  
PH197-3

PH197-4

PH197-5

PH197-6

PH197-7

1 result of that, they raised our rent in December.  
2 And so projects like this are not for the  
3 community.

4 And what it's going to lead to is the  
5 gentrification of our community. And it's going  
6 to lead to tourists coming into our community  
7 that can enjoy the gondola. But then they can go  
8 home and leave.

9 And then who is going to be impacted  
10 by the air, who's going to be impacted by the  
11 traffic? It's us, the community. So we ask you  
12 to first ask the community what we want.

13 What we want is we want more  
14 affordable housing. We want markets, we want  
15 public transportation, we need to address the  
16 unhoused. And these are the things that we need  
17 right now as we're fighting the COVID pandemic.

18 We do not need a gondola project  
19 that's going to ruin our community and not at all  
20 support our community. Thank you.

21 REPORTER: Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

cont'd  
PH197-7

PH197-8

PH197-9

1 went off the record at 6:43 p.m. and resumed at  
2 6:49 p.m.)

Comment  
PH195 (cont'd)

3 REPORTER: And we are on record.

4 MR. FRANK: My name is Ron Frank, R-O-  
5 N F-R-A-N-K. And another concerning thing about  
6 this whole process is that it's very much that  
7 they don't -- there's no transparency in so many  
8 aspects of this, from even this here today. Who  
9 are all these people manning these booths? I  
10 imagine they're employees.

11 And it seems like a lot of people here  
12 are against the gondola, and a lot of people here  
13 who are for it are employed to be for it.

14 As well, there are so many changing  
15 names of who's trying to make this happen. It  
16 started out with Frank McCourt, then Climate  
17 Resolve, then Zero Emissions, then Metro, and who  
18 knows who else.

19 And another big secret has to do with  
20 -- involves the budget. If somehow this project  
21 does get jammed through, what provisions are  
22 there for this to be paid for when they go over

PH195-3

PH195-4

1 schedule and over budget? And how are they going  
2 to prevent the tax payers from having to rescue  
3 this boondoggle?

4 REPORTER: Does that conclude your  
5 comment? Please continue.

6 MR. FRANK: It offers nothing but  
7 blight and ruin. And it must be stopped before  
8 it gets to a point where it's gone too far, and  
9 it's just going to be a big bus wreck. Okay,  
10 thank you.

11 REPORTER: Thank you very much,  
12 appreciate you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
14 went off the record at 6:50 p.m.)  
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21  
22

cont'd  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-12-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate complete record of the  
proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

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**Appendix B.4**  
**Public Hearing, February 8, 2023**  
***(Virtual)***

LOS ANGELES AERIAL RAPID TRANSIT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

+ + + + +

PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 8, 2023

+ + + + +

The Hearing convened via  
Videoconference, at 5:00 p.m. PST, Jessica Sisco,  
Moderator, presiding.

PRESENT

JESSICA SISCO, Facilitator  
LAURA ADLEMAN  
ANTHONY CRUMP, LA Metro  
DAVID GRANNIS, Point C  
RYAN HUTCHISON  
MARY NOORISTANI  
PAOLA PENA  
CORY ZELMER, LA Metro



## COMMENTERS

MARTA WOODHULL  
CHRIS HANNAN  
PETER KWAN  
GAY YUEN  
KRIS CHAN  
ERIC ADAMS  
JOHN CHRISTENSEN  
MARIA FLORES  
PAT SUZAK  
SARAH HARRIS  
MARK McCRAE  
TED GREEN  
OMAR GALINDO  
GUS TORRES  
MARIANNA GATTO  
ERICA GARCIA  
ALEX ALVAREZ  
RON FRANK  
CASA WILSON  
KATIE NORIAN  
SUNJANA SUPEKAR  
JASON FUJIMOTO  
PHYLLIS LING  
SOPHAT PHEA  
ERNEST LEE  
TANY LING  
SAKAE KOYAMA  
RICK GARCIA  
JUNIPER WONG  
PATRICK CHEN  
LARRY JUNG  
AMY HO  
KING CHEUNG  
DANA MARTINEZ  
CHARLY LIGETY  
JOE RINCON  
MELANIE BELLOMO  
ALEJANDRO CAMPILLO  
JULIE RICO  
IRAN CARRANZA  
ALBERT HOLM

## COMMENTERS

ERIK VAN BREENE  
LILIANA CORTEZ  
JENNIFER WONG  
BILL CHIN  
FERNANDA SANCHEZ  
CHENG YANG  
YU HANG TANG  
EDWIN LI  
LUIS GUERRERO  
MIGUEL CASTELLON  
RICHARD ROJAS  
DAHMA CHO  
BILLY YATES  
ANNIE SHAW  
MARIA CERVANTES  
LYNNE DWYER  
VALERIE MORISHIGE  
PAUL DES MARAIS  
VINCENT MONTAGO  
MELISSA ARECHIGA  
CARLOS GOMEZ  
TOM SAVIO  
LISA DUARDO  
MICHAEL CALAREZA  
BRENDA MIRAMONTES  
MARIA MANZANILLA  
JENNIFER MARTINEZ  
MARLOW CERVANTES  
ALI RUBINFELD

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (5:03 p.m.)

3 MS. SISCO: So I would like to welcome  
4 you to this continued public hearing for the Los  
5 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project Draft  
6 Environmental Impact Report.

7 This project is proposed by Los  
8 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies, LLC.  
9 Thank you for taking time out of your day to  
10 participate in this continued hearing.

11 So, now we'll get into the  
12 interpretation logistics. I'll provide this  
13 information in English, and then I'll ask our  
14 Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taishanese  
15 interpreters to repeat it.

16 I want to note that even if you're  
17 listening to this meeting in English, you're  
18 going to want to follow these instructions so  
19 that you can hear any comments that come through  
20 in another language interpreted back into  
21 English.

22 So, in just a moment, we'll enable the

1 interpretation and you'll be able to click on the  
2 interpretation button in your Zoom screen. That  
3 button looks like a globe, and it's usually at  
4 the bottom of your screen, but the location will  
5 depend on the device you're using. You're going  
6 to want to select your preferred language, so  
7 even if you're listening to the meeting in  
8 English, you'll want to select English.

9 And, finally, note that if you are  
10 calling in via phone, unfortunately, the  
11 interpretation feature is not available in Zoom  
12 for phone-only participants. So, please log into  
13 Zoom to access interpretation, if you can.

14 I'll ask the Spanish interpreter to  
15 repeat these instructions now.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you, Madeline.

18 I will now ask the Cantonese  
19 interpreter to repeat those instructions.

20 (Foreign language spoken.)

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much.

22 Could the Mandarin interpreter please

1 repeat those instructions now?

2 (Foreign language spoken.)

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

4 And, finally, could the Taishanese  
5 interpreter please repeat the instructions?

6 Looks like maybe the Taishanese  
7 interpreter is having trouble coming off mute.

8 (Foreign language spoken.)

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much.

10 So, now, give us just a moment. We're  
11 going to enable the audio interpretation feature  
12 so that you can access it. You should be able to  
13 see the globe icon, and you're going to want to  
14 select your language of choice for the meeting.

15 And give us just a moment here. We're  
16 going to start recording in all five languages,  
17 so you may hear just a short break in the audio  
18 as we activate the recording.

19 And these recordings will be available  
20 on Metro's project webpage as well.

21 (Pause.)

22 MS. SISCO: If you need assistance

1 during the public hearing, please send us a  
2 message in the chat.

3 And we're just going to give it a  
4 moment here to confirm the team is all set with  
5 the recordings in the various audio channels, and  
6 then we'll move on.

7 (Pause.)

8 MS. SISCO: Okay. So, hopefully,  
9 everyone has had a chance to select their  
10 language, so we'll go ahead and move on.

11 Now that we have the interpretation  
12 enabled, I'd like to welcome everyone to  
13 tonight's continued public hearing. My name is  
14 Jessica Sisco, and I will be serving as the  
15 moderator for tonight's public hearing.

16 I would like to introduce Anthony  
17 Crump, Interim Executive Officer for Community  
18 Relations at L.A. County Metro.

19 MR. CRUMP: Good evening, everyone,  
20 and thank you for joining us.

21 The purpose of tonight's hearing is a  
22 continued public hearing provided in recognition

1 that interested members of the public may have  
2 been unable to provide testimony at the January  
3 12th, 2023 in-person public hearing due to  
4 certain disruptions from some attendees.

5 This continued public hearing is for  
6 the sole purpose of receiving verbal public  
7 testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact  
8 Report for the proposed project. The verbal  
9 comments received at this continued public  
10 hearing will be deemed timely received for the  
11 purposes of the Draft Environmental Impact Report  
12 comment period, which officially concluded on  
13 January 17th, 2023.

14 Next, I'd like to talk a little bit  
15 about some of the ground rules for tonight's  
16 meeting.

17 Metro is committed to ensuring that  
18 all participants can fairly and clearly share  
19 ideas, comments, and concerns about the Draft  
20 Environmental Impact Report. To provide a safe  
21 and equitable process, we're asking for your  
22 help.

1           During this meeting, please respect  
2 the format of the meeting and allow everyone an  
3 opportunity to comment.

4           Please turn off cell phones and  
5 background noise when speaking.

6           Please treat your fellow community  
7 members, agency representatives, Metro staff, and  
8 others with respect.

9           Please address all comments to Metro  
10 staff and our consultants.

11           And, most importantly, please maintain  
12 a conversational tone.

13           And with that, I'll turn it back over  
14 to Jessica.

15           MS. SISCO: Thank you, Anthony.

16           Metro hosted two informational  
17 workshops and three public hearings during the  
18 Draft Environmental Impact Report public review  
19 period. To review materials that were presented  
20 during these meetings, such as presentations and  
21 exhibit boards, you can go to  
22 metro.net/aerialrapidtransit. And we will put



1 this link in the chat for you as well.

2 Okay. So, before we get started with  
3 public comment, we need to address a few  
4 housekeeping items.

5 And just as reminder in case anyone  
6 joined late, you do need to select a language  
7 tonight. Even if you're listening to the meeting  
8 in English, that will allow you to hear the  
9 interpretation comments that come through in  
10 languages other than English, so you'll want to  
11 click on the globe icon and select your language  
12 of choice.

13 Since we are focused on accepting  
14 public comment this evening, we won't be  
15 responding to questions. If you would like to  
16 make a verbal comment, you can raise your hand  
17 using the Zoom icon or by dialing star-9 if  
18 you're calling in on the phone.

19 We will call on you by name or the  
20 last four digits of your phone number, and it may  
21 take just a moment to get you unmuted.

22 There will be a 2-minute time limit

1 for comments. We ask that you please state and  
2 spell your first and last name as you begin your  
3 comments. Once you have identified yourself, we  
4 will start the 2-minute clock and you can provide  
5 your comment.

6 If you are using interpretation, the  
7 interpreter will repeat your comment in English  
8 once you conclude, and we will allow extra time  
9 for your comment to be interpreted.

10 If you exceed your 2 minutes, we will  
11 move on to the next commenter. It's important  
12 that we keep to the 2-minute time limit, as we  
13 want to be fair and give everyone who is  
14 providing comments in this meeting the same  
15 amount of time.

16 We also want to take a moment, as  
17 Anthony mentioned, to remind everyone to be  
18 respectful to others and to use appropriate  
19 language when making comments.

20 I should also note that communications  
21 that are typed into the Zoom chat will not be  
22 considered a formal public comment, so please

1 raise your hand if you would like to make a  
2 formal public comment.

3 Okay. So, let's go ahead and get  
4 started with the public comment session. I see  
5 that we have some hands raised, and we'll go  
6 ahead and start calling on people. We'll call on  
7 you to unmute yourself and provide your public  
8 comment.

9 So, Marta Woodhull. We'll get you  
10 unmuted so you can provide your comment.

Comment-PH198  
Woodhull

11 MS. WOODHULL: Hello.

12 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

13 MS. WOODHULL: Yes, good. Don't start  
14 the clock yet. I want to turn mine on real quick  
15 so I can parallel yours. And I can do that  
16 whenever you're ready, and I can begin.

17 Shall I start my clock?

18 MS. SISCO: Sure. Please go ahead.

19 MS. WOODHULL: Thank you very much.

20 My name is Martha Woodhull. My professional name  
21 is Marta. I'm a resident of the Metro Chinatown  
22 Senior Lofts. Forgive the slurring sound in my

PH198-1

1 speech. I have a Invisalign in, yes? At the age  
2 of 68, I'm getting Invisalign, finally.

3 The reason I'm commenting is due to  
4 health issues. I had COVID and long COVID. I  
5 was unable to attend any meetings, but I have  
6 followed all of the documents.

7 Early on, when you first proposed this  
8 project, there was a representative actually at  
9 our building at Metro Chinatown, and I asked her  
10 to walk into my apartment to observe the impact  
11 of the Alpine Tower. I don't know that anyone  
12 has ever actually come inside any of our homes to  
13 experience what it will be like as a resident of  
14 the Metro Chinatown.

15 We have one window. We are a loft,  
16 narrow loft type of building, and our only window  
17 faces the Alameda Quarter. I am literally  
18 directly opposite the Alpine Tower, and I'm at  
19 about 100, 125 feet in the air. So, I'm very  
20 glad to see, looking at the EID today -- EIR, I  
21 mean, that you are going to be above my head.

22 So, so I was quite concerned about

cont'd  
PH198-1

PH198-2

1 that. You're going to be 175 feet. By the way,  
2 that drawing is very not to scale.

3 But I'm the daughter of a civil  
4 engineer. My father was a mayor. I understand  
5 the difficulty of a massive project of this  
6 nature, minimally, but it's very distressing to  
7 me that no one has experienced, to my knowledge,  
8 the boots on the ground reality of the people  
9 living in extreme proximity to these structures.  
10 I think the tower will be about 50, 75 feet in  
11 front of my face, and it will probably occupy  
12 half of my window.

13 That isn't worrying me. I was mostly  
14 worrying about gondolas passing in front of my  
15 window. I see by the plans that they won't.

16 So, my time is up. I wanted to just  
17 give you that inform --

18 MS. SISCO: Thank you, Martha.

19 Next, we will go to Liliana Cortez.

20 Liliana?

21 Liliana, are you able to provide your  
22 comments?

cont'd  
PH198-2

1                   We may need to come back to Liliana,  
2                   so we'll return and see if we can get Liliana's  
3                   comment.

4                   For now, we'll go to Chris Hannan.  
5                   Chris Hannan, we'll get you unmuted so you can  
6                   provide your comments.

Comment-PH199  
Hannan

7                   MR. HANNAN: Hello?

8                   MS. SISCO: Yes.

9                   MR. HANNAN: Hi. This is Chris Hannan  
10                  with the Los Angeles-Orange Counties Building and  
11                  Construction Trades Council, 1626 Beverly  
12                  Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, here to speak  
13                  in support of the project on behalf of 48  
14                  affiliate local unions and district councils  
15                  representing over 140,000 members.

16                  This project is not only going to  
17                  create good jobs, but it's going to have a  
18                  tremendous benefit to the Los Angeles Community  
19                  by getting thousands of cars off the road and  
20                  encouraging public transportation.

21                  This is the second largest city in the  
22                  country, and we need to have more access to

PH199-1

1 public transportation, the last mile when we  
 2 complete the trip on public transportation, and  
 3 the Gondola Project is a fantastic project. It's  
 4 going to get people off the roads and onto public  
 5 transportation. It's going to be safe, and it's  
 6 going to minimize the impact to the local  
 7 community.

8 We've been in Los Angeles for over 119  
 9 years and strongly support the project. The  
 10 project will be constructed with local community  
 11 and the highest skilled membership in the world  
 12 to make sure it's done as safe as possible.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 15 comment.

16 We'll go to phone number ending in  
 17 7780. We'll get you unmuted here so you can  
 18 provide your comment.

Comment-PH200  
 Kwan

19 MR. KWAN: Hi.

20 MS. SISCO: There we go.

21 MR. KWAN: Hi. Can you -- hi. Can  
 22 you hear me?

cont'd  
 PH199-1

PH200-1

1 MS. SISCO: Yes. Thank you.

2 MR. KWAN: All right, thank you.

3 This is Peter Kwan (phonetic). I am  
4 a born and raised Chinatown kid -- actually, born  
5 in Sacramento, but moved here when I was one. I  
6 am now 60. My family's been here for well over  
7 59 years with our businesses in Chinatown, and I  
8 am calling in support of the project.

9 One of the things that we are lacking  
10 right now in Chinatown is commercial activity.  
11 We have no supermarkets. We have no stores, and  
12 I just took a walk around Chinatown today, and a  
13 lot of them were already closed by 3:00 p.m.

14 Chinatown is dying a slow death.  
15 You'll notice that commercial property owners are  
16 -- when they pass away, their heirs sell all  
17 their properties. Well, that's because there's  
18 no commercial activity. If the commercial  
19 activity was healthy, the buildings would be  
20 worth more than the land. Right now, it's the  
21 opposite. The land is worth more than the  
22 building, so they're all moving on. The old

cont'd  
PH200-1



1 generations are dying, and the young generation  
2 won't come back.

3 I'm probably one of five businesses in  
4 Chinatown that has stayed, and we're making it  
5 work.

6 The other issue I'd like to address  
7 that people are concerned with is rising rents.  
8 Rents don't rise because of a gondola. The  
9 reason why rents rise because there's a lack of  
10 housing. And the reason some areas have more  
11 demand than others, people are moving in for the  
12 quality of schools, for the sick --

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
14 comment.

15 Next, we'll go to Gay Yuen.

16 So, Gay Yuen, you should be unmuted  
17 now and able to provide your comments.

Comment-PH201

G Yuen 18 MS. YUEN: Hello. You can hear me  
19 now, right?

20 MS. SISCO: Yes.

21 MS. YUEN: Thank you. My name's Gay  
22 Yuen. I was raised in Chinatown, taught in

cont'd  
PH200-1

PH201-1

1 Chinatown, and still very active with the  
2 community there. On top of that, I'm the chair  
3 of the Chinese-American Museum, which is located  
4 at El Pueblo Historical Monument across from  
5 Union Station.

6 So, I'm intimately connected with the  
7 gondola in terms of the present design and  
8 proposal, and I've spoken several times in favor  
9 of the gondola because to me, it's a win-win,  
10 both for the El Pueblo Monument and also for  
11 Chinatown in terms of visitors coming in,  
12 visiting our vendors, eating in our restaurants,  
13 and visiting our public places.

14 So, I won't go into that as much as  
15 saying that my direct comment on the EIR is that  
16 I'm hoping, when we get to the point of community  
17 benefits, that there will be a concerted effort  
18 to include participants from Chinatown and from  
19 El Pueblo so that we can talk specifically about  
20 what the residents, what the merchants, and what  
21 all the others who are directly impacted by the  
22 gondola will be able to tell you what we want and

cont'd  
PH201-1

PH201-2

1 what our community needs.

2 I think that I agree with Peter Kwan,  
3 that Chinatown can only survive if we infuse it  
4 with visitors who will come to our places of  
5 business. And, therefore, I urge that we  
6 continue to look at how to build the gondola with  
7 respect to what the needs of our communities are.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

10 Next, we will go to Kris with a K.

11 And if you could please state your full name  
12 before your comment.

Comment-PH202

K Chan

13 MS. CHAN: Hi. I don't know why you  
14 need my full name, but fine. My name is Kris  
15 Chan. I am a member of the Chinatown community,  
16 and frankly, I am so frustrated that we continue  
17 to have these hearings without any public  
18 transparency.

19 This is clearly a cosmetic project of  
20 Frank McCourt, and this will do nothing to  
21 benefit actually community members of Chinatown.

22 We -- you literally said it yourself.

cont'd  
PH201-2

PH202-1

PH202-2

1 We need a market. We need a hospital, and yet,  
2 you think building a gondola will save Chinatown?

3 Chinatown is not dying because we lack  
4 visitors. We need real community needs. We need  
5 things to benefit the older generation of  
6 Chinatown. We need actual affordable housing,  
7 and we're trying to spend millions of taxpayer  
8 dollars on these fucking stupid fucks.

9 I am respectfully asking you all to  
10 think about what low income community needs. You  
11 all are just doing this garbage work that doesn't  
12 actually amount to anything.

13 How much of the construction will  
14 decrease the air quality? None of this makes any  
15 sense. How many years will it take to build the  
16 goddamn gondola?

17 We -- there's so many things going on  
18 right now. We're in a pandemic. Rents are  
19 increasing because of this lack of affordable  
20 housing, and yet, we're all here sitting here  
21 listening to this as if Chinatown needs to be  
22 revitalized.

cont'd  
PH202-2

PH202-3

PH202-4

1                   No. Chinatown community -- you all  
 2                   are just ignoring members who actually live  
 3                   there. They have been surviving, and they don't  
 4                   need a gondola. They need real community access,  
 5                   health care, hospital, market.

PH202-3

6                   I don't know how many times we have to  
 7                   stress this: we don't need a gondola, and we're  
 8                   demanding that you get out.

9                   MS. SISCO: We're going to move on to  
 10                  the next commenter, Eric Adams.

Comment-PH203  
E Adams

11                  MR. ADAMS: Hello. Can you hear me?

12                  MS. SISCO: Yes.

13                  MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

14                  This project is a master class in  
 15                  deception and defrauding of the people. Everyone  
 16                  getting paid to work on this boondoggle should  
 17                  feel a deep sense of shame.

PH203-1

18                  Do you want to know more about this  
 19                  project? You're going to find dead ends and  
 20                  feel-good fantasies.

21                  You want to know who's paying for it?

22                  Good luck. Because no one knows.

1                   Want to know who's designing it? It's  
 2 very vague, but we do know for sure it's not a  
 3 gondola manufacturer. The reputable ones want  
 4 nothing to do with this project.

PH203-2

5                   Want to know who's operating it? A  
 6 non-profit climate change parasite group with  
 7 zero experience operating an attraction or  
 8 anything relating to the public. In fact, all  
 9 they claim to do is partner with other orgs that  
 10 are actually doing the work.

PH203-3

11                   But, hey, public-private partnerships  
 12 yield paychecks. Right?

13                   Who's asking for this? That, we know  
 14 concretely. Not the people of Los Angeles, not  
 15 the residents of Chinatown and nearby  
 16 communities, only the owners of the Chavez Ravine  
 17 parking lots, so they can build the Dodgers  
 18 Americana Grove Live. This is not public  
 19 transit. It is an attraction.

PH203-4

20                   So, let's start the push on what we  
 21 really need to do. Eminent domain, bringing the  
 22 Chavez Ravine back to the people. Let's right a

PH203-5

1 wrong decades in the making.

2 We will not go kicking and screaming  
3 this time, but we are keeping notes, and taking  
4 receipts and names. Shame on you all.

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

6 I'm going to try to give people a  
7 heads-up in terms of the next few comments that  
8 I'm going to so that you all can be ready to get  
9 unmuted, because I do see we have a number of  
10 hands up.

11 So, we'll go to Jon Christensen next,  
12 and following that we'll go to Maria Flores, and  
13 then phone number 4821.

14 So, Jon Christensen is the click.

15 You're unmuted.

cont'd  
PH203-5

Comment-PH204  
J Christensen

16 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay.

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Great.

19 My name is Jon Christensen. I teach  
20 and do research on environmental policy with a  
21 focus on equity and environmental justice in the  
22 Institute of the Environment and Sustainability,

PH204-1

1 the Luskin Center for Innovation, and the Luskin  
2 Center for History and Policy at UCLA.

3 I'm deeply concerned about the lack of  
4 environmental justice and equity in this proposed  
5 project, as well as in the Draft Environmental  
6 Impact Report itself.

7 Environmental justice is defined by  
8 four important concepts: recognition justice,  
9 participatory or procedural justice, capabilities  
10 or capacity justice, and distribution justice.

11 This project fails on all four fronts,  
12 and the DEIR itself fails on three of the four.

13 First, the DEIR and the project have  
14 failed to adequately recognize the neighbors of  
15 this project who will bear the greatest brunt of  
16 its impact.

17 Second, the DEIR process has been  
18 flawed from beginning to end. It has been  
19 designed and carried out as a dog and pony show  
20 promoting the project and gaslighting neighbors  
21 about its true impacts. Neighbors have not been  
22 given adequate opportunities to participate, to

cont'd  
PH204-1

PH204-2

PH204-3



1 be heard and listened to.

2 No wonder they made their voices heard  
3 at your last meeting. That is a tried and true  
4 method of environmental justice when authorities  
5 refused to enable authentic participation in the  
6 process.

7 Third, Frank McCourt and the other  
8 proponents of this project have done nothing to  
9 support the capacity and capability of  
10 disadvantaged neighbors to participate in this  
11 DEIR process or the planning that preceded it.

12 Fourth, this project is a classic case  
13 study of distribution injustice. The burden of  
14 the project would fall on disadvantaged  
15 neighbors, who would enjoy none of the supposed  
16 benefits of the project which, by the way, will  
17 not significantly reduce traffic and pollution  
18 around Dodger Stadium, and will be used by very,  
19 very few people locally to get around the  
20 neighborhood and visit El Pueblo, Chinatown, Los  
21 Angeles State Historic Park, and Elysian Park.

22 I urge you to analyze and respond to

cont'd  
PH204-3

PH204-4

PH204-5

PH204-6

1 these environmental justice concerns in this  
2 environmental impact review.

cont'd  
PH204-6

3 Thank you.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

5 Next, we'll go to Maria Flores.

6 MS. FLORES: Hello. Hello, good  
7 evening. Can you hear me?

Comment-PH205  
M Flores

8 MS. SISCO: Yes.

9 MS. FLORES: Yes. Thank you.

10 Good evening. My name is Maria  
11 Flores. I am here in solidarity with the  
12 Chinatown Community for Equitable Development, an  
13 organization that builds grassroots community  
14 power that is based on the L.A. Chinatown area.  
15 They are all volunteer-run, and I am here because  
16 I am actually a resident of the South Central  
17 L.A. neighborhood.

PH205-1

18 And something that we have in common  
19 is that our neighborhoods are both working class  
20 and immigrant family based, primarily. And we  
21 understand the struggles that happen in our  
22 neighborhoods when gentrification happens.

PH205-2

1                   And I would just like for it to be  
 2 clear to Metro and anybody supporting this  
 3 project that we know, people in our community,  
 4 the families, the students, the workers, know  
 5 that all the projects coming into our primarily  
 6 working class neighborhoods should be housing  
 7 focused.

8                   So, nothing comes into a neighborhood  
 9 that is not directly benefitting a community,  
 10 especially one that is primarily made up of  
 11 Chinese immigrant families that have nowhere else  
 12 to go.

13                   We also have nowhere else to go, so  
 14 I'm just here to make -- to let people know that  
 15 we will stand with you, and that projects like  
 16 these will stop happening because we will become  
 17 united.

18                   And, you know, it's really unfortunate  
 19 to see why Metro decides to prioritize a project  
 20 that they know clearly will displace families.  
 21 So, know that if it comes need to be, we will be  
 22 there physically to prevent these kinds of

cont'd  
PH205-2

PH205-3

1 projects happening in our neighborhoods.

2 We're tired. We have nowhere else to  
3 go, and we're going to take a stand. So, prepare  
4 to be disappointed.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

7 We'll go next to the phone number  
8 ending in 4821, and following that, we'll go to  
9 Sarah Harris.

Comment-PH206

P Suzak

10 MR. SUZAK: Hi. Good evening. Pat  
11 Suzak (phonetic) with CREED LA here.

12 First, I want to say that although  
13 there have been some people on the call that are  
14 opposed to the project, there are a lot of people  
15 that are excited about the project. And I think  
16 that you can look online and you can read a lot  
17 of the reviews, maybe a lot of the people that  
18 aren't on the call tonight, but most of what I'm  
19 seeing and understanding is there's a ton of  
20 people that are extremely excited about the  
21 project.

22 It does have a big environmental

cont'd  
PH205-3

PH206-1

PH206-2

1 benefit for the people that are going to be  
2 riding the gondola, for the reduction of cars on  
3 the road, and the huge traffic benefit, and I  
4 think we'll see. We're going to see the  
5 difference, especially for Dodgers fans and  
6 congestion that sometimes takes place in the  
7 Dodger Stadium parking lots. So, you're going to  
8 see a noticeable benefit there.

9           There's a tourism benefit. We always  
10 want to make sure that we're continuing to  
11 promote Los Angeles as a city that's welcoming  
12 technological innovation and all of the things  
13 that benefit a city when it comes to how we  
14 present ourselves. So, we want to continue to be  
15 right there on the bleeding edge of those kinds  
16 of innovations.

17           And continuing the benefit, the  
18 upgrade to Chinatown. There's some features and  
19 attractions that, obviously, once we get the  
20 gondola system going then there are going to be  
21 some other things that people are going to want  
22 to suggest, and there's going to be an additional

cont'd  
PH206-2

1 attraction to that area.

2 There are people that are also seeing  
3 the vision of this project and thinking, you  
4 know, where else could it go? Crypto Arena, L.A.  
5 River Bike Path, Echo Park. So, people are  
6 becoming invested in this vision and deciding  
7 that they want to look at where that could expand  
8 to.

9 And so, all of that being said, CREED  
10 is absolutely in favor of this project. We think  
11 it's great, and we are in total support.

12 So, thank you for your time. Have a  
13 good evening. And God bless you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
15 comment.

16 We'll go to Sarah Harris next, and  
17 following Sarah, we'll go to the attendee that's  
18 logged in as Mark McCrea/Chris Janowski.

Comment - PH207  
S Harris

19 MS. HARRIS: Yes. Hello. Thank you.

20 My name is Sarah Harris. I am calling  
21 on behalf of the Black Business Association in  
22 support of L.A. ART, the zero-emissions gondola

cont'd  
PH206-2

PH206-3

PH207-1

1 for Union Station, from Union Station to Dodger  
2 Stadium.

3 Most importantly, the BBA supports the  
4 gondola and the 35 percent goal for local, and  
5 small, and diverse businesses.

6 So, we look forward to seeing that  
7 happen, and thank you very much.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
9 comment.

10 Next we'll go to Mark McCrea/Chris  
11 Janowski.

cont'd  
PH207-1

Comment - PH208  
M McCrea

12 MR. McCREA: Hello there. My name is  
13 Mark McCrea, and my comments are twofold.

14 One, as a private citizen, I am  
15 totally against this project. It is an eyesore  
16 and would be a disruption to so much of the  
17 community. Everything Frank McCourt does is as a  
18 profiteer. He only wants money. I think it  
19 would be a very unfortunate thing for anyone  
20 around.

PH208-1

21 I do fear that there is going to be  
22 more drunkenness of the Dodger attendees, and

PH208-2

1 when they get in the gondola, I am sure there is  
 2 going to be violence. Would you want to be one  
 3 of the two San Francisco fans in the gondola full  
 4 of Dodgers? No.

cont'd  
 PH208-2

5 Secondly, I'm on the board of Friends  
 6 of Elysian Park, which is an organization that  
 7 has been protecting Elysian Park since 1965 from  
 8 development.

PH208-3

9 We, as an organization, are completely  
 10 opposed to this development. It is a destruction  
 11 of viewscapes from Elysian Park, from the State  
 12 Historic Park, from people in Chinatown, even  
 13 Cathedral High School's athletic field. This  
 14 will be disruptive to everything and visually  
 15 horrible.

16 There are obviously abilities to have  
 17 more electric shuttles going up to the stadium  
 18 and transport many more people than the gondola  
 19 would. If you've ever gone to Mammoth Mountain,  
 20 can you imagine how long it takes to get 500  
 21 people on the gondola? The lines would be  
 22 immense.

PH208-4



1                   And this is also the development, you  
 2 know, the first foray into a commercialization of  
 3 the parking lot areas. It would bring more  
 4 people and destruction into the pristine area of  
 5 Elysian Park. Elysian Park means paradise, and  
 6 we don't want to violate that with a Frank  
 7 McCourt project that is a totally useless, ugly  
 8 eyesore, and not good for us.

PH208-5

9                   Thank you very much.

10                   MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 11 comment.

12                   Next, we're going to go to Ted Green,  
 13 followed by the phone number ending in 0973, and  
 14 then the phone number ending in 9153.

Comment-PH209  
T Green

15                   MR. GREEN: Thank you very much. I  
 16 unmuted on my end. Can you hear me?

17                   MS. SISCO: Yes, we can hear you.

18                   MR. GREEN: Excellent. Thank you.

19                   My name is Ted Green. I'm the  
 20 legislative consultant for the Los Angeles LGBTQ  
 21 Chamber of Commerce. The Los Angeles LGBTQ  
 22 Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this

PH209-1

1 project, and there are really three reasons why.

2 One, for what this project would mean  
3 for the utilization of Union Station and  
4 transportation coming into and out of Union  
5 Station. Union Station happens to be my favorite  
6 building in Los Angeles, and this would be  
7 terrific for its future.

8 Number two, what this project would  
9 mean for tourism. Tourism underpins the Southern  
10 California economy and it's really important. A  
11 gondola would attract tourists to our area.

12 I've ridden the gondola in Spokane,  
13 Washington. It's wonderful. All due respect to  
14 Spokane, there aren't a whole lot of reasons to  
15 visit there, but the gondola is one, and that  
16 would be the case in Los Angeles as well.

17 And probably number three, it's  
18 because of the project developer's significant  
19 commitment to spend 35 percent of its money with  
20 diverse businesses, minority-owned, veteran-  
21 owned, LGBTQ-owned businesses.

22 You know, how do you remedy historic

cont'd  
PH209-1

PH209-2

PH209-3

PH209-4

1 and current discrimination, marginalization  
2 against certain communities? It's by projects  
3 like this spending good money with vendors from  
4 those communities. That funding lifts all boats  
5 and is worthy of our support.

6 MTA has said it's open to  
7 extraordinary innovation and private part --  
8 private-public partnerships. This project  
9 absolutely delivers that on a plate and is well  
10 deserving of our support and the MTA board's  
11 support.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

14 We'll go to phone number ending in  
15 0973 next.

Comment-PH210  
O Galindo

16 MR. GALINDO: Good evening. My name  
17 is Omar Galindo on behalf of UA Plumbers No. 78  
18 and our 2,000 members. I'm proud to be here in  
19 support of this project.

20 This project will reduce greenhouse  
21 gas emissions by reducing traffic around Dodger  
22 Stadium, as well as making the city more

cont'd  
PH209-4

PH210-1

1 attractive to residents and tourists alike.

2 The developer has agreed to use  
3 responsible contractors, local hire, and livable  
4 wages, and that's a development that, in Los  
5 Angeles, most of us like.

6 Our local is encouraged by this  
7 project and eager to see it begin construction.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
10 comment.

11 We will go to the phone number ending  
12 in 9153 next, followed by MG, and then the phone  
13 number ending in 5137.

Comment-PH211

G Torres

14 MR. TORRES: Good evening, everybody.

15 Can you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

17 MR. TORRES: Yeah. My name is Gus  
18 Torres (phonetic), and I represent UA Local 255  
19 Pipefitters, Welders, and Apprentices.

20 We're glad for the opportunity to  
21 speak tonight to support this project. Nearly  
22 5,000 people per hour per direction will be

cont'd  
PH210-1

PH210-2

PH211-1

PH211-2

1       shuttled through these gondola routes, and the  
2       time between Union Station and Dodger Station  
3       will become approximately 7 minutes. This means  
4       a huge impact on our local traffic in that area.

cont'd  
PH211-2

5               I also support and applaud the gondola  
6       project's commitment to work with the building  
7       trades. We need more examples of projects like  
8       this which involve the building trades and their  
9       skilled and dedicated local workforce of eager  
10       men and women.

PH211-3

11               Thank you very much for your time, and  
12       God bless.

13               MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
14       comment.

15               Next, we're going to go to MG, and  
16       then we'll go to phone number ending in 5137 and  
17       4959.

18               And I'd like to ask that you state  
19       your name before you begin your comment, please.

Comment-PH212  
M Gatto

20               MS. GATTO: Yes. Good evening,  
21       everyone. My name is Marianna Gatto. I am the  
22       director of the Italian American Museum of Los

PH212-1

1 Angeles, which is located across from Union  
 2 Station overlooking Olvera Street. I am also a  
 3 native Angeleno whose family settled in Lincoln  
 4 Heights back in 1947 when the neighborhood was  
 5 one of the city's Little Italys.

6 I've been the Director of the Italian  
 7 American Museum of Los Angeles since 2010, and  
 8 have worked at El Pueblo since 2005.

9 We support this project and feel that  
 10 this investment of private dollars will  
 11 contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood  
 12 and increase awareness of the city's birthplace,  
 13 its history, and promote visitation to its  
 14 various museums, businesses, and cultural sites,  
 15 as well as their preservation.

16 We also feel that this project will  
 17 prove to enhance security in the neighborhood,  
 18 which is sorely needed.

19 Thank you for your taking the time to  
 20 listen.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 22 comment.

cont'd  
PH212-1

PH212-2

1 We'll go to the phone number ending in  
2 5137 next.

Comment-PH213  
E Garcia

3 MS. GARCIA: Hi. My name is Erica  
4 Garcia (phonetic), and I am very excited to  
5 support the gondola project.

6 I was recently in Mexico City, and I  
7 was fortunate enough to ride the gondola. And I  
8 hope it comes to Los Angeles. It's a fantastic  
9 experience that I had in Mexico, and I would like  
10 to have the same transportation system here in  
11 Los Angeles.

12 But I'm very upset at the protestors  
13 from the last meeting on January 12th. How dare  
14 they try to silence us and the supporters with  
15 their opinions? The protestors took the meeting  
16 and yelled profanities all night long, and Metro,  
17 you should be ashamed for allowing this to take  
18 place.

19 So, thank you for allowing me to  
20 share, and I hope the gondola project comes to  
21 life. It's a great project.

22 Thank you very much. Have a good

PH213-1

PH213-2

1 night.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
3 comment.

4 We'll go to phone number ending in  
5 4959, followed by Alex Alvarez, and then phone  
6 number ending in 1242.

7 So, phone number ending in 4959.

8 If not, we can come back to this  
9 participant.

10 Okay. Let's go to Alex Alvarez.

Comment-PH214  
A Alvarez

11 MR. ALVAREZ: Good afternoon. Can you  
12 hear me?

13 MS. SISCO: Yes.

14 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Good afternoon.  
15 My name is Alex Alvarez. I'm a lifetime Dodger  
16 fan, and we have to deal every single time with  
17 traffic around Dodger Stadium on game days,  
18 especially myself, that I have been going to  
19 Dodger games all my life. This gondola project  
20 could take 3,000 cars off the road, making it  
21 easier to get around, and reduce air pollution  
22 from cars.

PH214-1



1                   In my case, and I believe most Dodger  
 2 fans will agree, I support the gondola project  
 3 because it will be great for Los Angeles, for the  
 4 surrounding areas, for Dodger fans and, of  
 5 course, for Dodger Stadium. And it will reduce  
 6 the traffic, especially when we leave at game  
 7 time at the end of the game.

8                   So, please, consider this project.  
 9 And I yield back, and thank you for the time.

10                   MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 11 comment.

12                   We'll go now to the phone number  
 13 ending in 1242, and after that we'll go to Casa,  
 14 and then Katie Norian.

cont'd  
PH214-1

Comment-PH215  
R Frank

15                   MR. FRANK: Hello.

16                   MS. SISCO: Hello.

17                   MR. FRANK: Hi. This is Ron Frank,  
 18 and I'm calling because I'm very, very, very much  
 19 opposed to the gondola.

20                   Anyone who pays attention to how this  
 21 is all proceeding can't help but notice how  
 22 deceptive this all is. It's a scam to benefit

PH215-1

1 just one person. And before this, what did Frank  
 2 McCourt ever do to protect the environment?  
 3 Here, he's only protecting his bank account, I  
 4 believe.

5 As well, the lack of transparency and  
 6 ever-shifting aspects of the project are  
 7 incredibly concerning. It's bad whack-a-mole.  
 8 This will not take cars off the road; it will  
 9 just shift the traffic. It will not diminish  
 10 pollution; in fact, the building of the gondola  
 11 will only create more pollution, and there will  
 12 be more pollution after Frank McCourt develops  
 13 his half of the Dodger Stadium parking lot.

14 So, the things that they're putting  
 15 forth are all lies, and it really is just bad  
 16 whack-a-mole: the changing budget, the shifting  
 17 developers under whose auspices this is  
 18 proceeding under keeps changing, and even the  
 19 reasons for building the gondola change all the  
 20 time.

21 Unclear how much will it cost. Not  
 22 \$125 million anymore. Last they said was \$300

cont'd  
PH215-1

PH215-2

PH215-3

1 million, and that was long ago, so I'm wondering  
2 what the cost is now. Must be getting close to  
3 half a billion dollars by now, I would think.

4 Let the taxpayers vote on whether or  
5 not this should go forward. That's why the  
6 public meetings are doing all they can possible  
7 to keep the public participants separate from  
8 each other at Union Station and at the high  
9 school. To have people give their comments to a  
10 stenographer behind the curtain makes you wonder,  
11 why hide us from each other?

12 It's clear the proponents have much to  
13 hide.

14 Stop the gondola, please.

15 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
16 comment.

17 We'll go to Casa, and then Katie  
18 Norian, and then Sunjana Supekar.

Comment-PH216  
C Wilson

19 MS. WILSON: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 MS. SISCO: Yes.

21 MS. WILSON: Okay. My name is Casa,  
22 C--A-S-A. My last name is Wilson. I live in the

cont'd  
PH215-3

PH215-4

PH216-1

1 neighborhood.

2 I attended the last hearing at the  
3 high school. I had no problem leaving a public  
4 comment, despite the protests, and I talked to  
5 people who work on this project at length, and  
6 I'm even more against it now after that.

7 Let me run down the list:

8 Light pollution. This thing's going  
9 to run until midnight every single day. Dodgers  
10 fans ruin our lives half the year. Now they're  
11 going to ruin it every day of the year.

12 No parking. I guess we can't park on  
13 our streets anymore. One of the consultants told  
14 me that's not their problem.

15 No transparency. Who's behind this?  
16 How much will the taxpayer have to pay for this?  
17 How much will these tickets cost? They couldn't  
18 even tell me.

19 They're ripping up the park to put  
20 this hideous thing in, which is honestly just a  
21 tourist trap and gimmick.

22 Part of the Angeles National Park is

cont'd  
PH216-1

PH216-2

PH216-3

PH216-4

PH216-5

1 going to be ripped up where the farmer's market  
2 is, where people picnic, where they fly kites, to  
3 put in a private company's product to make money.

cont'd  
PH216-5

4 I find it curious not a single person  
5 has spoken up in favor of this project who isn't  
6 going to make money off of it -- or is a Dodgers  
7 fan, of course. But these aren't people who live  
8 here and have to live with this every single day.

PH216-6

9 Also, one of the consultants for the  
10 project told me, when I asked him what the point  
11 of it is since there aren't Dodgers fans every  
12 day, said that they're going to put a transit hub  
13 up at Dodger Stadium and provide shuttles and  
14 electric scooters all over Elysian Park. And I  
15 haven't really heard much about that, so I wonder  
16 if it's even true.

PH216-7

17 This is not a project for people that  
18 live here. This is not a project for people in  
19 Los Angeles.

PH216-8

20 You know, I guess we're all in our own  
21 echo chambers. I don't know a single person in  
22 favor of this. I haven't heard a single peep

1 about someone who wants this and doesn't think  
2 it's an absurd waste of money, except Dodgers  
3 fans commenting on it on Instagram.

cont'd  
PH216-8

4 And it's really nothing that adding  
5 more electric buses couldn't also do. This is a  
6 waste of money, and I hope you'll stop this  
7 ridiculous project.

PH216-9

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
10 comment.

11 We'll go to Katie Norian, followed by  
12 Sunjana Supekar, and then Jason Fujimoto.

Comment-PH217  
K Norian

13 MS. NORIAN: Can you hear me?

14 MS. SISCO: Yes.

15 MS. NORIAN: My name is Katherine  
16 Norian. I represent Chinatown Station Owner,  
17 which opposes the project.

PH217-1

18 Our client's December 16th letter  
19 identified the Draft EIR's many fundamental  
20 defects, including a project description that  
21 shifts from section to section and omits  
22 information critical to the impact analyses,

PH217-2

1 impact analyses that are incomplete and rely on  
2 speculation, and significant conclusions based on  
3 defective mitigation measures.

4 But most critically, the Draft EIR  
5 analyzes only part of the true project. That  
6 true project is a two-phased project, all of  
7 which must be analyzed in the Draft EIR.

8 This project, Phase 1, provides  
9 transit to Dodger Stadium to reduce vehicle  
10 travel and thus the need for the parking lot, and  
11 therefore clears the way for the Phase 2 project  
12 to redevelop the parking lot with the offices,  
13 shops, and entertainment uses planned for only  
14 the Dodgers' parking lot lease.

15 The Draft EIR evidences the need for  
16 this Phase 1 project to both enable and support  
17 the Phase 2 redevelopment. For example, several  
18 sections narrow the focus of their analyses on  
19 how the project would reduce Dodger Stadium  
20 vehicle traffic.

21 The project relies primarily on  
22 tourism, not game day and neighborhood ridership,

cont'd  
PH217-2

PH217-3

PH217-4

1 for its projected 18-hour a day operation. So,  
 2 why assume so many tourists would be drawn to an  
 3 empty stadium and an unimpressive view unless a  
 4 shopping and entertainment venue is planned at  
 5 the redevelopment parking?

cont'd  
 PH217-4

6 The Draft EIR also discredits any need  
 7 for the project other than to serve Dodger  
 8 Stadium: that is, to serve the underserved  
 9 neighborhoods. Chinatown and Mission Junction  
 10 are already served by the Gold Line and don't  
 11 need the disruption of another stadium -- or  
 12 another station.

PH217-5

13 And the project can't serve  
 14 neighborhoods near Dodger Stadium because it  
 15 doesn't have a first mile/last mile hub at the  
 16 Stadium to serve the projected ridership from  
 17 these neighborhoods.

PH217-6

18 Metro must reside --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 20 comment.

21 We're going to try to move between  
 22 commenters as quickly as we can because we do



1 have a number of hands up.

2 Next commenter is Sunjana Supekar,  
3 followed by Jason Fujimoto, and then Phyllis  
4 Ling, and Sophat Phea.

Comment-PH218  
S SUPEKAR

5 MS. SUPEKAR: Can you hear me?

6 MS. SISCO: Yes.

7 MS. SUPEKAR: Thank you. I'm Sunjana  
8 Supekar of Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter, and  
9 on behalf of the California Endowment, we wish to  
10 express our strong opposition to this  
11 unsolicited, private tourist attraction  
12 representing itself as public transportation.

PH218-1

13 We oppose this project because the  
14 community did not ask for it and does not want  
15 it. They want real public transportation  
16 solutions.

17 The project will not reduce but  
18 actually displace traffic noise and pollution  
19 from Dodger Stadium to already impacted  
20 communities in and around Chinatown, disrupting  
21 businesses and services and accelerating  
22 gentrification.

PH218-2

1 This private project will require the  
2 use of public land, airspace, and likely public  
3 resources to be able to operate.

PH218-3

4 Finally, a superior, low emission  
5 public transportation option already exists by  
6 using electric buses to expand the already  
7 effective free Dodger Express Bus.

PH218-4

8 The Draft EIR presents misleading and  
9 incomplete analysis to the detriment of the  
10 public who, instead of getting information, are  
11 given an infomercial.

PH218-5

12 We submitted two letters detailing the  
13 DEIR's deficiencies. Please carefully consider  
14 the points raised in those letters.

15 We are also concerned because the  
16 proposed Alameda and Alpine towers are located in  
17 an earthquake liquefaction zone.

PH218-6

18 We close by highlighting the numerous  
19 other public comment letters expressing concern  
20 about the project or opposition to it. These  
21 letters are from groups including Homeboy  
22 Industries; Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of

PH218-7

1 Mission Indians; Playbold Park Association; Los  
 2 Angeles Parks Alliance; California State Park  
 3 Rangers Association; Natural Resources Defense  
 4 Council; Sierra Club, Los Angeles Union Station  
 5 Circle Society; SOCA Gondola, including but not  
 6 limited to Phyllis Ling; L.A. River State Park  
 7 Partners; Coalition for a Beautiful Los Angeles;  
 8 State of California Natural Resources Agency,  
 9 Department of Parks and Recreation, and the  
 10 Department of Fish and Wildlife; City of L.A.  
 11 City Administrative Officer; Los Angeles  
 12 Conservancy; Land Protection Partners; S&R  
 13 Partners, LLC, a revolving family company; Trust  
 14 for Public Land; and Latino Outdoors.

15 There are better solutions for Metro  
 16 and the City of L.A.'s actual public  
 17 transportation needs. We ask that you please  
 18 stop this gondola project now.

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 20 comment.

21 We'll go to Jason Fujimoto.

22 MR. FUJIMOTO: Thank you. My name is

cont'd  
 PH218-7

PH219-1

Comment-PH219  
 J FUJIMOTO

1 Jason Fujimoto. I'm calling on behalf of the Los  
2 Angeles Chinatown Corporation. We are the  
3 founding organization of Chinatown when it was  
4 displaced.

5 Our family has been in Chinatown for  
6 well over 80 years. Most of our family and  
7 friends have owned businesses and currently still  
8 own businesses. A lot of our family members  
9 still live in Chinatown, and we support the  
10 gondola project general concept.

11 We definitely have concerns, as some  
12 of the others do, in terms of some of the  
13 environmental issues and impacts, but in general,  
14 we do support it.

15 So, we don't oppose it, and the reason  
16 we do is that we, as I think one speaker has  
17 mentioned, is that we need activity in Chinatown.  
18 Chinatown is dying, despite some of the other  
19 comments.

20 Speaking to the businesses, merchants,  
21 even family members, there is no tourism. There  
22 is no activity. There is no foot traffic in

cont'd  
PH219-1

PH219-2

PH219-3

1 Chinatown, and with the concept of the gondola,  
2 it might help bring in people into the Chinatown  
3 community to help revitalize some of the  
4 businesses.

5 And so, some of those mom and pop  
6 businesses that we're trying to protect,  
7 hopefully, if we can bring in the tourism, we  
8 will help support and bring business to these mom  
9 and pop stores. And if we don't, then those mom  
10 and pop stores will close up, close down.

11 So, we, as a family, as an  
12 organization, we support, again, in concept. We  
13 don't oppose it, and we hope that all the  
14 different sides can come together to make it  
15 happen.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
18 comment.

19 We'll go to Phyllis Ling next,  
20 followed by Sofat Sia, and then Ernest Lee.

21 And just as a reminder, if you'd like  
22 to raise your hand and you're calling in the

cont'd  
PH219-3

1 phone, you can dial star-9, and then, once we  
2 call on you, you can dial star-6 to unmute.

Comment-PH220

P LING

3 MS. LING: Hi. I have five seniors  
4 here.

5 MS. SISCO: Oh, hold on.

6 MS. LING: I have five seniors here  
7 who would like to speak, and I hope that they can  
8 each be given 2 minutes. It's hard for them to  
9 join the meeting. That's why I'm here helping  
10 them with my computer.

11 So, is that okay?

12 MS. SISCO: Do you have a comment,  
13 Phyllis? Or is it the five seniors that are  
14 there with you?

15 MS. LING: I have a comment, but I'm  
16 also on another device listening in English. And  
17 I'm on this device, and they're with me, but  
18 we're listening in Cantonese on here.

19 So, I would make the comment I'm  
20 sharing another device with my sister. So, I'm  
21 logged in on another and have my hand raised on  
22 another.

PH220-1

1 MS. SISCO: Okay. Yeah, thank you.

2 So, let's take one comment for now and  
3 let me think about the logistics of taking five  
4 people, because we've generally been going in the  
5 order that the hands are raised.

6 So, let's do one comment now, and then  
7 we'll think about how to take the five additional  
8 comments. So, is there one of the individuals  
9 that are with you, Phyllis, that's prepared to  
10 provide a comment?

11 (Foreign language spoken.)

12 MS. SISCO: Phyllis.

13 MS. LING: Uh-huh?

14 MS. SISCO: I want to give the  
15 interpreter a chance to relay the comments. I'm  
16 not sure if that was two speakers or one.

17 MS. LING: It was two speakers.

18 MS. SISCO: Okay, so the interpreters  
19 are providing consecutive interpretation, so I  
20 want to give them a chance to relay the comments  
21 that were made, and then we can go to the other  
22 three individuals that wanted to provide comment.

cont'd  
PH220-1

1 So, I'm going to ask the interpreters  
2 to repeat the two comments that were just  
3 provided.

cont'd  
PH220-1

Comment-PH221  
PLING SPEAKER #1

4 INTERPRETER: I oppose the Chinatown  
5 gondola project because Chinatown already has a  
6 lot of cars and the Go Line runs through  
7 Chinatown as well. I live in the Chinatown  
8 senior building, and that's for speaker one.

PH221-1

Comment-PH222  
PLING TAN #2

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you.  
10 INTERPRETER: For speaker two, I also  
11 live in Chinatown. My last name is Tan. I am  
12 over 80 years old. I live near the railway  
13 station, and if we have the gondola in the  
14 future, this is going to affect our life because  
15 building a gondola will produce a lot of dust,  
16 noise, and it's going to be a safety issue as  
17 well, so I oppose this gondola project.

PH222-1

18 If we really need to develop  
19 Chinatown, we need to make sure to add more  
20 parking for cars that are coming in. This  
21 project is for wealthy individuals, and for the  
22 benefit of Chinatown, we need to make sure we

PH222-2



1 have enough parking for the public. Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for interpreting  
3 those comments. So, Phyllis, I'd like to go back  
4 to you and we can have the three other  
5 individuals provide their comments. If you could  
6 please ask them to pause when they're done so  
7 that the interpreters can relay their comments in  
8 English?

9 And I see a couple of notes coming  
10 through that folks aren't hearing the comments  
11 interpreted into English. You want to make sure  
12 to click on the globe icon if you're  
13 participating in the meeting in English and  
14 select English so that you can hear the  
15 interpreter's interpretation of the comments that  
16 are coming in in other languages.

17 Okay, so Phyllis, we're going to  
18 unmute you and we'll go to the next speaker.  
19 We'll get the timer set and then we'll pause when  
20 the next speaker is done so that the interpreter  
21 can relay that comment.

22 (Foreign language spoken.)

1 MS. SISCO: Okay, we need to pause now  
2 to allow the interpreter to interpret that  
3 comment and then we'll come back to the final two  
4 commenters there.

5 INTERPRETER: I live --

6 MS. SISCO: So, let's -- Phyllis,  
7 we're going to mute your line for just a moment  
8 just to make sure that we can hear the  
9 interpreter relay that comment back in English.

10 INTERPRETER: I live in the senior  
11 apartment near the Metro station. The address is  
12 808 Spring Street and I personally live in  
13 apartment 909.

14 I have lived here for approximately  
15 ten years. A lot has changed over the past ten  
16 years. Over time in Chinatown, gradually we lost  
17 a hospital and some supermarket.

18 A lot of visitor going to Chinatown,  
19 they are just here to do the shopping, but a lot  
20 of them have gone currently, and Chinatown  
21 desperately needs the hospital to come back and  
22 more stores in Chinatown, and the government

Comment-PH223  
PLING-SPEAKER 3

PH223-1

1 needs to think about the need of their people.

2 Even though I live here, I do most of  
3 my shopping, grocery shopping in Rosemead and San  
4 Gabriel because it's cheaper there and it's more  
5 convenient. I can do all of my shopping there  
6 all at once. There are a lot of street vendors  
7 in the streets in Chinatown. It's like a third  
8 world.

9 And Chinatown currently already has an  
10 electric bus that is running through Chinatown  
11 from the bus terminal, so we don't need the  
12 gondola anymore. Thank you.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you. So, we're  
14 going to move to the fourth commenter that is  
15 waiting to provide comment with Phyllis.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Okay, we're going to allow  
18 the interpreter to interpret that comment and  
19 then we'll come back for the final participant in  
20 this group.

21 INTERPRETER: Thank you. My name is  
22 Ling Lee. I also live at 808 Spring Street and I

cont'd  
PH223-1

PH223-2

PH224-1

Comment-PH224  
P LING

1 have lived here for --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MS. SISCO: Oh, you know what? I'm  
4 going to pause the -- I think we have two  
5 interpreters that are interpreting right now, so  
6 it's hard to hear. I'm going to ask that one of  
7 you provide the interpretation, please.

8 INTERPRETER: Okay, my colleague can  
9 go ahead.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

11 INTERPRETER: So sorry about that. My  
12 name is Ling Lee and I'm a senior citizen living  
13 in the senior apartments too. The address is 808  
14 Spring Street and I have been living there for  
15 ten years and I'm 75 years old.

16 And every time I open my window in my  
17 apartment, so the bus line was running through  
18 outside, so it generates a lot of like noise and  
19 vibrations. It caused me like a headache and I  
20 couldn't sleep at night.

21 So, you want another gondola outside  
22 of my building. That's going to basically kill

cont'd  
PH224-1

PH224-2

PH224-3

1 me. So, you mentioned that it would bring more  
2 business. You can just invest on more shops in  
3 Chinatown.

4 And so, also the gondola is not, you  
5 know, would bring a lot of benefit to us as  
6 senior citizens, so, because it's hard for us to  
7 like go into the gondola or take the gondola.

8 And also, it also would cause us some  
9 like safety issues, some safety issue in our  
10 neighborhoods, so I'm strongly opposed to the  
11 gondola project. Thank you.

12 MS. SISCO: Okay, so I'm going to ask  
13 that that final comment in that group of five be  
14 interpreted and then we'll move to Sophat Phea  
15 and then Ernest Lee.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Is that comment completed?

18 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

19 MS. SISCO: Okay, I'll ask the  
20 interpreter to repeat the comment, please. Thank  
21 you.

22 INTERPRETER: I am very much in

cont'd  
PH224-3

PH224-4

PH224-5

PH225-1

Comment-PH225  
PLING-SPEAKER 4  
22

1 opposition of this gondola project. You are  
2 talking about this gondola is going to reduce  
3 pollution and noise. That is not true. I am in  
4 so much opposition of it. A gondola is only used  
5 in not-so-developed countries and cities.

6 Look around us. Look at the world.  
7 Only very backwards cities and cities that are  
8 not so developed are still using gondola. Look  
9 at Beijing. Are they using gondolas? Look at  
10 all the very developed countries.

11 If you want to build a gondola here in  
12 Los Angeles, that means Los Angeles is a not-so-  
13 developed country. Is that what LA is?

14 Such way of transportation is  
15 obsolete. It's definitely going to bring a lot  
16 of negative impact to people. It's going to  
17 bring more pollution. It's bad for seniors'  
18 health.

19 And also, if you put a gondola right  
20 there above our window, above our building, the  
21 moment we open up our windows, they're able to  
22 see everything we're doing inside.

cont'd  
PH225-1

PH225-2

1 We are sacrificing or you are actually  
2 putting our privacy on the line. We would not  
3 have any more privacy. I firmly oppose the  
4 gondola project.

cont'd  
PH225-2

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you. Okay, so now  
6 we'll move to Sophat Phea, followed by Ernest Lee  
7 and Tany Ling.

Comment-PH226  
S PHEA

8 MR. PHEA: Hi, my name is Sophat Phea  
9 and I have lived in Chinatown for over 30 years  
10 and still live in Chinatown today. As there's  
11 been a rise of developments and gentrification in  
12 Chinatown, I fear this project will contribute to  
13 it and put my home more at risk.

PH226-1

14 Parking has been a huge barrier to the  
15 small businesses in Chinatown in thriving,  
16 including for my mom and her shop. They were  
17 told that it would bring businesses to Chinatown,  
18 but tell me how.

PH226-2

19 It is no doubt going to take up a lot  
20 of parking spaces in Chinatown where people are  
21 already having trouble finding. Even tenants  
22 living in Chinatown have trouble finding parking.

1 I personally don't see myself using  
 2 the gondola and would love the money and effort  
 3 go toward what the community would actually use  
 4 instead, such as our current public  
 5 transportation. How much does it cost to ride  
 6 the gondola? Tell me why no one was able to  
 7 answer.

PH226-3

PH226-4

8 Money and effort could have been put  
 9 into improving the parking situation and  
 10 improving our public transportation instead. At  
 11 the end of the day, who does it really benefit  
 12 and who is being harmed? Thank you.

PH226-5

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 14 comment. We'll go to Ernest Lee next.

Comment-PH227

E LEE

15 MR. LEE: Can you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Yes.

17 MR. LEE: Okay, my name is Ernest Lee.

18 I'm the President of the Chinese Consolidated  
 19 Benevolent Association in Chinatown. We're the  
 20 oldest Chinese association in Chinatown, with  
 21 over 130 years of history. We have 27 family  
 22 associations affiliated with us and we have over

PH227-1



1 2,000 membership.

2 We strongly support of this gondola  
3 project because definitely it will bring benefit,  
4 commercial benefit to Chinatown and the small  
5 merchants. Chinatown, like the people said  
6 earlier, Chinatown is dying. We need the  
7 revitalization, so definitely, please bring on  
8 the gondola project. We need it. Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
10 comment. We'll move to Tany Ling, followed by  
11 S.K., and then the phone number ending in 2658.

Comment CONT.  
PH220 - P LING

12 MS. P. LING: This is actually Phyllis  
13 Ling.

14 MS. SISCO: Okay.

15 MS. P. LING: I'm sharing the phone  
16 with my sister. Can I go first?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MS. P. LING: Okay, could you please  
19 restart my time? Okay, thank you. Yes, so this  
20 is Phyllis Ling. I'm a resident under the route  
21 of the gondola directly across from the massive  
22 Broadway junction.

cont'd  
PH227-1

PH220-2

1                   First of all, the draft EIR is  
 2                   deficient and deceptive. It needs to be redone  
 3                   or, better yet, stop this project. If you must  
 4                   continue, I have these comments.

PH220-3

5                   The smart glass for privacy sounds  
 6                   like a lot of lip service to us residents.  
 7                   There's no explanation as to how it would be  
 8                   implemented. We need to know where it would be  
 9                   activated.

10                   There are a lot of residents along the  
 11                   route, so if the windows are fogged up 50 percent  
 12                   of the time, that doesn't sound like a good  
 13                   experience for tourists who are supposedly  
 14                   funding this project, and there's maintenance.

PH220-4

15                   If the smart glass is malfunctioning,  
 16                   will the cabin be taken out of service? How  
 17                   would the operator know? Would they just be  
 18                   relying on residents to report malfunctions?

19                   We don't think the measures to protect  
 20                   our privacy should be treated lightly or like a  
 21                   courtesy. This is an essential part of the  
 22                   system.

1                   The maps on the alignment profiles  
 2 don't show enough detail. How are the additional  
 3 buffers treated legally? How low is it? You  
 4 want to go over my property, would I have to cut  
 5 back my avocado tree for the gondola? Would I be  
 6 required to allow McCourt's people access to cut  
 7 back my tree whenever they want? These are  
 8 little details, but they matter.

PH220-5

9                   Most of the route is on an earthquake  
 10 liquefaction zone. The mitigation in EIR is to  
 11 do mitigants or whatever that says. Well, if the  
 12 mitigation is to drill deeper, that's more noise,  
 13 vibration, more possibility of groundwater  
 14 contamination, more damage to our homes and  
 15 (audio interference) historic El Pueblo.

PH220-6

16                   Why isn't -- oh, okay, so you know  
 17 what? This project would be like a cable car  
 18 freeway over a neighborhood which is already  
 19 sliced and diced by Hill Street and Broadway.  
 20 I'm sorry, but the people who are supporting this  
 21 aren't looking beyond the marketing hype.

PH220-7

22                   This project is as sustainable as an

PH220-8

1 EV Hummer, which is also zero emissions by their  
 2 standards. It's bloated and completely wrong for  
 3 the supposed purpose. Go back to the drawing  
 4 board with this EIR or just stop the gondola.  
 5 Thank you.

cont'd  
 PH220-  
 8

6 MS. SISCO: Okay, I believe that there  
 7 was another commenter on the same phone line,  
 8 Tany, so if we could unmute that line real quick  
 9 and see if there's another commenter? If not,  
 10 we'll move onto S.K.

Comment-PH228  
 T LING

11 MS. T. LING: Hey, Metro. My name is  
 12 Tany and I'm a Chinatown resident who is against  
 13 this project. Hey, Metro, if you are serious  
 14 about making life better for Angelenos, you'd  
 15 also be against this touristy sweetheart money  
 16 grab for Frank McCourt.

PH228-1

17 Metro, if you're serious about  
 18 reducing traffic and pollution on game days, you  
 19 would choose practical, cost-effective measures  
 20 like providing safe pedestrian access to Dodger  
 21 Stadium and expanding the Dodger Stadium Express  
 22 by adding more electric buses and dedicated bus

PH228-2

1 lanes, and creating new boarding hubs in other  
2 parts of the city like Griffith Park, the Valley,  
3 and the West Side.

cont'd  
PH228-2

4 Metro, I support and actively use  
5 public transportation, but this gondola proposal  
6 is a scam masquerading as a free public service  
7 project. You all forgot to include the residents  
8 and stakeholders when you and LA ART met behind  
9 closed doors during what was supposed to be the  
10 initial public planning period.

PH228-3

PH228-4

11 Then, you held in-person hearings  
12 where we could make so-called public comments,  
13 but only if we were secreted away in the corner  
14 behind a curtain talking only to a stenographer.  
15 Metro, I think you have a lot of explaining to  
16 do.

PH228-5

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.  
18 We'll now move onto S.K., followed by the phone  
19 number ending in 2658, and then the phone number  
20 ending in 2170.

Comment-PH229  
S KOYAMA

21 MS. KOYAMA: Hi, can you hear me?

PH229-1

22 MS. SISCO: Yes.

1 MS. KOYAMA: Thank you. Hi, my name  
 2 is Sakae Koyama, a born and raise lifelong  
 3 Angeleno, and have lived in Echo Park/Elysian  
 4 Park since 1975.

5 I'm also a board member of Friends of  
 6 Elysian Park, who have helped protect and  
 7 preserve Elysian Park from predatory developers  
 8 since 1965. We have taken a firm stance of no on  
 9 this project.

10 We remember our history, Chavez  
 11 Ravine. We know what gentrification and  
 12 displacement does to neighborhoods. This will  
 13 not bring revitalization to Chinatown. They need  
 14 supermarkets, hospitals, infrastructure. Elysian  
 15 Park is not for sale.

16 There's a reason that Frank McCourt  
 17 kept the parking lot after he sold the Dodgers.  
 18 He had dollar signs in his eyes. As he has  
 19 steadily raised the parking rates, it has  
 20 negatively affected the surrounding  
 21 neighborhoods.

22 This is not public transit. To where?

cont'd  
PH229-1

PH229-2

PH229-3

PH229-4

1 The parking lot when Dodgers are there seven to  
 2 eight months of the year when a perfectly good  
 3 bus system exists? This is only the first phase  
 4 of McCourt's Disney-fication of Elysian Park,  
 5 turning it into an amusement shopping center like  
 6 Universal Citywalk.

cont'd  
PH229-4

7 It will ruin the natural beauty of the  
 8 historic state park and the oldest city park  
 9 since 1865, Elysian Park, and will ruin the  
 10 scenic view of downtown. We adamantly oppose  
 11 this project and it has no place in our  
 12 community. Thank you.

PH229-5

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 14 comment. We'll now go to the phone number ending  
 15 in 2658.

Comment-PH230  
ANDY

16 PARTICIPANT: Hi, can you hear me?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

18 PARTICIPANT: Hi, my name is Andy.  
 19 I've been part of Chinatown for 20 years and I'm  
 20 speaking against the gondola project.

PH230-1

21 Respectfully, everyone involved is  
 22 fucking kidding themselves if you actually think

1 this project does a community good. It's  
2 insulting and disrespectful to us if you think  
3 anybody living here actually believes this would  
4 help Chinatown without first being lied to.

5 Chinatown is not dying. Chinatown is  
6 being killed by you people. Projects and  
7 corporate greed just like this are steamrolling  
8 over our homes just like Union Station in Old  
9 Chinatown, just like Dodger Stadium with La Loma,  
10 Bishop, and Palo Verde. Trickle-down economics  
11 didn't work then, why would it work now? Metro  
12 and McCourt clearly have no respect for us.

13 Your own presentations say that the  
14 most you should get out of this project is a  
15 merely 20 percent by 2040 in two decades. You  
16 won't be able to make a graph that shows how more  
17 foot traffic and congestion translates over to a  
18 better standard of living, housing, food, and  
19 health access.

20 I hope you all sleep terribly tonight.  
21 If your conscience isn't haunting you in your  
22 nightmares, it will surely haunt your careers

cont'd  
PH230-1

PH230-2



1 because everybody can see this project is a  
2 fucking joke. Thank you.

3 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your  
4 comment. We'll move onto the phone number ending  
5 in 2170, and we'd appreciate it if everyone could  
6 keep their language civil for other attendees, so  
7 2170.

Comment-PH231  
R GARCIA

8 MR. GARCIA: Good evening. Can you  
9 hear me?

10 MS. SISCO: Yes.

11 MR. GARCIA: Okay, thank you. My name  
12 is Rick Garcia. I'm a sheet metal worker by  
13 trade and union organization with SMART Local 105  
14 representing the sheet metal trades in Southern  
15 California.

16 All right, I'm here to support the LA  
17 ART gondola project and I'm not ashamed to say  
18 that. This project has been open for  
19 consideration since 2018 when it was first  
20 proposed to Metro's Office of Extraordinary  
21 Innovations, and since then, a great deal of  
22 traffic and pollution have plagued the area

1 around Dodger Stadium.

2 LA ART and Metro's gondola project  
3 offers significant potential benefits by  
4 increasing access to public transit and reducing  
5 traffic congestion on local roads.

6 We are pleased with the changes coming  
7 to our city transit via the project and happy for  
8 the future of the area around Dodger Stadium.  
9 Thank you for your time.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
11 comment. We'll go to the phone number ending in  
12 0523, followed by phone number ending in 9717.  
13 Following that, we'll go to Juniper Wong and  
14 Patrick Chen.

15 So, phone number ending in 0523?  
16 Okay, we'll come back if needed. Let's go to  
17 phone number ending in 9717. Okay, let's move  
18 onto Juniper Wong and then we'll go to Patrick  
19 Chen, followed by Larry Jung.

Comment-PH232  
J WONG

20 MS. WONG: Hello, my name is Juniper  
21 Wong and I'm a community organizer in Chinatown  
22 with Power LA and Chinatown Community for

cont'd  
PH231-1

PH232-1

1 Equitable Development, and I oppose this project.

2 This is supposed to relieve traffic  
3 and have zero emissions, but this gondola doesn't  
4 take anybody off the road, it just adds. By  
5 being a tourism destination, it will just  
6 redirect traffic and automobile emissions from  
7 Dodger Stadium to Chinatown and the downtown  
8 area.

9 You also say this will improve  
10 connectivity for the city of LA. I fail to see  
11 that when the transit being proposed is just a  
12 mile and a half long. Fans come from all over  
13 the city. There's traffic in all directions.

14 There's traffic in LA all day, every  
15 day, but you choose to run this directly through  
16 and over one of the poorest areas of Los Angeles,  
17 making Chinatown residents suffer for your tragic  
18 idea.

19 Every parcel of land this project is  
20 slated for is on public land. That land should  
21 be used for public good. Chinatown has been  
22 deprived of services with no supermarket. You've

cont'd  
PH232-1

PH232-2

PH232-3

PH232-4

1 already heard seniors say that they have to go to  
2 San Gabriel Valley to access our cultural goods  
3 and foods where there was just a devastating  
4 shooting.

cont'd  
PH232-4

5 The people of Chinatown are  
6 dangerously under-resourced. The median income  
7 is less than \$20,000, and like the rest of LA, is  
8 in an absolutely crisis for fair housing. Do you  
9 really think that when the right to live in one's  
10 home and stay off of the street, that the  
11 neighborhood's main concern is how flamboyantly  
12 they can get to a baseball game?

PH232-5

13 Compare the less than \$20,000 a year  
14 median income with the cost of this project.  
15 After donating it to Climate Resolve, they  
16 disclosed that the budget will be even more than  
17 \$300 million. Who will be paying for that? Will  
18 it be taxpayer money?

PH232-6

19 You're telling us you have access to  
20 more than \$300 million to come into Chinatown and  
21 build whatever you want and you won't choose  
22 housing? You won't choose life-affirming

PH232-7

1 services, direct stimulus to small businesses?  
2 You won't choose the people?

cont'd  
PH232-7

3 In this draft EIR, you've also  
4 addressed alternatives to the gondola. You ruled  
5 out buses. There already exists a free shuttle  
6 for game days that could be expanded, but your  
7 reasoning for not doing that is that in order for  
8 buses to fulfill the 5,000 people an hour per  
9 direction the gondola would do, you need buses to  
10 run every 47 seconds, therefore, that's not an  
11 option.

PH232-8

12 Nobody is asking for buses that run  
13 every 47 seconds. We're asking for just some  
14 amount of additional buses. You're LA Metro.  
15 Why do you suddenly think buses will not work?  
16 Stop this project. Thanks.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
18 comment. We'll move to Patrick Chen, followed by  
19 Larry Jung, Amy Ho, and King Cheung.

Comment-PH233  
P CHEN

20 MR. CHEN: Hello, can you hear me?

21 MS. SISCO: Yes.

22 MR. CHEN: Hello, my name is Patrick

PH233-1

1 Chen. I'm a resident of Chinatown and I am  
2 opposed to this project, and I believe that this  
3 draft EIR process has been a total sham.

4 You have been doing the bare minimum  
5 to, quote-unquote, engage the community, which  
6 has actually been sunny fantasies of  
7 revitalization to suffering Chinatown residents  
8 and small businesses, when in actuality, this is  
9 nothing more than a cash grab for Frank McCourt  
10 and, I guess, the consultants who are working on  
11 this project.

12 Poor and working class tenants, the  
13 taxpayers of LA, including the constituents of  
14 many of these nonprofits that they claim to  
15 represent, will be left with the bill.

16 And some Chinatown legacy groups have  
17 claimed for over a decade that Chinatown is dying  
18 and needs big, flashy tourism to save it, when  
19 they could have been spending their political  
20 capital to build up community strength that can  
21 sustain itself instead of begging for  
22 billionaires like Frank McCourt to leave them

cont'd  
PH233-1

PH233-2

PH233-3

1 some spare change. This project is not good for  
2 Chinatown and I oppose it. Thank you. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
5 comment. We'll move to Amy Ho and then King  
6 Cheung. And for those of you that are on the  
7 phone, just a reminder that you'll want to press  
8 \*6 if you need to --

Comment-PH234  
A HO

9 MS. HO: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Yes?

11 MS. HO: Yes, can you hear me now?

12 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

13 MS. HO: Yes, hi, my name is Amy Ho.

14 I'm a resident of Chinatown for 42 years. Okay,  
15 the reason that I live here is because I love the  
16 freedom of this country they gave me. I'm one of  
17 the boat people who left Vietnam, went to a  
18 communist camp. I don't like that. That's why.  
19 I didn't like that. That's why I came to, you  
20 know, America.

21 And I thought that, you know, if I  
22 work hard, I can have the right to enjoy my life

1 here, but I can't believe the rich. They're  
2 trying to, you know, take away the right of me to  
3 live at peace.

4 Okay, now those people who support  
5 this gondola, please, please think. Your  
6 enjoyment is built on the suffering of the  
7 resident people living here.

8 You know what? I worked hard when I  
9 was young. I'm 70, okay. I used to work hard,  
10 okay. I worked a full job with two part-time  
11 jobs just to get my feet on the ground, to start  
12 my life here, and I did that. I'm proud of that,  
13 but to think some of the rich people now are  
14 trying to take away from that for me.

15 Okay, I will support this program only  
16 if Dodger Stadium stops selling food or beverage  
17 in Dodger Stadium. You know what? It will not  
18 benefit Chinatown at all. Those fans will go to  
19 Dodger Stadium.

20 They go there, they watch the game,  
21 and they eat, they drink. So, why, would they go  
22 to Chinatown to drink and eat? No, I mean, they

cont'd  
PH234-1



1 want just to, you know, see how it is, but I know  
2 exactly.

3 So, this is to the benefit of, you  
4 know, Dodger Stadium, not for us, and besides,  
5 don't forget that they have only 82 games per  
6 year and only a few hours per day. How are they  
7 going to, you know (audio interference).

8 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your  
9 comment. I appreciate that. Larry Jung, I think  
10 I accidentally skipped over you. You were  
11 supposed to go next, so we'll go to you next and  
12 then we'll go to King Cheung.

13 And just as a reminder, if you are  
14 calling in on the phone, you'll unmute yourself  
15 by pressing \*6.

cont'd  
PH234-1

PH234-2

PH235-1

Comment-PH235  
L JUNG

16 MR. JUNG: Good evening. My name is  
17 Larry Jung. I've been involved with Chinatown  
18 since, and our family has been involved since,  
19 for the last 80 years. My great-grandfather was  
20 one of the original founders of New Chinatown,  
21 and I also represent the Chinese-American Museum  
22 in El Pueblo.

1 I support the project and I believe  
2 that the main idea and concept is valid. I  
3 believe that it will bring tourism into the El  
4 Pueblo and also into Chinatown.

5 I've ridden several gondolas in  
6 Pittsburgh, in Telluride, and Rio, and it is  
7 quite a tourist attraction. I believe that it  
8 will stimulate businesses, traffic for the small  
9 businesses around Chinatown and the Gold Line, so  
10 I am in support of the project. Thank you.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
12 comment. Next, we'll go to King Cheung, followed  
13 by the phone number ending in 0709, and then  
14 Charly Ligety.

15 (Foreign language spoken.)

16 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your  
17 comment. We'll wait a moment to allow for  
18 interpretation of that comment.

Comment-PH236  
K CHEUNG

19 MR. CHEUNG: My name is King Cheung  
20 and I oppose this gondola project because I  
21 believe it's not going to help small business and  
22 residents in Chinatown. If the gondola keeps

cont'd  
PH235-1

PH236-1

1 running every day during the hour, it's going to  
2 disturb residents' sleep.

3 And also, we need to be careful  
4 because when the gondola is running in the air,  
5 people in the gondola may be able to see  
6 residents who are taking a shower or using the  
7 restroom, so in that case, we don't need the  
8 gondola.

9 And I also agree with some of the  
10 people who call this gondola project as a scam,  
11 because if the Dodger Stadium has hotels,  
12 restaurants, Dodger fans will just go there and  
13 eat, watch the game, and go home. Why would they  
14 bother to go up to the slope and go to Chinatown?  
15 They won't.

16 And if Dodger fans wants the traffic  
17 congestion to be improved, I suggest them to use  
18 the bus because there is a shuttle going from  
19 Union Station to the Dodger Stadium, but actually  
20 currently, not many people are using this bus and  
21 there are only two buses.

22 If they are not using this free

cont'd  
PH236-1

PH236-2

PH236-3

PH236-4

1 shuttle, why would they bother to pay and use the  
2 gondola? So, I believe we don't need this  
3 gondola.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for interpreting  
5 that comment. We'll now move to the phone ending  
6 in 0709. So, you'll want to press \*6 to unmute  
7 yourself.

Comment-PH237  
D MARTINEZ

8 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi, can you hear me?

9 MS. SISCO: Yes.

10 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi, good evening,  
11 everyone. My name is Dana Martinez (phonetic).  
12 And I wanted to say that when we talk about  
13 multimodal transit, we probably just think of a  
14 few clicks outside a bus, or a train, or a  
15 streetcar, maybe even a bicycle, but honestly, a  
16 gondola starts to get us in the air.

17 And, well, when I think of the future  
18 or other people think of the future, we might  
19 call it sci-fi, but the reality is that we need  
20 clean air, zero emission projects to be the first  
21 to break the in-city sky barrier.

22 And when other ideas become

1       realizable, this measure will benefit the  
2       community, the traffic, the environment, while  
3       also taking into consideration specific  
4       populations and their transportation needs.

5                So, I wanted to say that I'm extremely  
6       encouraged by this and ready for the next step  
7       for the future of the Los Angeles transportation  
8       journey. Thank you.

9                MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
10       comment. In case we had anyone join late, if you  
11       -- you'll want to select a language by using the  
12       globe icon even if you're listening to the  
13       meeting in English. That will allow you to hear  
14       comments that are made interpreted back into  
15       English.

16               So, next we'll go to Charly Ligety and  
17       then we'll go to the phone number ending in 5684,  
18       followed by Melanie Bellomo and Alejandro  
19       Campillo.

Comment-PH238  
C LIGETY

20               MR. LIGETY: All right, great, thank  
21       you for hosting this dialogue. I am Charly  
22       Ligety. I am a resident of Echo Park, pretty

cont'd  
PH237-1

PH238-1

1 adjacent to the stadium, and I own a home nearby,  
2 raising a family.

3 And, you know, I'm kind of thinking of  
4 this from the perspective of respecting all of  
5 the people that have come before me in this  
6 neighborhood and me only being here for, you  
7 know, a few years, but also thinking kind of long  
8 term of just where I want LA to grow and be more  
9 visionary about how to bring people together and  
10 move around this community or move in and out of  
11 this community.

12 I think the gondola is a great first  
13 step in that kind of vision. I support it  
14 because it reduces traffic. You know, with  
15 baseball, there's too many games, 80-plus games a  
16 year, and the most unfortunate thing is all of  
17 the cars.

18 Beyond games, you know, I think the  
19 access the gondola will provide for park access  
20 to Elysian to millions of people just based on  
21 streamlining access between Union Station and the  
22 park will be a huge kind of component that we're

cont'd  
PH238-1

PH238-2

1 not even thinking about as a benefit beyond just  
2 Dodger access.

3 And, you know, it really elevates our  
4 medium of coming together and bringing a new  
5 class of people into the public transit world,  
6 especially here in Los Angeles. Gondolas are  
7 sexy. Buses are not.

8 You know, I come from ski town where  
9 many gondolas are located. They're quiet,  
10 they're comfortable, they're exciting. They cost  
11 \$10 million to \$15 million a mile, so they're not  
12 expensive. Hopefully, we'll probably inflate that  
13 a lot with all of the costs being in Los Angeles.

14 But the couple of suggestions, I think  
15 there should be an affordable housing requirement  
16 with this either around the station or somewhere  
17 nearby to create sort of a gondola-oriented  
18 development incentive.

19 And then better renderings, at least  
20 a satellite imagery, a shape file, and a Google  
21 Earth file would be great just to like sort of  
22 show this better of how it works, and then also

cont'd  
PH238-2

PH238-3

PH238-4

PH238-5

1 pairing the gondola with street closures along  
2 Scott and other places so there's sort of a  
3 carrot and stick approach to getting people out  
4 of their cars and into the gondola so it actually  
5 guarantees reduced traffic. Thank you.

PH238-6

6 MS. SISCO: Thank you. I'm sorry, we  
7 had a little glitch with the timer there and  
8 accidentally reset it. Okay, all right, so the  
9 next speaker is 5684.

Comment-PH238  
J RINCON

10 MR. RINCON: Hello and good evening,  
11 everyone. My name is Joe Rincon (phonetic). I  
12 want to talk a little bit about Chinatown.

13 Chinatown has a population of over  
14 30,000 people, and considering the actual size,  
15 that's pretty dense, and whether people walk,  
16 take bikes, carpool, Uber, take trains, buses,  
17 subways, or cars, that's 37,000 people moving  
18 around at or below ground level, so it should be  
19 no problem for us to imagine transportation that  
20 gets everybody off the ground.

PH239-1

21 And realistically, it's not just  
22 Chinatown. This project will impact the traffic

PH239-2



1 and daily commute of Angelenos from the areas  
2 near Dodger Stadium, Mission Junction, Elysian  
3 Park, Solano Canyon, and the LA State Historic  
4 Park, not to mention traffic in and around Union  
5 Station itself.

6 We are sick and tired of super  
7 congested cities, and the people of not only  
8 Chinatown, but all over LA believe in the future  
9 of aboveground transit. LA, it's time to set our  
10 minds on things above. Thank you very much.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
12 comment. We'll move to Melanie Bellomo, and then  
13 Alejandro Campillo, and then Julie Rico.

Comment-PH240  
M BELLOMO

14 MS. BELLOMO: Hi, thank you. My name  
15 is Melanie Bellomo. I am a resident of Lincoln  
16 Heights. I am here to say that we stand with the  
17 residents of Chinatown voicing strong opposition  
18 to this project. I echo the sentiments shared so  
19 bravely tonight.

20 I also want to point out that this  
21 furthers the harm on the descendants of La Loma,  
22 Palo Verde, and Bishop, otherwise known as Chavez

cont'd  
PH239-2

PH240-1

PH240-2

1 Ravine. To further commercialize this area where  
 2 there has been no moves toward reparations for  
 3 these people who were forcibly removed from their  
 4 homes and had their communities destroyed is  
 5 wrong.

cont'd  
PH240-2

6 I also ask for a public apology for  
 7 the false narrative being pushed regarding the  
 8 initial meeting for so-called public comment. It  
 9 was nothing of the sort, and the disruptions you  
 10 referred to were people of this community taking  
 11 their power back and making the public comment  
 12 time they were promised.

PH240-3

13 This meeting is inequitable  
 14 considering the advanced age and lack of access  
 15 for comments from the majority of Chinatown  
 16 residents.

17 Lastly, I want to point out that the  
 18 man at the helm of this disaster, Frank McCourt,  
 19 as we all know, everything he touches turns to  
 20 shit while he makes a fortune. This project will  
 21 be no exception.

PH240-4

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

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Comment-PH241  
A CAMPILLO

comment. We'll move to Alejandro Campillo.

MR. CAMPILLO: Hello, my name is Alejandro Campillo and I'm talking in opposition of the gondola.

I'm going to be reiterating some points, but they're important, one of which is that this is not going to reduce the amount of pollution because there's still going to be people driving to Dodger Stadium, to Chinatown, and I think that this project is just a way to keep money in the hands of the rich and keep money outside of the hands of Chinatown residents.

I also think that this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. If we're going to be using public land, it should be used for public good, right? And Chinatown needs so many other amenities such as a grocery store, a hospital, perhaps even better parking.

There's a long list and a gondola is definitely not something that is at the top of that list. In fact, it shouldn't even be on the

PH241-1

PH241-2

1 list, so I stand against the gondola.

2 And I just wanted to say about the  
3 previous meeting with public comment, the public  
4 comment was being held not as public comment, but  
5 there was literally -- it was in the corner of  
6 the gymnasium. There was a curtain. It was the  
7 antithesis of public comment.

8 So, I just wanted to say that I'm very  
9 disappointed in you guys for not allowing that,  
10 and I'm happy you had one today, but there should  
11 be more in the future so that people can actually  
12 voice their comments. I yield the rest of my  
13 time. Thank you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much for  
15 your comment. We'll move to Julie Rico, followed  
16 by Iran Carranza.

Comment-PH242  
JRICO

17 MS. RICO: Hello, can you hear me?

18 MS. SISCO: Yes.

19 MS. RICO: Hi, my name is Julie Rico.

20 I'm a real art person and an active resident in  
21 Chinatown. I'm vehemently opposed to the gondola  
22 project. The people that have spoken today in

cont'd  
PH241-2

PH241-3

PH242-1

1 favor of this project do not live in Chinatown.  
2 I live here.

3 I know that the 3,000 cars that will  
4 be displaced from McCourt's parking lots will be  
5 sent down here to Chinatown where they'll be  
6 roaming around looking for parking spaces,  
7 trouncing around on our neighborhoods, spreading  
8 disease to our senior community, launching  
9 garbage all over the place, trouncing on our  
10 neighbors, disturbing the historic state park and  
11 the animals and the birds that are trying to live  
12 there.

13 Yes, there are people excited about  
14 this project. They are talking with dollars in  
15 their eyes. We, in the community, are looking  
16 for elements to shore up our community with low-  
17 income housing, creative services, health and  
18 human services, a grocery store, and other  
19 benefits that will definitely benefit us.

20 I know a lot about business. This is  
21 what's going to happen. McCourt will build them  
22 all at the top of the hill, and the lots where

cont'd  
PH242-1

PH242-2

PH242-3

1 he's displaced the 3,000 cars that will come down  
2 into Chinatown, and people will spend their  
3 disposable income not in Chinatown, but in  
4 McCourt's parking lot.

5 Chinatown will be devastated both  
6 socially and financially. It is a crying shame  
7 that anybody believes the lies coming from LA ART  
8 or anybody that wants to support this project.  
9 Thank you.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
11 comment. We'll move to Iran Carranza, followed  
12 by the phone number ending in 6623. Iran, we  
13 should be able to get you unmuted so you can  
14 provide your comment.

Comment-PH243  
I CARRANZA

15 MS. CARRANZA: There I am. Can you  
16 hear me?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MS. CARRANZA: Okay, so for context,  
19 I grew up in Lincoln Heights in the '80s and '90s  
20 when LA State Historic Park was an ugly, empty  
21 field, and so I was so happy when I was able to  
22 buy my home in Boyle Heights in 2020 and I saw

cont'd  
PH242-3

PH243-1

1 that now it's this beautiful public space.

2 And I absolutely love LA. I'm an  
3 Angeleno through and through. And I thought how  
4 wonderful that people have this with their  
5 families to enjoy, to exercise, to go to  
6 concerts, and it's right in our very own  
7 backyard.

8 I feel like we don't have enough  
9 beautiful green space like this and I would hate  
10 to see it ruined by an eyesore like this proposed  
11 gondola, so I am against the project. I feel  
12 like can we just have something nice and not  
13 allow private interests to ruin it for us?

14 I want to address some of the points  
15 that other commenters made. Gondolas as cutting  
16 edge, so aerial gondolas first appeared in the  
17 1900s. There's nothing cutting edge about  
18 gondolas. It's not new technology. It's  
19 nothing, you know, cutting edge about it.

20 Gondolas as tourist attractions, LA  
21 has awe-inspiring tourist attractions already.  
22 Like, a gondola does not hold a candle to what we

cont'd  
PH243-1

PH243-2

1 already have. Gondolas are for Disney World in  
2 Florida. It's tacky.

3 I can see why a place like Spokane  
4 might need gimmicks like gondolas to give people  
5 something to do, but LA has a lot more to offer.  
6 We have culture. We have history. We have a lot  
7 of attractions.

8 The idea of the gondola as a public  
9 transportation solution and traffic congestion  
10 relief on game days, surprise, I'm a Dodger fan.  
11 I had season tickets last year and I took the  
12 Dodger bus. We're not all bad. So, I can tell  
13 you the people who are in cars now are going to  
14 stay in cars. A gondola is not going to change  
15 that.

16 The people who figured out how to get  
17 to Union Station and are already taking the  
18 Dodger shuttle are going to continue --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
20 comment. Next, we'll go to 6623 and then Erik  
21 Van Breene.

22 I want to make a quick note. We are

cont'd  
PH243-2

PH243-3



1 coming up upon 7:00, which is the scheduled end  
2 time for this public hearing. We're going to ask  
3 that you please raise your hand by 7:00 p.m. if  
4 you would like to speak this evening so that we  
5 can get a final list of commenters at 7:00.

6 6623?

7 MR. HOLM: Hi, can you hear me?

8 MS. SISCO: Yes.

Comment-PH244  
A HOLM

9 MR. HOLM: Hi, this is Albert Holm, a  
10 born and raised Angeleno. I strongly oppose this  
11 project.

12 At its core, it is a personal pet  
13 project proposed by a white billionaire, Frank  
14 McCourt, who has a history of being scumbag, and  
15 it is a project that will negatively impact and  
16 has absolutely no benefits for the low-income,  
17 working class communities in and around  
18 Chinatown.

19 The very well-respected and objective  
20 UCLA Mobility Research Team recently published a  
21 report that concluded that a gondola would have  
22 virtually no impact on traffic on Dodger game

PH244-1

PH244-2

1 days.

2 So, in return for destroying the lives  
 3 and dignity of working class communities in and  
 4 around Chinatown, in return for taking away green  
 5 space from the LA Historic State Park that's  
 6 currently used and enjoyed by many every day, in  
 7 return for building an ugly project that will  
 8 ruin everyone's view of the skyline when they  
 9 look up, you get a gondola that will have  
 10 virtually no impact on traffic or carbon  
 11 emissions.

12 And you get to enrich the scumbag,  
 13 Frank McCourt's, pocket, because we all know the  
 14 point of the gondola is to spur development of  
 15 retail and entertainment complexes on the Dodger  
 16 Stadium parking lots that are owned by Frank  
 17 McCourt.

18 If that happens, then Dodger Stadium  
 19 will become a year-round destination which will  
 20 just increase the amount of traffic and carbon  
 21 emissions overall throughout the year, so instead  
 22 of traffic for 82 days a year when the Dodgers

cont'd  
PH244-2

PH244-3

1 are playing, you get traffic every day of the  
2 year, which will increase carbon emissions and  
3 increase pollution.

4 Anybody who believes otherwise is  
5 either being very disingenuous, very dishonest,  
6 very ignorant, or they don't live here, because  
7 they don't care what happens to other people.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
9 comment. So, I do want to ask those of you that  
10 have not had a chance to provide comment and  
11 would like to provide comment, if you could  
12 please raise your hands so we can get a log of  
13 all of the raised hands?

14 We are going to extend the meeting to  
15 allow participants who have not yet had a chance  
16 to comment to provide comment. If you have  
17 already provided a comment this evening, we will  
18 not call on you a second time for your planning  
19 purposes.

20 And, let's see, so I had said we would  
21 go to Erik Van Breene, and then we'll go back and  
22 try Liliana Cortez again, and then Jennifer Wong.

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PH244-3

Comment-PH279  
E VAN BREENE

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MR. VAN BREENE: Good evening, Erik Van Breene from the Los Angeles Conservancy. The Conservancy submitted written comments prior to the January 17 deadline.

We have real concerns about the project in its current form and its impacts to Chinatown, Union Station, El Pueblo, and Los Angeles State Historic Park. Additionally, we have concerns about the proposed transfer of public lands to private hands.

We don't believe the draft EIR fully demonstrates the purpose and need when an environmentally superior alternative has been identified that would expand the already existing Dodger express bus line.

With the project's encroachment into Union Station's parking lots, it's foreseeable that this project will tap federal funding and therefore require additional environmental reviews that typically coincide with the CEQA process, which is not happening here.

Thank you for hearing my comments and

PH279-1

PH279-2

PH279-3

PH279-4

1 we encourage you to take these concerns  
2 seriously.

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
4 comment. We'll go to Liliana Cortez and then  
5 Jennifer Wong.

Comment-PH245  
L CORTEZ

6 MS. CORTEZ: Yes, hi. Thank you for  
7 calling. The irony of when you called on me  
8 earlier is that I was on the bus and couldn't  
9 answer due to how crowded and noisy the bus was  
10 because it was running late.

11 I find it really funny to hear many of  
12 you talk about how this gondola project will  
13 bring public transportation to Chinatown and  
14 reduce traffic in the area, but really, how many  
15 of you are really willing to get out of your cars  
16 and ride public transportation and deal with the  
17 late schedules, overcrowding, rude bus drivers,  
18 and dirty buses and trains due to lack of  
19 cleaning and sanitation on a daily basis?

20 I ask because I'm also a cyclist and  
21 many of my friends and I ride our bicycles not  
22 just for fun like many of you might think, but as

1 actual daily commuters who use these roads and  
2 streets to get from point A to point B, from home  
3 to work, to school, to running errands, always  
4 under the risk and threat of whether we'll make  
5 it home alive.

6 How many of you are willing to get out  
7 of your cars and deal with traffic noise, toxic  
8 exhaust fumes from vehicles, and traffic  
9 violence, or have you missed the news of  
10 continuous assaults that have led to  
11 hospitalization and death for us cyclists?

12 Of course, you're not. You're sitting  
13 here being hypocrites about the benefits of this  
14 project for public transportation and traffic. I  
15 call balderdash.

16 The quiet streets that my friends and  
17 I used to ride our bicycles to enjoy the  
18 beautiful views of the Elysian Valley, Angel's  
19 Point, and the LA Historic State Park would be  
20 filled with entitled tourists and drivers who  
21 already use violence to push us off the streets  
22 with the racism and death machines.

cont'd  
PH245-1

PH245-2

1           But obviously, some of you here feel  
 2 we are not entitled to this as residents and  
 3 patrons of these green spaces, and this is why we  
 4 are against this project. Metro can start by  
 5 improving the existing transportation system  
 6 because this gondola project is not even part of  
 7 the solution.

PH245-3

8           The gondola in Mexico City was built  
 9 for the white American colonizers invading the  
 10 city because of how cheap it is, while outpricing  
 11 locals with exorbitant rents. For the caller who  
 12 was gushing over this, this is called  
 13 gentrification and this is exactly what this  
 14 project will bring to Chinatown and the  
 15 surrounding communities.

PH245-4

16           Chinatown is not dying. It's lacking  
 17 real community investments and this gondola  
 18 project is not one of them.

19           Long-term residents of Chinatown are  
 20 mostly monolingual elders, seniors, and families  
 21 with young children. They are immigrant, low-  
 22 income, and facing continuous harassment and

PH245-5

1 threats of eviction --

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
3 comment. We'll move to Jennifer Wong, followed  
4 by Bill Chin.

Comment-PH246  
J WONG

5 MS. WONG: Hi, my name is Jennifer  
6 Wong. I am a resident of Chinatown and I oppose  
7 this project.

8 I actually find it to be kind of  
9 racially traumatic that this is going on, that  
10 you are ignoring marginalized communities, the  
11 Asian-American community, thinking that we would  
12 just kind of take this without comment and  
13 sitting down, so I really hope you take that into  
14 consideration the next time that you propose  
15 ridiculous projects.

PH246-1

16 I don't feel like this will help with  
17 our traffic issues. I liked that idea where you  
18 need to have shuttles, not just going from Union  
19 Station, but other parts of the city. That makes  
20 sense to me.

PH246-2

21 In terms of it bringing business into  
22 our community, I don't believe that's true. It

PH246-3



1 would just bring businesses that are expensive  
2 and would not be affordable to the residents  
3 here.

4 What we need are things like a  
5 laundromat, a grocery store, and I don't believe  
6 tourists or people who would ride the gondola are  
7 going to be using any of those types of things,  
8 so it doesn't make any sense at all.

9 I also really enjoy the state historic  
10 park and I don't want to see a gondola as I'm  
11 trying to experience nature, take walks, and  
12 enjoy my community. So, I really do hope you  
13 just do not go along with this project. Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
16 comment. We'll move to Bill Chin and then Ned  
17 T., followed by Fernanda Sanchez and Cheng Yang.  
18 Bill Chin? Okay, it looks like Bill might be  
19 having some technical issues. We'll come back to  
20 Bill. I don't think I see Ned T. at the moment.  
21 Fernanda Sanchez?

22 MS. SANCHEZ: Hello, my name is

cont'd  
PH246-3

PH246-4

PH247-1

Comment-PH247  
F SANCHEZ



1 profitable playgrounds.

cont'd  
PH247-3

2 I also want to mention that for those  
3 that are speaking in favor of this project, if  
4 you really believe that this gondola will improve  
5 traffic and reduce emissions, you are seriously  
6 confused for believing such a blatant lie and  
7 logical fallacy, or you are being paid to speak  
8 in favor. If you have a contract riding on this  
9 gondola and you're speaking in favor, you need to  
10 be transparent about that.

PH247-4

11 Lastly, I want to comment on the  
12 community advocates and activists who spoke up  
13 during the last gondola hearing where there  
14 really wasn't any public comment because the  
15 developer did not want to listen to us.

PH247-5

16 I want to thank all of the brave  
17 voices and their efforts for giving us the  
18 opportunity for public comment and for the  
19 meeting today.

20 I urge you to stop this project. Stop  
21 the gondola. Nobody here in these communities  
22 supports this project, and we will not accept

PH247-6

1 developers to further exploit, destroy, and  
2 displace our communities. Thank you.

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
4 comment.

5 We'll go to Cheng Yang and then Edwin  
6 Li, followed by Luis Guerrero and Miguel.

7 MR. YANG: Hello.

8 MS. SISCO: Hi.

9 MR. YANG: Hi, this is Cheng Yang.  
10 I'm here at Cassia Manor. I have the President  
11 of Cassia Manor, Mr. Tyru Hung. He will be  
12 speaking on behalf of several residents.

13 MS. SISCO: Okay. Could you please  
14 ask him to move closer to the speaker, and we'll  
15 restart the clock?

16 MR. TANG: (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MR. YANG: Thank you.

18 MS. SISCO: Okay. We'll provide a  
19 moment for the interpretation of that comment.

20 INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Yu Hang  
21 Tang (phonetic), and I am speaking here on behalf  
22 of ten other residents who are with me right now.

cont'd  
PH247-6

PH248-1

1 I live at 917 Cafe Manor. I have  
2 lived here for over 22 years. Besides me, there  
3 is also residents from Unit 402, Unit 604, Unit  
4 610, Unit 112, as well as Unit 508.

5 We all believe we don't need this  
6 gondola. I live on the ninth floor. If the  
7 gondola is going to fly over our home, the people  
8 on the gondola will be able to see us change, and  
9 for this reason, I oppose the gondola.

10 We don't need the gondola. What we  
11 need is hospital, supermarket, and affordable  
12 housing.

13 Our community will not benefit from  
14 this gondola project. It will only bring harm.

15 So, I urge this project to be  
16 withdrawn. Please remove this gondola project.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. SISCO: Thank you for that  
19 interpretation.

20 We'll go to Edwin Li, followed by Luis  
21 Guerrero, Miguel, and then we'll try Bill Chin  
22 again.

cont'd  
PH248-1

PH248-2

PH248-3

Comment-PH249

E LI

1 MR. LI: Hello. My name is Edwin Li.

2 Can you guys hear me?

3 MS. SISCO: Yes.

4 MR. LI: All right, thank you.

5 My name is Edwin Li, and I'm a local  
6 resident of Chinatown. And I live near the  
7 proposed pivot point of the gondola, and I oppose  
8 this project.

9 I don't believe the gondola will help  
10 Chinatown businesses because the tourists would  
11 be flying over Chinatown, right into Frank  
12 McCourt's parking lots.

13 I believe the Dodger Express, which is  
14 actually more practical and less invasive, will  
15 be a better solution. It also economically more  
16 responsible and doesn't destroy the neighborhood.

17 I think it's wrong to use public funds  
18 to help a private company, especially Frank  
19 McCourt, and I don't think it's safe to build  
20 objects that are flying over people in earthquake  
21 zone areas.

22 And I think that's it for me. Thank

PH249-1

PH249-2

PH249-3

PH249-4

1 you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
3 comment.

4 We'll go to Luis Guerrero, followed by  
5 Miguel, and then Bill Chin.

Comment-PH250  
L GUERRERO

6 MR. GUERRERO: Hello, can you hear me?

7 MS. SISCO: Yes.

8 MR. GUERRERO: Hello, my name is Luis  
9 Guerrero. My family is from the Williams Mead  
10 Projects, and we are calling support of the  
11 gondola.

PH250-1

12 We've seen that this is going to help  
13 alleviate the traffic in the neighborhoods, but I  
14 was actually calling as well because the last  
15 meeting I tried to go to to give a public  
16 comment, I got stopped by protestors, and I had,  
17 like, my family with me. I had little kids with  
18 me. They were cussing and, like, literally got  
19 in my face.

PH250-2

20 I didn't know if Metro had security  
21 there or what, but that was extremely  
22 disgraceful, especially considering that was at a

1 school, and there was high schoolers and other  
2 kids just everywhere. That was just -- I was so  
3 ashamed of Metro and the city right there. That  
4 was awful, but thank you, guys.

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
6 comment.

7 We'll go to Miguel and then Bill Chin,  
8 followed by rrojassr@gmail.com.

cont'd  
PH250-2

Comment-PH251  
M CASTELLON

9 MR. CASTELLON: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Hello. We can hear you.

11 MR. CASTELLON: All right, good  
12 evening. My name is Miguel Castellon and I am  
13 with the Ironworkers Local 433.

14 I love this project and appreciate  
15 that it will be built with partnership with  
16 labor. That means good paying jobs for our  
17 community and new, modern transportation for  
18 everyone.

19 We need more zero emissions and  
20 infrastructure in Los Angeles.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

PH251-1



1 comment.

2 Bill Chin, would you like to provide  
3 a comment?

4 After that, we'll go  
5 rrojassr@gmail.com, Jennifer Martinez, and then  
6 Dahma Cho.

7 Bill Chin, let's see if we can get you  
8 unmuted.

9 Okay, we'll come back.

10 Let's see, rrojassr@gmail.com.

Comment-PH252  
R ROJAS

11 MR. ROJAS: Good evening. My name is  
12 Richard Rojas. I currently serve on the Advisory  
13 Board for Latino Outdoors.

14 We're a national organization that  
15 connects youth and families with the outdoor  
16 space, including Los Angeles State Historic Park.  
17 Our organization vehemently opposes the project  
18 as we see it another environmental injustice in  
19 this community.

20 As currently proposed, the project is  
21 viewed by our community as an availed attempt to  
22 degrade the land that was hard fought and

PH252-1

PH252-2

1 promised to be the Central Park of Los Angeles.

2 For seven generations of Californians  
3 and beyond, recognizing the need for green space  
4 in LAs urban area, three great environmental  
5 warriors dedicated their lives to finding a way  
6 to create this open space in the industrial-  
7 commercial wasteland of Northeast Los Angeles.

8 The work of the late Robert Garcia  
9 from the city project, Ted Jackson from  
10 California State Parks Operations, Ron Schaefer  
11 from the LA Parks District, now all deceased but  
12 not to be forgotten, but cherished, protected,  
13 and preserved.

14 We want LA State Park for the viewshed  
15 and the experience for the community it provides.  
16 It took 20 years to be envisioned and developed,  
17 not to rely on the Draft Environmental Impact  
18 Report that the state park should change the  
19 general plan to accommodate this private venture.

20 This is not public transportation. It  
21 seeks to get people to Dodger Stadium for a  
22 private interest, for a private profit.

cont'd  
PH252-2

PH252-3

PH252-4

1                   On behalf of the Latino community and  
 2                   current future park users, we urge you to  
 3                   instruct the project proponent to properly  
 4                   identify, analyze, and mitigate all park impacts  
 5                   required by law and not usurp the legal  
 6                   responsibility to provide a clear, thorough, and  
 7                   complete, defensible project in the Draft  
 8                   Environmental Impact Report.

PH252-5

9                   Thank you.

10                   MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 11                   comment.

12                   We'll go to Jennifer Martinez, and  
 13                   then Dahma Cho, and then the number ending in  
 14                   6371, followed by Camarillo.

15                   Jennifer, please provide your comment.

16                   Okay, we can come back to Jennifer.

17                   Dahma Cho?

Comment-PH253  
D CHO

18                   MS. CHO: Hi. Can you hear me?

19                   MS. SISCO: Yes.

20                   MS. CHO: Okay. My name is Dahma Cho.

PH253-1

21                   I'm a resident of LA. I'm calling in solidarity  
 22                   with the Chinatown community in opposition to

1 this gondola project.

2 This project is another case of  
3 profits being prioritized over the people, of  
4 private interests, of those more privileged being  
5 prioritized over the well-being of marginalized  
6 communities.

7 Also, this project is an extension of  
8 the harm that Dodgers and Frank McCourt inflicted  
9 on the local communities, including the people of  
10 the Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop communities  
11 that the Dodgers corporation forcefully  
12 displaced.

13 This project just serves Dodgers fans  
14 and other parties who have some kind of profit to  
15 gain from this project, not the actual  
16 communities that this project would be impacting.

17 Previous speakers have mentioned the  
18 importance of tourism for the health of the  
19 economy, but I think the well-being of the actual  
20 community members is more important.

21 The aging, low income Chinatown  
22 community does not need Dodger fans and tourists

cont'd  
PH253-1

PH253-2

PH253-3

PH253-4



1 Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
3 comment.

4 We'll go to 6371, then Camarillo, then  
5 6343, followed by 6162, and then 4460, and then  
6 Annie Shaw. So, 6371?

Comment-PH254

BYATES

7 MR. YATES: Hi, this is Billy Yates  
8 (phonetic). I am the former bilingual Mandarin  
9 and English civics instructor at the Chinatown  
10 Library, and I maintain a close relationship with  
11 a lot of my students who live and work in  
12 Chinatown.

13 I'm also a transit rider because I  
14 don't have a car. Everything is bike, bus, or  
15 Metro for me, and that's why I feel that this  
16 scam of a gondola is really deceptive.

PH254-1

17 And we want to talk about, oh, we  
18 should be respectful. Oh, we should do all these  
19 things. But public transit riders are  
20 disrespected every single day in this city. We  
21 are not thought of as actual people, and we know  
22 that because of the head wait times, and how

1 dirty it is, and the lack of service, including,  
2 if we just get, you know -- taking on like a  
3 project like this when we already have so many  
4 existing problems with public transit in this  
5 city. It's like a glittery band-aid that we want  
6 to put on for all these little things, and it's  
7 just not a real solution.

8           What people need are frequent times to  
9 be able to move around in LA with public transit.  
10 People need free transit so that more people can  
11 use it because it takes more time, when the bus  
12 is already late, to go and add another person  
13 who's looking for change.

14           You know, there's so many problems  
15 that we could be focusing on with all this money,  
16 and the fact that we're thinking about a toy  
17 gondola is just -- it really is not the best of  
18 us. And I want LA Metro to do so much better  
19 because I know we can be a much better city if we  
20 really just prioritize the least among us and  
21 made it a public transit.

22           Not some dude over here from Colorado

cont'd  
PH254-1

PH254-2

PH254-3

1 or whatever talking about buses are sexy and he  
 2 comes from a ski town. That's not the community.  
 3 Please, please, please let's focus on helping  
 4 people as much as we can, and that starts with  
 5 real public transit, and getting rid of this  
 6 gondola, and focusing on what people need.

cont'd  
PH254-3

7 Thank you very much. There's a lot of  
 8 other concerns with transparency and  
 9 environmental pollution, but we don't even need  
 10 to go there. Let's just start with the basics.

PH254-4

11 Thank you, and I know we can do  
 12 better.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 14 comment.

15 We'll go to Camarillo, followed by  
 16 phone number ending in 6343, and then 6162.

Comment-PH255  
CAMARILLO

17 MR. CAMARILLO: Hi. Thank you so  
 18 much.

19 I just wanted to express my opinion  
 20 and say that this gondola project is completely  
 21 unnecessary and shameful. It's a luxury project  
 22 designed by the privileged for tourists and

PH255-1



1 outdated, parlor, aging Dodger fans.

cont'd  
PH255-1

2 We can hear the desperate concerns of  
3 the local generations of the people who live in  
4 Chinatown. Listen to the seniors, listen to the  
5 families, and make their concerns valid. Provide  
6 value to the opinions of people who will be most  
7 affected by this money grab project.

8 And also, don't be foolish. Chinatown  
9 has had lowered foot traffic from tourists over  
10 the years, but this gondola project is just not  
11 the way to acquire more foot traffic. It's truly  
12 a scam. Invest in existing shops, invest in  
13 Chinatown's business, and invest in Chinatown  
14 itself.

PH255-2

15 By the way, how can Metro fully focus  
16 on the success of this gondola project when Metro  
17 cannot even clean their buses properly?

PH255-3

18 This gondola project will not  
19 eliminate traffic, instead provide one of various  
20 existing ways for fans to see a baseball game.

PH255-4

21 Stop valuing money and tourism over  
22 long-time Los Angelenos and our well-being. This

PH255-5

1 gondola project is completely disingenuous and  
2 unnecessary.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
5 comment.

6 We'll go to phone number 6343,  
7 followed by 6162, and then 4460, and then Annie  
8 Shaw.

Comment-PH256  
MONICA

9 PARTICIPANT: Yes, hi. My name is  
10 Monica, and on January 12, I attended the meeting  
11 at the Cathedral High School in LA and supported  
12 the gondola project.

13 And there were some protesters there,  
14 and they took over the meeting. I was so  
15 disappointed in how the meeting turned out. The  
16 protesters were shouting profanity and using bad  
17 language in front of the children attending the  
18 meeting, and most of all, it was in a Catholic  
19 school.

20 Protesters had no respect for the  
21 community nor the people attending the meeting.  
22 They were so loud and obnoxious that we were not

cont'd  
PH255-5

PH256-1

1 able to provide public comments on the day of  
2 January the 12th. I felt scared and threatened  
3 by these -- by the way these protesters were  
4 acting.

cont'd  
PH256-1

5 Me and the community, we approve the  
6 gondola project. I believe it's a very perfect  
7 and new, exciting way to Chinatown -- to come,  
8 allow meaning. There's going to be more jobs,  
9 more profit for the community as well.

PH256-2

10 And like I said, I approve this  
11 project. Please, please approve it.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
14 comment.

15 We'll move to phone number ending in  
16 6162, and then 4460, followed by Annie Shaw, and  
17 2605.

Comment-PH257  
BILL

18 PARTICIPANT: Hello?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes?

20 PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me okay?

21 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

22 PARTICIPANT: My name is Bill. Oh,

PH257-1

1       excuse me. Yes. I live in the neighborhood, and  
 2       I support the proposed gondola project. We need  
 3       new transportation in our community that are good  
 4       for the environment and that don't have emission  
 5       problems.

cont'd  
PH257-1

6                 So, please vote for it. I support the  
 7       gondola project. Thank you very much.

8                 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 9       comment.

10                We will move to phone number ending in  
 11       4460.

Comment-PH258  
ANGELICA

12                PARTICIPANT: Hello. My name is  
 13       Angelica, and I support the gondola.

PH258-1

14                I also want to add that I'm really  
 15       upset that the meeting on January 12 was so  
 16       disrespectful to the community. We have no place  
 17       in the community for profanity, threats, shouting  
 18       at people, and disrespecting.

PH258-2

19                I protest something myself, but I  
 20       didn't like that and I found it scary enough to  
 21       attend another meeting because, just because a  
 22       lady said that she was supporting the gondola,

1 there was this man chasing her around with his  
2 hand raised up like he was going to slap her,  
3 just because she said that she supports the  
4 gondola. He told her, why are you supporting it?  
5 You can't be doing that.

6 I got scared. I wanted to get away  
7 from there. We can't let this happen again. I  
8 don't know if Metro -- why they allowed the  
9 protesters to take over the community meeting and  
10 create a terrible environment for other people  
11 that were there with their families. Also, I  
12 don't understand why they were jumping around the  
13 gym and, you know, trying to create panic to the  
14 people.

15 Like I said, I'm here to support the  
16 gondola, and thank you for listening.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
18 comment.

19 We'll go to Annie Shaw, followed by  
20 phone number ending in 2605, then 4620, followed  
21 by Lynn, Valerie M., and the phone number ending  
22 in 1242.

cont'd  
PH258-2

Comment-PH259

A SHAW

1 MS. SHAW: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 MS. SISCO: Yes.

3 MS. SHAW: Okay. You know what is  
4 scary? The violence of gentrification, when a  
5 white developer can come in and unleash an entire  
6 project on a poor community that is in need of  
7 the most basic, essential living.

8 This is a shameful project that will  
9 kill the remaining of Chinatown. It is truly  
10 shameful that in 2023, we still have  
11 organizations, unions, and museums who are  
12 willing to sacrifice poor peoples' survival in  
13 exchange for their own community benefits.

14 Let's be real: if this gondola was  
15 proposed in a wealthy, white neighborhood like  
16 Beverly Hills or Malibu, it would have ended  
17 yesterday. This is a racist, white elephant  
18 project that takes advantage of disenfranchised  
19 poor people who are fighting for their last  
20 survival.

21 Let me be clear. The gondola will not  
22 save Chinatown. Tourism has not saved Chinatown.

cont'd  
PH259-1

PH259-2

1 New businesses that do not serve working class  
2 community will not save Chinatown.

3 The gondola is a white elephant  
4 project that wastes valuable resources, gentrify  
5 community, increase pollution, and make parking  
6 and food and housing even more expensive. Stop  
7 imposing this project on the community when the  
8 community have said it again and again that we  
9 don't want this.

10 Entire community of seniors protested  
11 your recent hearing. And how dare you? You  
12 raised their concerns by calling it a disruption  
13 when you are actually disrupting their homes and  
14 ignoring their voice of concern.

15 Right now, everyone is facing  
16 evictions and horrifying living conditions in  
17 Chinatown. This money can be used so much more  
18 constructively for peoples' lives in Chinatown,  
19 for their survival, instead of creating a project  
20 that a community can't even afford to  
21 participate.

22 Once again, residents of Chinatown do

cont'd  
PH259-2

PH259-3

PH259-4

PH259-5

PH259-6

1 not need these boxes above their heads and they  
2 do not need their neighborhood to be --

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
4 comment.

5 We'll move to phone number ending in  
6 2605.

Comment-PH260  
M CERVANTES

7 MS. CERVANTES: Hi, my name is Maria  
8 Cervantes (phonetic). Can you guys hear me?

9 MS. SISCO: Yes. Sorry about that.  
10 Yes, we can.

11 MS. CERVANTES: My neighborhood has  
12 some of the worst traffic and pollution in the LA  
13 County. We want to -- we're deserving, we want  
14 cleaner air, less traffic, and more zero emission  
15 transportation opportunities.

16 This project is about less cars, less  
17 pollution, and safe and healthy -- safety and  
18 health of the neighborhood. I support the  
19 project stated gondola.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
22 comment.

cont'd  
PH259-6

PH260-1



1 We're going to go to Lynn, followed by  
2 Valerie M., and then phone number ending in 1242,  
3 followed by Paul Des Marais, Viva Palo Verde, and  
4 Melissa Arechiga.

5 PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me?

6 MS. SISCO: Yes, I think we were --

Comment-PH261  
EDGAR

7 yes, we can.

8 PARTICIPANT: Okay. Hi, my name is  
9 Edgar. I'm a local resident, and I just wanted  
10 to say that I support the gondola project.

11 I think, like some others have said,  
12 it is definitely one of the ways we go into the  
13 future with transportation, just provide  
14 different modes of transportation to different  
15 areas of the city.

16 This will connect the local parks and  
17 hopefully relieve some of the traffic to get into  
18 Dodger Stadium.

19 It's zero emission, no electricity.  
20 So, I think it'd be, you know, a nice way to get  
21 up to that area. I support the gondola project  
22 and ask the council to do the same.

PH261-1

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
3 comment.

4 We'll move to Lynn, and then Valerie  
5 M., phone number ending in 1242, Paul Des Marais,  
6 and then Viva Palo Verde and Melissa Arechiga.

7 Lynn, are you able to get yourself  
8 unmuted so you can provide your comment?

Comment-PH262  
L DWYER

9 MS. DWYER: Okay, I think I'm here  
10 now.

11 MS. SISCO: Yes, you are.

12 MS. DWYER: My name is Lynn Dwyer  
13 (phonetic). I would like to document my concerns  
14 that the project will have long-term, negative  
15 environmental impacts to parks, historic sites,  
16 and residents.

17 The gondola system will have a  
18 negative impact on some of Los Angeles' most  
19 iconic views, including streetscapes, historic  
20 sites like Union Station in El Pueblo, and parks,  
21 including the Legion Park and LA Historic Park.

22 The project will negatively impact the

1 environment during construction with air  
2 pollution, traffic, and noise.

3 The ongoing operation of the gondola  
4 will disrupt park users and residents with noise,  
5 trash, and visual distractions.

6 There will be an invasion of privacy.

7 I believe a better solution would be  
8 safe pedestrian access to Dodger Stadium.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
11 comment.

12 So, we'll go to Valerie M., followed  
13 by phone number ending in 1242.

Comment-PH263  
V MORISHIGE

14 MS. MORISHIGE: Hello. My name is  
15 Valerie Morishige (phonetic), and I just want to  
16 say thank you to everyone that's been providing  
17 public comment here. It's been very  
18 illuminating, since what's been going on in the  
19 press about this has been green washing and kind  
20 of astroturfing at best.

21 So, when I first heard about this  
22 project, I thought it was dumb, and now that I'm

cont'd  
PH262-1

PH262-2

PH263-1

1 hearing from community members, I realize how  
2 heinous it actually is.

3 So, they're trying to sow class  
4 division to shove this through, and we're just  
5 supposed to stand by and not listen to the  
6 community? It's absolutely ludicrous.

7 Tourism is not going to save us, and  
8 we see how up and down that tourism can be,  
9 especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. So, that  
10 -- I don't think we should be trying to rely on  
11 that as a stable source of income for folks.

12 And regarding the quality of life  
13 issues, I think that takes precedence over trying  
14 to build, like, another LA Live that -- or, like,  
15 a super-mall that's on top of a hill that only  
16 out-of-towners are going to go to. And it's not  
17 going to help any of our community members at  
18 all.

19 So, I say, down with the gondola.  
20 It's dumb, and thank you very much for everyone  
21 that's here and providing comment.

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

cont'd  
PH263-1

PH263-2

1 comment.

2 We'll go to 1242, followed by Paul Des  
3 Marais, Viva Palo Verde, Melissa Arechiga, and  
4 Rafael.

5 PARTICIPANT: I have another quick  
6 comment in opposition.

7 MS. SISCO: I'm sorry, excuse me. Did  
8 you already speak? I might have -- did you  
9 already provide a comment this evening?

10 PARTICIPANT: I did, but I forgot  
11 something, and this is quick. Please.

12 MS. SISCO: You know what, I'm going  
13 to have to ask you to hold because we have many  
14 people who still have their hands up that haven't  
15 provided a comment yet.

16 So, let's go to Paul Des Marais.

17 MR. DES MARAIS: Hello, can you hear  
18 me?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes.

20 MR. DES MARAIS: Hi. My name is Paul  
21 Des Marais, and I'm a resident of Lincoln Heights  
22 and a former resident of Solana Canyon, and I'm

PH264-1

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speaking today in opposition of the gondola.

It is a horrible idea, and as someone who is primarily a pedestrian, transit rider, and cyclist, getting to Elysian Park, LA State Historic Park, and around the Chinatown area is very difficult.

There are barely any bicycle lanes in Elysian Park, there are barely any bicycle lanes to get to LA State Historic Park, and like previous speakers have said, bus waiting times and Metro waiting times are insane.

This project does not prioritize the residents of Chinatown. It does not prioritize the residents of surrounding neighborhoods. It's just a cash grab, and I believe that Metro should be spending their time, resources, and dollars on improving existing public transportation networks.

There needs to be more Dodger Express buses to the park, to Elysian Park, and if you look at any game day, or any day, really, in Elysian Park, it is a playground for cars. It is

cont'd  
PH264-1  
PH264-2  
PH264-3  
PH264-4

1 not a playground for people.

2 It's difficult to walk around Elysian  
3 Park without having cars speeding past you,  
4 speeding to get to the games, and there are  
5 barely any bike lanes. And just recently, the  
6 main road to get into the stadium was repaved.  
7 Not a single bike lane was added to that road.  
8 It's disgraceful.

9 Thank you very much, and I stand in  
10 solidarity with previous commenters.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
13 comment.

14 We'll go next to Viva Palo Verde,  
15 followed by Melissa Arechiga, Rafael, and then  
16 the phone number ending in 4331, and Yvonne  
17 Savio.

cont'd  
PH264-4

PH264-5

Comment-PH265  
V MONTAGO

18 MR. MONTAGO: Hello, can you hear me?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

20 MR. MONTAGO: Hi. My name is Vincent  
21 Montago (phonetic). I am the son of Adele  
22 Montago (phonetic) and the grandson of Adele and

PH265-1

1 John Denava (phonetic), former residents of the  
2 three communities of Palo Verde, La Loma, and  
3 Bishop that were violently destroyed by the  
4 Dodgers and the City of Los Angeles. I come  
5 before you today in full support of the Chinatown  
6 residents opposing the gondola.

7 For far too long, corporations and  
8 city entities have taken advantage of poor,  
9 brown, and black communities to benefit their own  
10 good. And the deal with the taking of our homes,  
11 the land was supposed to be taken away for  
12 housing, and instead was given to the Dodgers to  
13 build their empire that they have today on the  
14 backs of the poor people of Los Angeles. This  
15 must stop.

16 This led me into my position of today,  
17 which is an elected office, as I stand also from  
18 that point of view in opposition of it as  
19 Chinatown is being killed. It is not a dying  
20 industry.

21 The plans were put into place 20 years  
22 ago for most of our communities to be attacked,

PH265-1



1 and they're being implemented today. And this is  
2 a tragedy, that public agencies like Metro would  
3 participate in the destructions of our  
4 communities when they are supposed to be here to  
5 uplift and support local community businesses and  
6 residents.

7 There has never been, in all the years  
8 of our families' trauma history, looking at over  
9 a 100 years of history with the city and public  
10 entities, no good has ever come between the deal  
11 between the Dodgers and the City of LA.

12 In fact, we find that these are  
13 backdoor corrupt deals that don't benefit the  
14 public but benefit people like Frank McCourt, who  
15 has owned the parking lot and the stadium at one  
16 point in time. And that's their invested  
17 interest. So we strongly support the Chinatown  
18 residents and all the local --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
20 comment.

21 We'll move to Melissa Arechiga, and  
22 that will be followed by Rafael, phone number

cont'd  
PH265-1

PH265-2

1 ending in 4331, Yvonne Savio, and then Lisa  
2 Duardo, and Michael.

Comment-PH266  
M ARECHIGA

3 MS. ARECHIGA: Hello?

4 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

5 MS. ARECHIGA: Okay. All right, here  
6 we go.

7 My name is Melissa Arechiga, and I am  
8 here today before you as a representative of the  
9 surviving families that were violently evicted  
10 from Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop, three  
11 Mexican indigenous communities that were  
12 destroyed to build the Dodgers Stadium.

13 I am here today to oppose the gondola  
14 project from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.  
15 While this may be exciting to film, it is a sign  
16 of change and change that is not inclusive to  
17 all, specifically people of color.

18 The Dodgers Corporation and the City  
19 of Los Angeles have a long partnership together  
20 working to destroy and exploit communities of  
21 color. The gondola represents gentrification,  
22 the destruction of not only our communities, but

PH266-1

PH266-2

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the environment and our beloved wildlife.

The gondola project is no different than the deal that was made to take away our families' generational wealth by destroying the three communities to build Dodgers Stadium.

The Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council set to build the gondola in the middle of our communities, and this would only benefit the Los Angeles Dodgers. Our residents and small business owners will suffer with this so-called revitalization project that is gentrification and a long-term that leaves our most valuable community members displaced with no benefits.

The history between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council has left our communities in worse condition from the deals of the 1950s, when our homes and the three communities were destroyed. And the lies that were told to the public of building public housing today leave us with the current conditions of our unhoused and affordability crisis that affect us all today.

cont'd  
PH266-2

PH266-3

PH266-4

PH266-5

1           It is a win-win for the Dodgers, and  
 2           that has been since Black Friday, May 8, 1959,  
 3           when our families were dragged out. It's time to  
 4           put a stop the Dodgers Corporation of exploiting  
 5           the people of Los Angeles.

6           I strongly urge that everyone in the  
 7           public and elected officials oppose this project,  
 8           as it will damage -- have damaging effects that  
 9           will last for generations on generations.

10           MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
 11           comment.

12           We'll move to Rafael, followed by  
 13           phone number ending in 4331, 4959, Yvonne Savio,  
 14           and then Lisa Duardo.

15           PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me?

16           MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

17           PARTICIPANT: Hi. I'm Rafael. I'm  
 18           bred and born Los Angeles and long-time Dodger  
 19           fan.

20           Like, I would love to get to Dodger  
 21           Stadium, like, fast and, you know, not deal with  
 22           traffic, and it be environmentally friendly, and

cont'd  
 PH266-5

PH267-1

Comment-PH267  
 RAFAEL

1 I've taken the Metro Express. However, I don't  
2 think that this gondola is the best way of going  
3 about it.

4 Number one, you know, besides all the  
5 comments that have already been said by people of  
6 the community, the one thing for me is this is a  
7 pet project and, you know, a way for Frank  
8 McCourt to make money off Dodger fans after he,  
9 you know, badly, you know, managed the Dodger  
10 organization.

11 Number two, I don't think this is  
12 going to be safe at all, and I'm not talking  
13 about earthquakes or anything like that. I mean,  
14 those who have been to Dodger games, especially  
15 if you sit in the, you know, right and left of  
16 the pavilion, you know people get drunk. There's  
17 been fights after games.

18 You put them in a gondola, that one  
19 fight in a gondola, I mean, how is that going to  
20 get broken up, you know, when you're stuck in  
21 midair for, what, seven minutes? Or maybe three  
22 and a half, if you go from Dodger Stadium to

cont'd  
PH267-1

PH267-2

PH267-3

1 Chinatown and -- or Union Station? That's a long  
2 time to wait for security.

3 I oppose this, and I think Metro can  
4 look into other resources of getting people into  
5 Dodger Stadium.

6 That's all I have.

7 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
8 comment.

9 We'll move to phone number ending in  
10 4331.

11 You'll want to press \*6 to allow  
12 yourself to unmute on your phone. There we go.

Comment-PH268  
RAY

13 PARTICIPANT: Good evening, everyone.  
14 My name is Ray, and I'm with Anchor Church of  
15 DTLA.

16 First, I just want to say, go Dodgers.  
17 We have the best baseball franchise in LA  
18 history, and now that we've settled that, I want  
19 to be clear on something else.

20 A lot of people are under the  
21 impression that the churches as a whole aren't  
22 concerned with climate change. However, any

cont'd  
PH267-3

PH267-4

PH268-1

1 Bible based church knows that God cares deeply  
2 about our climate.

3 For instance, Revelation, Chapter 11,  
4 verse 18 reads, the nations are very angry and  
5 your wrath has come. And the time of the dead,  
6 they should be judged, and you should reward your  
7 servants, the prophets and the saints and those  
8 who fear your name, small and great, and should  
9 destroy those who destroy who destroy the earth.

10 We want to see development at the  
11 civic level that endorses positive climate change  
12 and zero emission. Public transit shows people  
13 at this city not only have the -- not only have  
14 great baseball, by the way, and the greatest  
15 sports franchise in all of baseball, great people  
16 and a great God, but genuine care for this earth.  
17 Because after all, this is His earth, too.

18 Thank you and God bless you.

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
20 comment.

21 We'll move to phone number ending in  
22 4959, then we'll be going to Yvonne Savio, Lisa

cont'd  
PH268-1

1 Duardo, Michael, and phone number ending in 3925.

Comment-PH269  
C GOMEZ

2 MR. GOMEZ: Hello, hi. My name is  
3 Carlos Gomez. Thank you for taking my call.

4 So, I've thought about this long and  
5 hard. I am a Dodgers season ticket holder, but,  
6 you know, I am a consumer of Chinatown and  
7 surrounding areas, and, you know, I've got a  
8 chance to talk to locals and some friends about  
9 this.

10 But the reality is, LA's a city of  
11 champions. It's, you know, filled with  
12 championship in every single major sport. You  
13 know, we're going to be the home to the 2026  
14 World Cup, the 2028 Olympics. You know, let that  
15 sink in. We're not your typical city.

16 We're LA. We deserve the absolute  
17 best. Most stadiums have some form of train or  
18 some form of trams or some, you know, for  
19 transportation to the stadium.

20 We have two buses that leave from  
21 Union Station that depart every 15 minutes.  
22 Dodger Stadium is iconic, right? It's a rich

cont'd  
PH269-1

PH269-2



1 culture that's bigger than just Chinatown. It  
2 represents us as a whole. Right?

3 We, you know, we owe it to Dodger fans  
4 and even visiting guests to provide them with,  
5 you know, best possible game experience which,  
6 you know, obviously, includes less traffic. This  
7 gondola project will set us apart from basically  
8 the rest and makes us that much better.

9 On another note, you know, Dodger  
10 Stadium is no longer just a baseball stadium.  
11 You know, we've had the Fluffy Show, the concert,  
12 Elton John.

13 You know, I am a Chinatown consumer,  
14 and the reality is that outside of a few  
15 breweries and a few restaurants in the  
16 neighborhood, it's sad, but Chinatown's a ghost  
17 town. You know, it's filled with small shops  
18 that come and go.

19 I really believe this project would  
20 rejuvenate the city, eliminate traffic, and  
21 really, you know, keep LA at the very top of the  
22 sports industry.

cont'd  
PH269-2

PH269-3

1                   You know, like it, love it, it's  
2 coming. You know, I support this gondola project  
3 1,000 percent. Go Dodgers.

PH269-4

4                   MS. SISCO: Okay. Thank you for your  
5 comment.

6                   We'll go to Yvonne Savio and then Lisa  
7 Duardo, Michael, phone number ending in 3925,  
8 Brenda Miramontes, and Maria Manzanilla.

9                   Yvonne Savio, are you able to unmute  
10 to provide your comment?

Comment-PH270  
T SAVIO

11                   MR. SAVIO: Okay, can you hear me?

12                   MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

13                   MR. SAVIO: Okay. I'm Tom Savio,  
14 Executive Director of the Los Angeles Union  
15 Station Historical Society. This is our opinion.

16                   We oppose billionaire Frank McCourt's  
17 racist gondola real estate scheme because it's  
18 obviously a Metro sweetheart deal after McCourt  
19 paid millions of dollars to Metro's political  
20 campaigns, this according to state records.

PH270-1

21                   Metro's Cory Zelmer and company  
22 falsified the gondola's Draft Environmental

PH270-2  
▼

1 Report by not mentioning that the world's busiest  
 2 helicopter airport is just a half a mile from the  
 3 gondola's Union Station terminal, which is --  
 4 should the 13-story towers and cable be struck by  
 5 a helicopter, many of Union Station's historical  
 6 architecture and its trains and passengers could  
 7 be harmed.

8 Union Station architecture will also  
 9 be negatively impacted by the gondola's  
 10 modernistic carnival ride architecture that's in  
 11 front of Union Station.

12 We believe the real purpose of the  
 13 gondola is to allow McCourt to build a high-end  
 14 real estate development on Dodger Stadium's  
 15 parking lots that he still controls, thus putting  
 16 the local, low income minority community out of  
 17 their homes by raising rents through  
 18 gentrification.

19 Part and parcel of the gondola project  
 20 is Metro's plan to use \$20 million in federal  
 21 funds to build a water fountain next to the  
 22 gondola's Union Station terminal to cool riders

cont'd  
 PH270-2  
 PH270-3  
 PH270-4  
 PH270-5

1 while they wait for their gondola rides in the  
2 hot season. It's crazy for a new water fountain  
3 to be built when LA is experiencing its worst  
4 drought in history, which probably will go on for  
5 decades.

cont'd  
PH270-5

6 Furthermore, McCourt's gondola will  
7 trample Los Angeles State Historic Park.

PH270-6

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
9 comment.

10 We'll move to Lisa Duardo, and after  
11 that, we'll go to Michael.

Comment-PH271  
L DUARDO

12 MS. DUARDO: Hi. My name is Lisa  
13 Duardo, and I'm born in raised in Los Angeles.

14 I responded to the Draft EIR earlier  
15 via letter back on January the 17th, and I would  
16 like to add on to the public record these other  
17 points that the Draft EIR either dismisses or  
18 omitted.

PH271-1

19 The Rim of the Valley Corridor  
20 Preservation Act was passed by Congress, the  
21 117th Congress. Adam Schiff introduced the bill,  
22 and he just spoke about it at P22's Celebration

PH271-2

1 Life at the Greek theater this past weekend.

2 What the Rim of the Valley Corridor  
3 Preservation Act does is it preserves open space  
4 for people and for wildlife from the Santa Monica  
5 mountains, which include Griffith Park and  
6 Elysian Valley Park, to the foothills of the San  
7 Gabriel Mountains, which are the Repetto Hills  
8 around Highland Park through South Pasadena,  
9 Pasadena, connects to the San Gabriel Mountains  
10 and the National Angeles Mountains, the Verdugo  
11 Mountains, which then connect to the Pacific Rim,  
12 which go to Canada and Mexico.

13 It creates a green wildlife corridor  
14 for animals so that they can coexist in our LA  
15 environment, and one of the lines on the points  
16 of this Congressional Act is that the Rim of the  
17 Valley unit would include habitat for iconic  
18 wildlife such as the mountain lion, the bobcat,  
19 the fox badger, the coyote, and the deer, as well  
20 as some endangered species of our area.

21 The LA Rim --

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

cont'd  
PH271-2

1 comment.

2 We've got about a handful of hands we  
3 need to get to, and then we'll wrap the meeting  
4 up. So, we anticipate about another 10 or 15  
5 minutes until we wrap up.

6 We'll go to Michael next, phone number  
7 3925, Brenda Miramontes, Maria Manzanilla, and  
8 then Jennifer Martinez.

Comment-PH272  
M CALAREZA

9 MR. CALAREZA: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Hi.

11 MR. CALAREZA: Hi, yes. My name is  
12 Michael Calareza (phonetic). I'm a resident of  
13 Lincoln Heights, a stakeholder in this project.

14 I frequent the state park often. I go  
15 to Dodger games, and North Broadway is  
16 continually impacted by traffic on Dodger days.  
17 However, if Metro wanted to be pedestrian  
18 friendly, it would do more.

19 Metro is not pedestrian friendly. It  
20 placates to the political powers or, in this  
21 case, the money, pro quid pro -- quid pro quo, I  
22 guess, is what's going on from McCourt and his

PH272-1

1 political contributions.

2 So, this is the fast track for him to  
3 take advantage of public funds for his commercial  
4 interests at the expense of public transportation  
5 needs.

6 There should be a sidewalk and stairs  
7 that gets people from North Broadway up into  
8 Dodger Stadium. Simple, common sense things for  
9 pedestrians, like safe sidewalks.

10 Transportation should be 21st Century  
11 transportation. Gondolas? What's the capacity  
12 of a gondola ride? How long is it going to take?  
13 How many dozens of people are you expecting to  
14 stand in line to take a gondola ride? Drunk  
15 after a Dodger game? Before a Dodger game? Come  
16 on, where's the common sense? This lacks it.

17 It's political. It stinks of  
18 corruption. There should be no public funds for  
19 this. Shame on Metro for even putting this in  
20 front of people and trying to fast track it.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
22 comment.

Cont'd  
PH272-1

PH272-2

PH272-3

PH272-4

PH272-5

1 I think our -- one of our computers is  
2 getting a little tired. The timer is jumping  
3 around just a little bit, so I apologize for that  
4 technical glitch, but we're almost done here.

5 We're going to move to phone number  
6 ending in 3925, and then we'll go to Brenda  
7 Miramontes, Maria Manzanilla, Jennifer Martinez -  
8 - let's see, phone number ending in 3925. Okay.  
9 We'll come back if needed.

10 Brenda Miramontes?

11 MS. MIRAMONTES: Hi, good afternoon.

Comment-PH273  
B MIRAMONTES

12 Can anyone hear me?

13 MS. SISCO: Yes.

14 MS. MIRAMONTES: Okay, hi.

15 I am in today to support the gondola  
16 project. I am a resident of the community, and I  
17 am also a big Dodger fan.

18 I believe that we're all talking about  
19 everything but the pollution. And I believe that  
20 that is the most important thing because right  
21 now, we have buses and, you know, cars, and all  
22 that, and that's just affecting our pollution

PH273-1

PH273-2



1 even more, so why not try anything new?

2 We are already a city of tourism, so  
3 it's not going to affect other -- make any, like,  
4 anything worse. I think it's just going to make  
5 it better for the Chinatown community. Also,  
6 like, we're going to get more tourists, you know,  
7 to come in and shop more for them, and it's going  
8 to benefit them at the end. So, I'm all in for  
9 it.

10 Thank you. Good night.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
12 comment.

13 We'll go to Maria Manzanilla.

Comment-PH274  
M SANCHEZ  
MANZANILLA

14 MS. MANZANILLA: Hello? Hello, can  
15 you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Hi, yes.

17 MS. MANZANILLA: Yes? This is Maria  
18 Sanchez Manzanilla, and I'm calling just to say  
19 that I oppose this gondola very, very strongly.

20 And I am talking for my community,  
21 William Mead, and all the community surrounding  
22 the park, LA State Historic Park. And all the

1 communities, William Mead, Chinatown, Solana  
 2 Canyon, Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, and all  
 3 of us oppose this horrible gondola. This project  
 4 is not good for our communities.

cont'd  
PH274-1

5 And we know that billionaire Frank  
 6 McCourt is going to get his money back when,  
 7 after he raise \$300,000 -- \$300 million and  
 8 leases that there because he didn't even ask the  
 9 communities for doing this horrible gondola.

PH274-2

10 And I think this community, this  
 11 serves them some kind of, you know -- they just  
 12 deserve some respect because he didn't ask us  
 13 for, you know, for anything. He just said he was  
 14 going to start this project, and we oppose it.

15 We are opposed to this gondola because  
 16 it's not good for us. It will destroy our park,  
 17 LA State Historic Park, and a lot of very bad  
 18 things will happen to our communities in downtown  
 19 LA.

PH274-3

20 And all this is only lies because what  
 21 happens if one of these gondolas falls on top of  
 22 the head of people who is running in the park?

PH274-4

1 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
2 comment.

3 We'll go to Jennifer Martinez.

Comment-PH275  
J MARTINEZ

4 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi. Can you hear me?

5 MS. SISCO: Yes.

6 MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Thank you for  
7 giving me a second chance because I was left off  
8 last time. My name is Jennifer Martinez. I'm a  
9 resident of Echo Park, and I oppose the gondola  
10 project.

PH275-1

11 And I am grateful for this session  
12 because I have learned a lot, and I also work  
13 providing sessions like this, so I appreciate the  
14 effort. But I have some common sense concerns  
15 about the project, and what strikes me from this  
16 discussion is, and what has bothered me about the  
17 project is the process. This is a missed  
18 opportunity for a wealthy member of Los Angeles  
19 to come into a community and create  
20 opportunities, perhaps, for that community.

PH275-2

21 So, my biggest problem is that the  
22 public sessions, which I know are part of the



1 process, have not been made easily accessible to  
2 all in the community.

3 And we're hearing this evening about  
4 concerns about businesses in Chinatown. So, how  
5 many restaurants and halls and public spaces are  
6 there where LA Art and Frank McCourt could have  
7 held sessions to create actual -- to just good  
8 faith, you know, action? And I mean, not like --  
9 I mean, two things about that.

10 One is, I don't understand why Frank  
11 McCourt and LA Art are not courting the business  
12 owners and the residents of Chinatown. They have  
13 the capacity. They have --

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
15 comment.

16 Let's see. It looks like we have  
17 three commenters remaining that had their hands  
18 up at 7:00 p.m., so we'll give them a chance to  
19 provide their comment, and then we'll conclude  
20 the meeting.

21 Let's see. Phone number ending in  
22 7680, could you please press \*6 to unmute

cont'd  
PH275-2

PH275-3

1 yourself?

2 PARTICIPANT: Hello.

3 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

4 PARTICIPANT: My name is Mary, and I'm  
5 a senior, and I want to make a comment about the  
6 last meeting that Metro had.

7 I believe Metro should have had taken  
8 better control of the meeting since the  
9 protesters had all the control with the  
10 disruption, the profanity, making people feel  
11 threatened, scared of the situation happening in  
12 front of them.

13 We should all feel safe no matter  
14 where we are, as well as be able to speak and  
15 share our support for the gondola.

16 Thank you so much.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
18 comment.

19 We have someone that's logged in as  
20 Samsung. It looks like it is Samsung SM-A526U,  
21 and then, after that, we'll go to Ali Rubinfeld,  
22 and we'll just double check that we captured all

PH276-1

1 the hands that were up at 7:00. And if so, we'll  
2 move to concluding the meeting.

Comment-PH277  
M CERVANTES

3 MR. M. CERVANTES: Hello?

4 MS. SISCO: Hi, we can hear you.

5 MR. M. CERVANTES: Yes. My name is  
6 Marlow Cervantes (phonetic), and I am a LA  
7 citizen born and raised, and I support the Dodger  
8 Stadium gondola.

9 My neighborhood deserves less traffic,  
10 less pollution for clean air with more  
11 transportation options. I hope that this is a  
12 better and for our future for us and our nation  
13 to come. Thank you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your  
15 comment.

16 Let's see. We'll go to Ali Rubinfeld.

Comment-PH278  
A RUBINFELD

17 MS. RUBINFELD: Hi. My name is Ali  
18 Rubinfeld. I'm a resident of Solana Canyon. I  
19 don't think there are people in Los Angeles who  
20 want to alleviate traffic to Dodger Stadium more  
21 than the residents of Solana Canyon, but this is  
22 just not the way.

PH277-1

PH278-1

1                   This is a transparent power grab with  
 2                   the long-term goal of creating a high end  
 3                   development and shopping center at Dodger Stadium  
 4                   that does not meet the needs of a community  
 5                   currently living in the area.

6                   There are so many ways to make Dodger  
 7                   Stadium more accessible that will not cause more  
 8                   harm to communities still healing from the  
 9                   violent taking of Chavez Ravine.

10                   This gondola will completely change  
 11                   the socioeconomic landscape of Chinatown, which  
 12                   is one of the last affordable neighborhoods left  
 13                   in Los Angeles, and people have been fighting to  
 14                   keep their homes there.

15                   This gondola will make Los Angeles a  
 16                   less affordable and less livable city and is  
 17                   completely ignoring the true needs of the  
 18                   community. It's here for a profit motive.

19                   We need a grocery store. We don't  
 20                   need a gondola. Thank you.

21                   MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

22                   I think Robert may have had his hand

cont'd  
PH278-1

PH278-2

PH278-3

1 up, so we'll go to Robert. Can you please  
2 provide your comment?

3 Let's see. Robert, you should be  
4 unmuted now.

5 Looks like we may have lost Robert.

6 Let's see. Give him just a minute to  
7 see if he logs back in. Otherwise, that was the  
8 last raised hand that we had, and we'll move to  
9 concluding the meeting.

10 Thank you all for staying with us an  
11 extra hour here to allow additional attendees to  
12 provide their comments.

13 Okay. We'll just give Robert maybe  
14 another little bit to see if he gets logged back  
15 in.

16 Okay. I do see Robert is logged in,  
17 so let's see if we can get him unmuted so he can  
18 provide his comment.

19 Robert, it looks like you're unmuted  
20 if you'd like to provide your comment.

21 Okay. Well, we're working on the  
22 technical difficulties there.



1 I did want to just let you know that  
2 there are links to the Metro webpage, which  
3 provides project information and information  
4 about the SECWA process, that we've just placed  
5 into the chat again.

6 Robert, are you able to unmute to  
7 provide your comment?

8 Okay. It looks like we're having some  
9 technical difficulties there. All right, he's --  
10 it looks like, Robert, you're unmuted but we  
11 can't hear you.

12 So, we're going to go ahead and move  
13 to wrap up, but the -- as I mentioned, the  
14 project webpage is in the chat if anyone would  
15 like more information on the SECWA process of the  
16 project.

17 And with that, I'll go ahead and thank  
18 you for your time this evening and we'll go ahead  
19 and conclude this virtual public hearing.

20 Have a good evening.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22 went off the record at 8:11 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript


In the matter of: LA ART Public Draft EIS Hearing

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-31-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.

  
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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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