

## Communication from Public

**Name:** jiyoung park

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 08:39 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** No public funds should be used for a billionaire's development project. The LA ART proposal provides the unsubstantiated claim that no public funds will be used for this project, directly contradicting the statement on its website that they will "partner with public agencies to ensure full funding." The proposal does not include proof of secured funding of \$500 billion for construction, and the Metro Board failed to do due diligence with respect to whether the alleged full funding by private equity is secured. The Oceanwide Plaza is a prime example of how a private project can become a tremendous public liability. The city's taxpayers are on the hook for security, clean up, and potential demolition which will add up into the tens of millions if not more. The towers should be utilized as public housing, but I digress. The proposal estimates that running the gondola would cost \$10 million per year. Where will those funds come from? It would be irresponsible to let another potential boondoggle like Oceanwide Plaza happen again. The L.A. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA), of which I am a member, opposes the project due to a number of reasons including the negative environmental impacts such as the elimination of hundreds of trees. In addition, the NCSA highlights that the residents of Chavez Ravine were already unjustly displaced from their homes, and it would be shameful to displace the surrounding residents again by facilitating mega-development of luxury housing that will inevitably price out current residents from the area. Our city's value is in its cultural diversity and enclaves like Chinatown. The city's cultural fabric must be preserved as we create affordable housing stock. I urge the councilmembers who are not recused to approve this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 05:22 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** As someone who was born and raised in the Northeast side of Los Angeles, I do not approve of the Gondola. I have utilized LA Metro's public transit to get to school, work and generally get around since I was able to ride on my own. This project will not improve the lives of daily Metro riders or improve the Metro experience in general. It travels a short distance from Union Station to Dodger Stadium and back. It does nothing to stop the traffic to and from Dodger Stadium. It will just cut through businesses, homes and parks by creating more noise pollution for the residents of LA and flying over everyone's head. It also doesn't help that it is being privately funded by Frank McCourt who privately owns LA ART, the parking lots around Dodger Stadium and buying up buildings around Chinatown. This project is clearly to drive traffic to the area, so there will be more interest in developing the land. So, this is to benefit one person and his interests and not LA residents as a whole. LA residents who utilize public transit, live and work in this area, who will be affected the most are against this project. I am against this project. LA Metro recently approved to gift Frank McCourt more land that they do not have the right to give away to fund this project. Public transit should continue to be public transit because it will always be affordable for the people who truly need it and utilize it. When it is privately owned, there is no guarantee it will be affordable.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ansis Hoheisel

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 05:01 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support this motion and oppose the LA Art Gondola project. The projects EIR is incredibly flawed and under litigation, a proper traffic study related to dodger games is necessary, and we need investments in regional transit, not private projects. We do not even have a public bus going into Elysian Park. Stop the Gondola!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kathleen apRoberts

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 05:06 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing regarding the LA ART Gondola project. This project must be halted until an unbiased EIR is initiated and completed. This proposed destructive project is being planned on public land (illegal in the state of CA), that will destroy the quality of life for low income communities, including many seniors. The impacted area includes LA State Historic Park, as well as Elysian Park, which are precious resources to the residents and all Angelenos. I am in favor of denying the LA ART Gondola project. Kathleen apRobertds

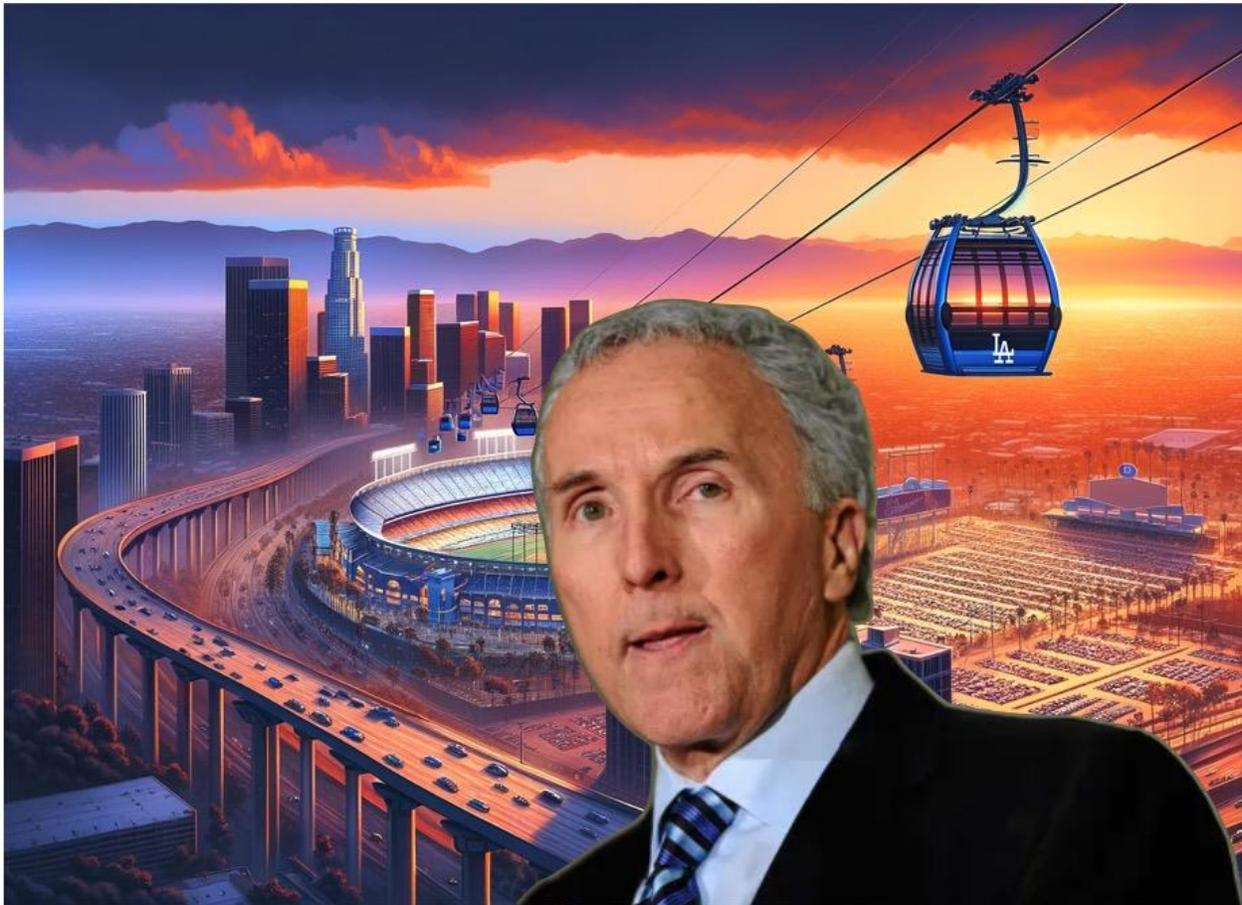
## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jack Humphreville  
**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 04:46 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Frank McCourt's \$500 Million Gondolas

# Frank McCourt's Gondolas: What is His Overall Plan?

JACK HUMPHREVILLE

FEBRUARY 01 2024



**LA WATCHDOG** - Frank McCourt, the former owner of the Dodgers and the 50% owner of the Dodgers parking lot, Climate Resolve, a respected environmental oriented non-profit, and **Zero Emissions Transit**, a newly formed non-profit, are planning to construct and operate the 1.2-mile Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit system that will use gondolas to ferry 5,000 baseball fans an hour from Union Station to Dodger Stadium with an intermediate stop in the Los Angeles Historic State Park.

As part of the approval process, Metro, acting as the lead agency, has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (at McCourt's expense) that will be presented to the Metro Board at an upcoming meeting. Hopefully, the 13 members of the Metro Board, including Mayor Bass who is the Chair and her three appointees, will have reviewed and analyzed the 100-page Executive Summary and the impact on the surrounding communities. (See below.)

According to the EIR, the capital cost of the Aerial Rapid Transit system is expected to be in the range of \$500 million. Operating costs are projected to be \$8 to \$10 million a year.

Importantly, the sponsors have said that LA-ART will be privately financed and will not rely on any cash or credit support from Metro or any other public entity. This, however, will require the operation to generate at least \$55 million of cash a year, an amount necessary to cover operating expenses of \$10 million, capital costs (principal and interest) of \$35 million to service the \$500 million of bonds, and a cushion demanded by the lenders or investors of at least \$10 million.

To generate this level of revenue will require an extraordinary number of full pay riders (Dodger ticket holders ride for free), not only to visit Dodger Stadium and its many events, but to view the many sponsorships envisioned by the promoters. At best, this level of revenue is problematic.

The real payoff will be the development of the open space at Dodger Stadium, an idea that was proposed by Frank McCourt when he owned the Dodgers and is most likely part of his game plan now that he owns 50% of the open space.

If so, the development of Dodger Stadium adds a level of complexity to the proposed LA-ART that needs to be addressed in an open and transparent manner, including in the EIR.

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On January 24, local Councilwomen Eunisses Hernandez introduced a **motion** requesting an updated traffic study for Dodger Stadium. She also requested that the “City Council suspend any action on approving advancements to the LA-ART project contingent upon the results and recommendations of the updated results and recommendations of the updated Dodger Stadium Traffic Assessment.” This project also needs to be approved by the City, County, and the State.

This project is expected to reduce traffic on games days and cut the emission harmful greenhouse gases. It has been endorsed by many environmental organizations. It has also generated considerable controversy from residents who will be impacted by the noise and loss of privacy because of five-ton gondolas passing overhead every thirty seconds on game nights. The Friends of Elysian Park discussed their opposition in a recent Op-Ed column in the Los Angeles Times, If the Dodger Stadium Gondola

is Only the Beginning, What Becomes of Elysian Park as has the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance.

<https://www.citywatchla.com/la-watchdog/28370-frank-mccourts-gondolas-what-is-his-overall-plan>

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristy Chan

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 01:53 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of Los Angeles CD1 and I support this motion and oppose the LA ART gondola. The gondola will not reduce traffic and doing this study should have been mandatory before any approvals of the gondola. This gondola is a sham and will only harms the community members of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Victor Heights and Elysian Park. Do not approve the gondola and I approve of the motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kelly Opdycke

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 02:00 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not approve the gondola. This will only displace more people, directly and indirectly. Directly because people will be pushed out to make room for it. Indirectly because as this new transportation makes the community 'cool,' the rent will go up and the locals will no longer be able to afford to live there.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hilary Goodrich  
**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 02:21 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4  
**Comments for Public Posting:** The gondola project will hurt the city more than it will help transportation needs.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robin Blackman

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 12:21 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am very much opposed to the proposed gondola by Frank McCourt, and his company LA Art. He is buying up property in Chinatown forever ruining this tight-knit, special historic community. The gondola is a bad idea. Hopefully his company is not buying off the the city council and you vote against it when the time comes. it is a travesty that the committee from Metro voted to move forward. When in fact, their lawyer said they could vote NO that day and stop this harebrained, amusement park ride. These flying buses will have no safety protection once up in the air and moving, filled with people. Metro can't manage to keep their riders safe in their subway and trains now, how are they going to keep them safe in a flying short bus. Moving 5000 people into the stadium will not alleviate dodger parking and traffic issues. It is a drop in the bucket for a 60,000 seat stadium. It's obvious that McCourt wants to develop the parking lot. He's tried it before, it was in his past proposals, his dream is to have another amphitheater, retail and restaurant space up there... don't let it happen. There are better alternatives to the traffic issues. Don't ruin the stadium and don't ruin the peace and quiet of Elysian Park, and California State historic Park. One of the other things I fear if this gondola happens is the visual pollution it will cause. There is no way they can afford to operate this thing year after year and they need to generate millions of dollars to pay for the operating cost , to do that, it will be full of advertising, LED lights, and whatever else a PR company can come up with. It's very frightening to me how awful these will look. Again we don't need flying buses with moving advertisements.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Castellano

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 01:12 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** Not only is this gondola gentrifying vulnerable communities it is ILLEGAL--building on public land is illegal in California. If this project is allowed to proceed with the heavily biased EIR that has been provided, let it be known this is injustice for the affected communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amie

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 01:39 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in support of putting a hold on the project & doing a comprehensive, objective traffic study for Dodger Stadium. I am not in favor of the LA ART project moving forward.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Britta Sterling  
**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2024 01:48 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0011-S4  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in support of the hold on the construction of the gondola. I am against the construction of the gondola, and think there should be an objective report on how it will effect LA traffic.