

FAQs

1. Why did you commission this study?

Resolving issues of safety, traffic and responsible tourist access to our city's most popular park and most famous icon has been a priority since the day one. Griffith Park is being loved to death, and with 2017 being another record-breaking year for tourism, more visitors are coming to our region year after year, as the City aims to reach 50 million visitors by 2020.

2. What do you hope to get out of this study?

Ideas and strategies – both big and small – backed up by data and analysis. Dixon Unlimited Resources, the transportation consulting firm which conducted the study and data collection, offers a total of 30 strategies to improve access to Griffith Park and Trailheads, improve emergency vehicle access, expand transit options, enhance pedestrian safety, improve traffic flow & reduce congestion, increase parking efficiency and compliance rates and proactively manage visitors to the Park and Hollywood Sign.

3. How much was spent to commission this study?

\$120,000

4. Why did it cost \$120K?

The challenges around park access, mobility, and safety are complicated and multi-faceted. Since taking office, my office has spent more than twice as much money on traffic and safety enforcement alone. It's time for a comprehensive plan, and that requires professional data collection and analysis to move forward.

5. Why did you choose Dixon for the study? Was there an RFP?

Dixon was previously contracted by the Department of Recreation and Parks to help improve congestion and access around the Griffith Observatory, which resulted in the launch of 7-day shuttle access connecting the Park with the Red Line Sunset and Vermont Metro Station. Dixon was already familiar with Griffith Park and some of the issues involved. The existing contract was extended and the City Council approved the spending of CD4 discretionary funds on March 31, 2017.

6. The aerial tram – or gondola – has been proposed many times, why do you think it will work this time?

The City hasn't taken a position on whether to move forward on an aerial tram or not. The idea has been proposed at least four times in our history and it has never been formally studied. It's due time we take a look at the bigger, out-of-the box ideas. Griffith Park is being loved to death, and tourism only increasing – Los Angeles had 48.3 million visitors in 2017, another record-breaking year. This is an issue that isn't going away.

7. Does this study commercialize the Park?

No. Councilmember Ryu and Council District Four oppose any commercialization of Griffith Park - the rugged heart and soul of Los Angeles. The Park was designated a historic cultural monument for this reason.

We know there is a problem, and the City is seeking any possible solutions to serve the park, it's people, and its neighbors.

8. How were the locations picked for data collection?

This study was intended to focus on the areas on the western side of the Park that are most impacted by the Hollywood Sign, which were areas not included in the first Dixon study. However, what happens in one area impacts another, and some data from Los Feliz was reviewed by the team from Dixon. Decisions about which strategies will move forward will take into account all neighborhoods bordering Griffith Park. Access points of the Griffith Park in Los Feliz through Fern Dell/Western Canyon and Vermont Avenue were extensively studied in the Griffith Observatory study, and there are still additional ideas and mitigations to be implemented.

9. What are the next steps?

The next step would be to study the feasibility of these options – from an engineering, financial and/or environmental standpoint. Council District Four is going to ask the CLA's office to direct the various departments to report back on the feasibility of various options. From there, the City will need to make decisions on which options to pursue, including identifying funding and completing whichever level of environmental review is required under CEQA.

10. Why can't Beachwood gate be reopened?

The City lost a lawsuit, finding that that pedestrian access through the gate on Beachwood interfered with Sunset Stables' business. Pedestrian access at that location has closed to comply with the judge's decision.

