

Metro Transit to Parks Strategic Plan Executive Summary

Metro’s Transit to Parks Strategic Plan presents a systematic vision for increasing access to parks and open space countywide. The goal is to find targeted, holistic ways to increase access to parks and open spaces, especially for communities of need. These communities, especially those that are not within walking distance or without convenient public transit to a park, are the focus of the Plan. Expanding access is a key priority for the region as demonstrated in the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment and the Southern California Association of Governments’ Regional Transportation Plan, both of which highlight a lack of park and open space access. LA County has a wealth of open space and recreational assets, but often these places are out of reach for County residents, particularly lower income, disadvantaged communities. Metro is committed to initiating partnerships and finding ways to increase access to parks and open spaces for LA County.

Chapter 1: Setting the Stage

This chapter identifies how the Plan supports Metro’s Values and Goals. It also identifies associated efforts within Metro including Vision 2028, Long Range Transportation Plan, NextGen, First/Last Mile Strategic Plan, and Active Transportation Strategic Plan, as well as local and regional efforts for transit to parks.

Chapter 2: Process and Methodology

This chapter describes the data-based analysis that served as the foundation for the Plan. It highlights the advisory committee’s role in selecting appropriate data points to identify high need communities and high quality parks. It describes the mapping analyses of the community, transit, and park data layers that generated a list and map of potential connections between communities in need and high quality local and regional parks.

Chapter 3: Case Studies

This chapter describes 15 local and national transit to parks case studies. It identifies 10 lessons learned that can be applied to support transit to parks efforts.

Chapter 4: Making the Connections

This chapter describes how the data analysis results (Chapter 2) and the lessons learned from the case studies (Chapter 3) can be applied to creating successful transit to parks projects. The chapter describes five different types of transit services (“access solutions”) that can be applied to transit to parks. It also proposes four pilot solutions as examples for how the access solutions can connect communities with high quality local and regional parks as well as beaches and mountains. Finally, this chapter identifies supportive programs and initiatives that can be undertaken to support transit to parks.

Chapter 5: Getting There

This chapter provides a road map for Metro and Countywide partners to move forward to transit to parks planning and implementation. It includes a list of local, regional, state, and federal funding sources and identifies what types of transit to parks projects they could fund.