

Los Angeles Report

June 2014

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* Project 1: Los Angeles Light Rail Line

1. LOS ANGELES LIGHT RAIL LINE

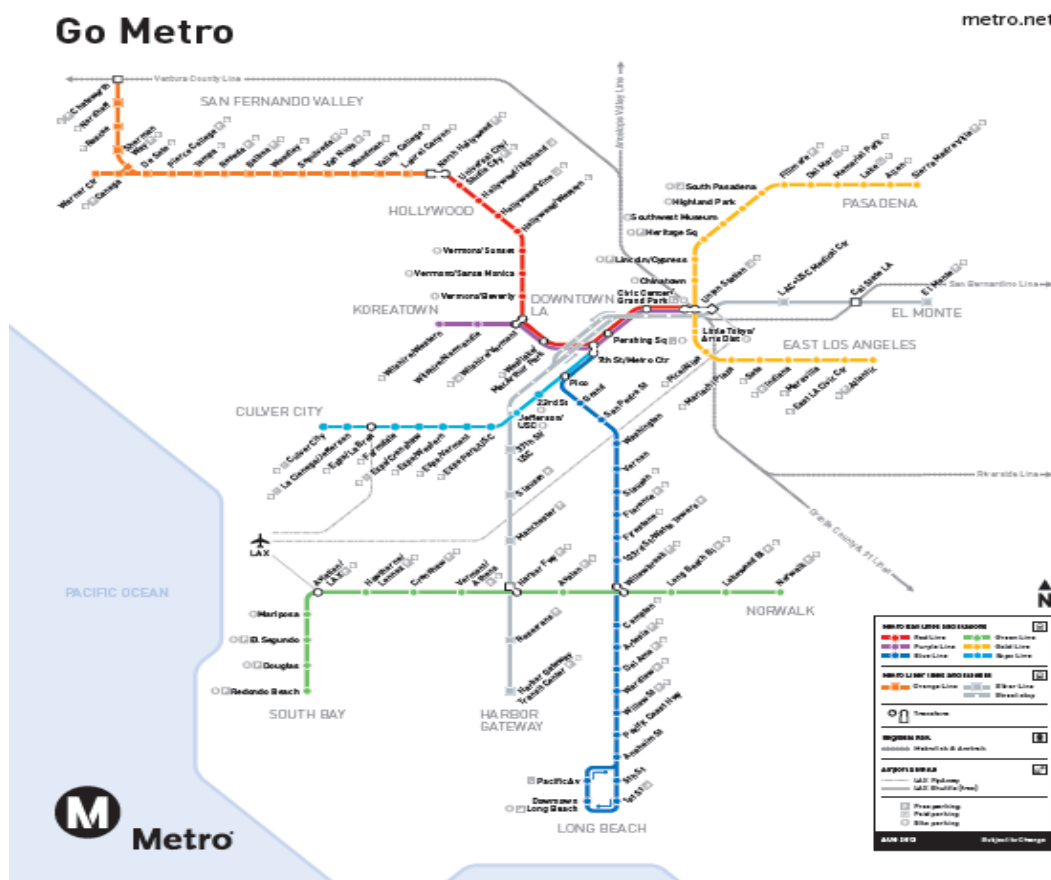
Project Overview

Los Angeles is popular for the automobiles; however, in the last ten years the light railway has undergone a quick development. Within a decade, five more lines were added to the metro lines, such as the Green, Blue, Red, Silver and Gold lines. The metro lines go underground or use elevated bridges, but the Gold line uses a pre-existing railway system that was build a hundred years ago and had remained abandoned for a long time. The old tracks have been extended. The new line now serves 21 stations, running from Pasadena to East Los Angeles. The extension of the line has stimulated the development of the area near the stations. New coffee shops, galleries and retail stores have boomed around the rail stations. The Gold line runs though residential and commercial areas, mainly above ground.

Project Details

1. Type of Business: light railway
2. Open Date: 2003
3. Location: Los Angeles

Map





The Southwest Museum Station of the Gold line stops at the hill of Mt. Washington, near the Southwest Museum of the American Indian. There is no parking space. The commuters have to park their cars at the side of the street. Other stations offer wide parking spaces. The design of the station is inspired by the desert landscape with palm trees.



Highland Park station is located in the middle of the Hispanic residential area. The design theme is old colonial style with greenery, stones and brick walls. The landscape design utilizes desert plants to limit the water consumption. Every week on Wednesday this street holds the Farmers Market, where farmers bring their harvest and they sell it directly to the customers at a convenient price.



South Pasadena (formerly Mission) station is located near Mission Street. The long ramp at 1:12 percent slope makes the station accessible for people with disability. The depot building was ready to be demolished when the old rail line closed. However, new tenants, restaurants and offices opened when the Gold line entered service.



The area near the intersection with the rail line offers coffee shops and buildings with canvas awnings that look like old Boston or New Jersey.



Del Mar Station is the result of the collaboration of the City of Pasadena with The Metro Rail. The station targets young commuter in their thirties as the residential development becomes part of the station design offering colorful buildings. The picture on the right shows the eastern gateway to the station with a water fountain. This building is a Type V wooden construction with stucco with an articulated color scheme built with inexpensive materials.



Memorial Park Station is a semi-underground station. A ramp and a staircase allow the commuters to reach the station from the street. The picture in the middle shows the tracks with the ramp for people with disability. The station is decorated with sculptures and graphic design. On the platform there are ticket vending machines and timetable boards.