

Pedestrian Walkways

Honoring LAX's Architectural Legacy

Often overlooked is Southern California's prominent place in aviation history and how it influenced the region's architectural legacy. Several famous aviation innovators made a home here, including Howard Hughes, John Northrop and Amelia Earhart as mid-20th century Angelenos embraced jets, the Space Age and futuristic aesthetics. The iconic LAX Theme Building is a relic of a unique architectural style known as "Googie." The APM system was designed to complement and showcase this legacy, preserving it for generations to come.



The Los Angeles International (LAX) Automated People Mover (APM) will provide passengers with convenient, timecertain access into the LAX Central Terminal Area (CTA). Three APM stations will service the CTA, and the construction of seven elevated pedestrian walkways will link these stations to airport terminals.

The APM's specific engineering requirements, including long spans of up to 175-feet and a streamlined profile, necessitated the use of an uncommon structural design for the segments of pedestrian walkway that will span World Way. This design is called Vierendeel Truss.

The Vierendeel Truss design was selected for this use because it eliminates the use of diagonal support elements, helping to maintain visual continuity throughout the LAX campus. The resulting look will allow the APM's pedestrian walkways to feature the clean lines and airy, light-filled corridors that will align with the principles of mid-century modern design and LAX's architectural legacy.

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Building a Walkway over World Way

Suspended Scaffolding

Once the structure of the pedestrian walkway is in place, a suspended scaffolding system will be installed. This system, composed of multiple sections, will facilitate work on the walkway's finishes without the use of traditional scaffolding that would need to be staged in the roadway. These sections are raised and lowered as needed so that crews can go to work on the walkway's finishes with fewer impacts to the traveling public and airport operations.



- A shoring tower is constructed on Lower World Way to support construction of the pedestrian walkway.
- Partially pre-fabricated steel Vierendeel Trusses are transported to the jobsite and assembled.
- Over the course of four nights, the trusses are lifted into place with a crane.
- Floor and roof beams are installed.
- Once the structural steel is in place, the suspended scaffolding system is installed to facilitate placement of the concrete floor and the installation of metal panels and glazing.
- Once the pedestrian walkway has been constructed over World Way, construction can begin on the station and vertical core interfaces.

About the Automated People Mover

The Automated People Mover (APM) system will bring convenience and time-certainty for guests traveling to or from LAX. During peak hours, driverless trains will arrive at stations every two minutes. The trains will have wide doors for easy access with luggage, large windows for viewing, plenty of hand holds, and seats for those in need. Station platforms are open-air, light-filled and have escalators and elevators for quick, convenient access to the terminals. The APM is the centerpiece of LAX's Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP), which also includes a Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility, Intermodal Transportation Facilities and associated roadway improvements. The APM will reduce vehicle congestion in the Central Terminal Area, provide a connection with L.A. Metro's regional transportation system, create new locations for passenger pick-up and drop-off, reduce emissions and provide reliable access to the terminals.

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