

North Berkeley BART as a Future of Mobility Testbed

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If the North Berkeley BART is indeed a transit hub, then there's an inherent conflict between a transit hub and housing: you would probably not want to live around an area with that much congestion, activity and noise, and you probably need to leave the space open and available to support new and innovative ideas around mobility.

I'd prefer to see the North Berkeley BART parcel bounded by Virginia Sacramento Acton and Delaware left without housing in order to support new and innovative modes of transportation: to act as a testbed for all sorts of innovative new types of new mobility.

For example, BART added dedicated parking spots for car share services and allows corporate shuttle buses to operate at the station. BART's own plans for the site include upgrades for additional bicycle parking and the most recent innovations like "dockless" scooters and bicycles.

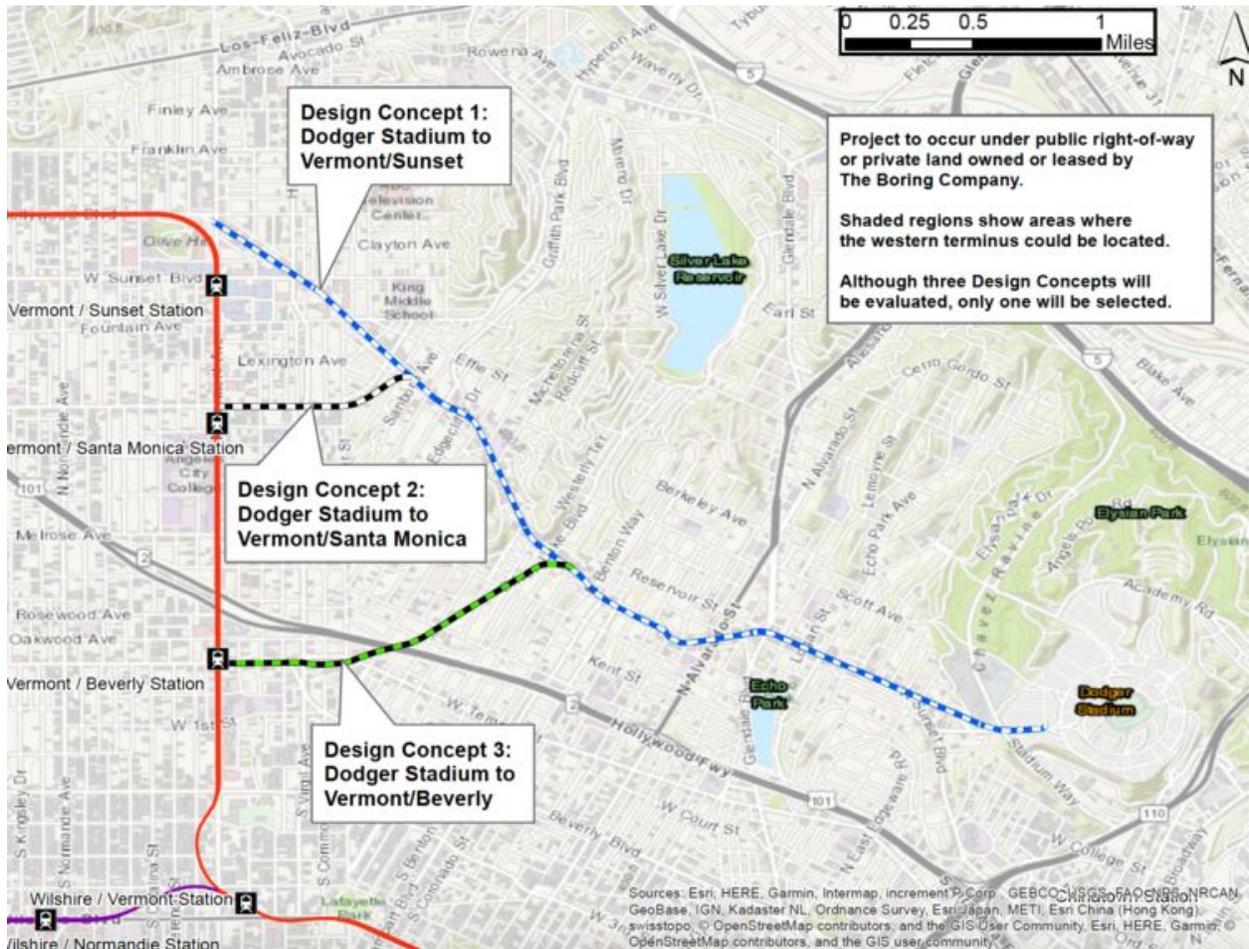
Two more examples:

- Several years ago I initiated a conversation between City Councilperson Linda Maio, Berkeley Economic Officer Michael Caplan and Google (Anthony Levandowski) about having Google's autonomous cars tested as a shuttle service between North Berkeley BART and the 4th Street shopping and residential area. If that had occurred, it could've paved the way for a much larger service area to be supported by the North Berkeley BART "transit hub" and allowed for a much less concentrated vision for future housing development.

- We already have the BART tunnel at this location, the future may be underground: The Boring Company has already built a one mile tunnel under Los Angeles and has contracts to build tunnels in Chicago and Maryland:

<https://www.boringcompany.com/projects/> I would love to see experimental tunnels emanating from the North Berkeley BART Station to other locations in and around the San Francisco Bay Area — even under the bay to downtown SF or to Marin County.

And while we all envision a future where car ownership is less prevalent, at the moment the full capacity of the parking lots is necessary: there are 778 parking spaces at North Berkeley BART: On 2018-10-05 I tried to sign up for a monthly parkers' parking spot at the North Berkeley BART through https://www.select-a-spot.com/bart/waiting_lists and got position 419 on the waiting list. So this vision allows for the current automobile era to be gracefully phased out as future mobility options are introduced.



Current plan for “Dugout Loop” in Los Angeles

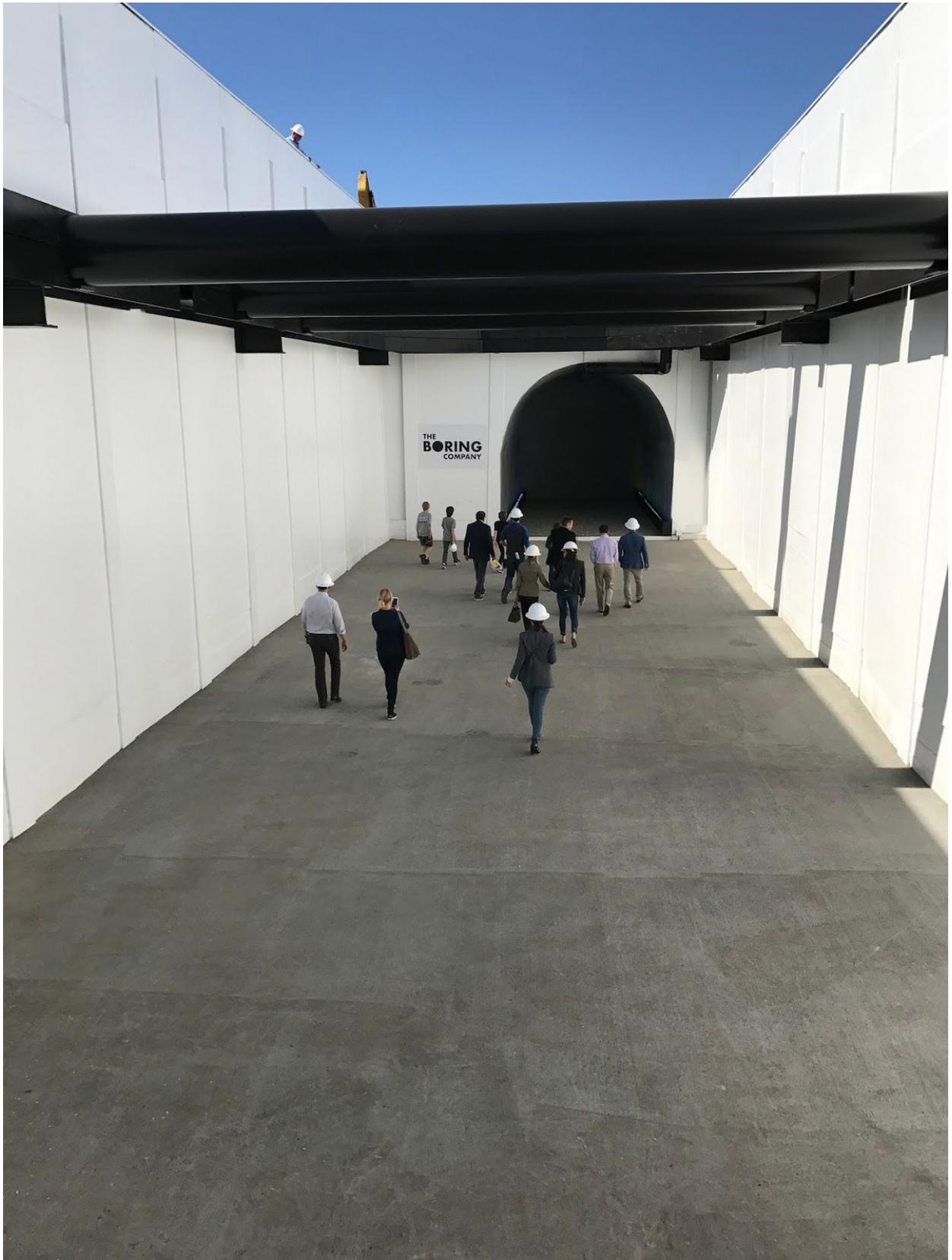
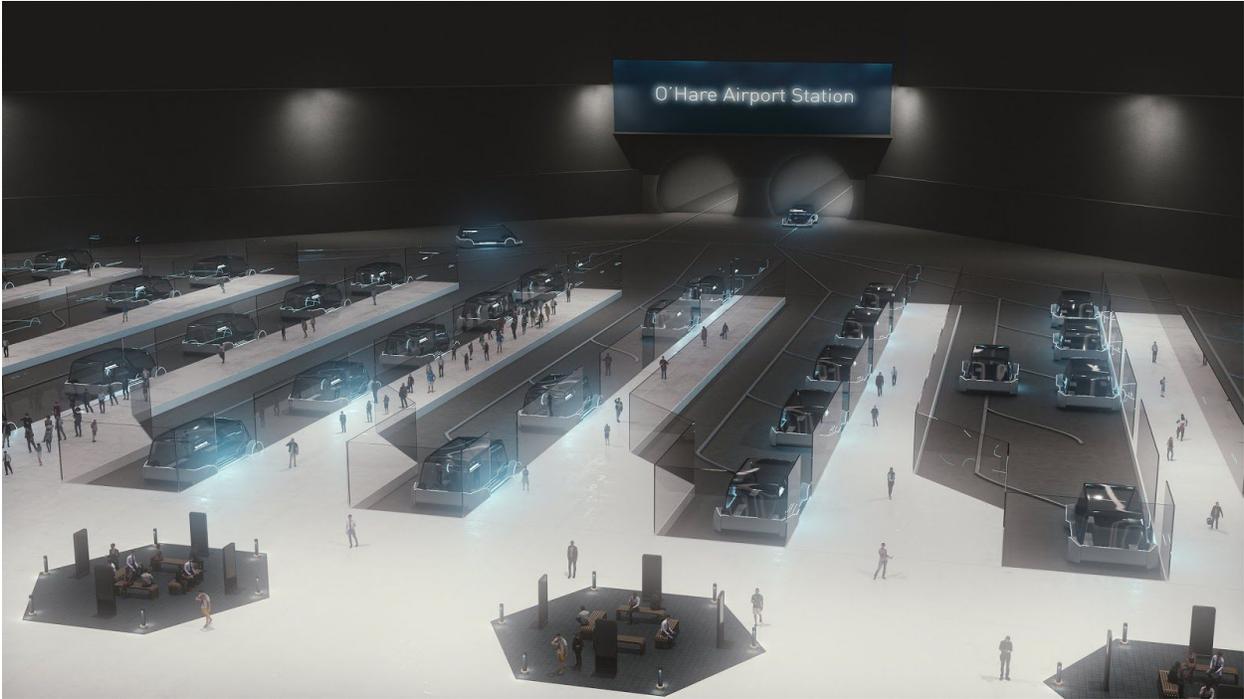


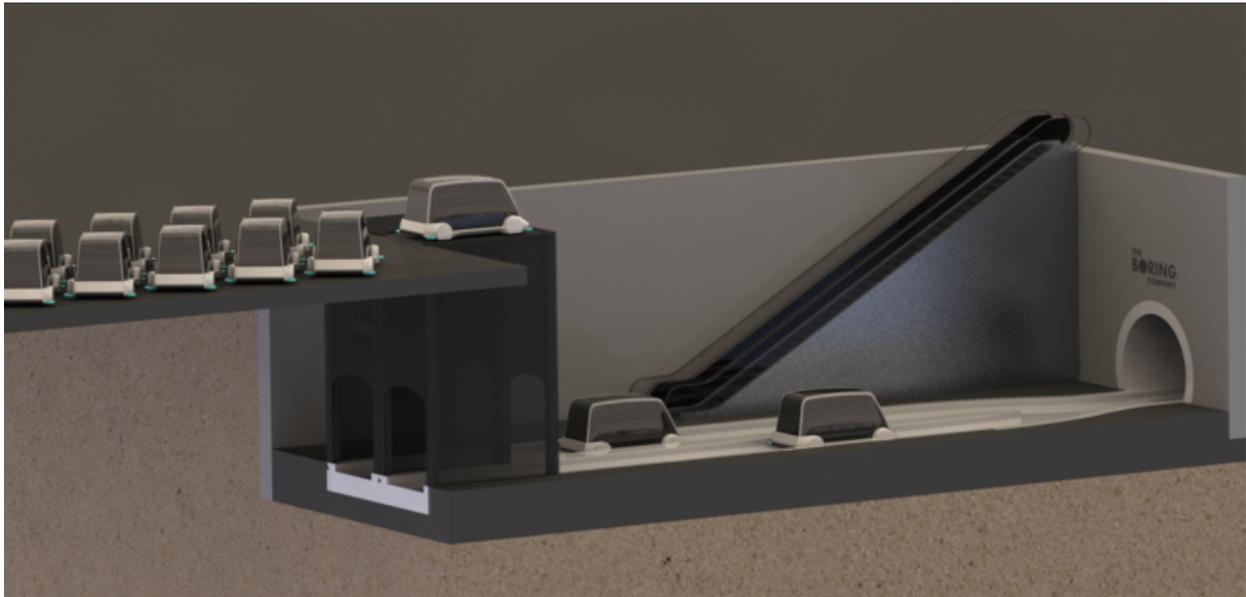
Photo of entrance to existing 1 mile long pilot tunnel in Hawthorne, CA



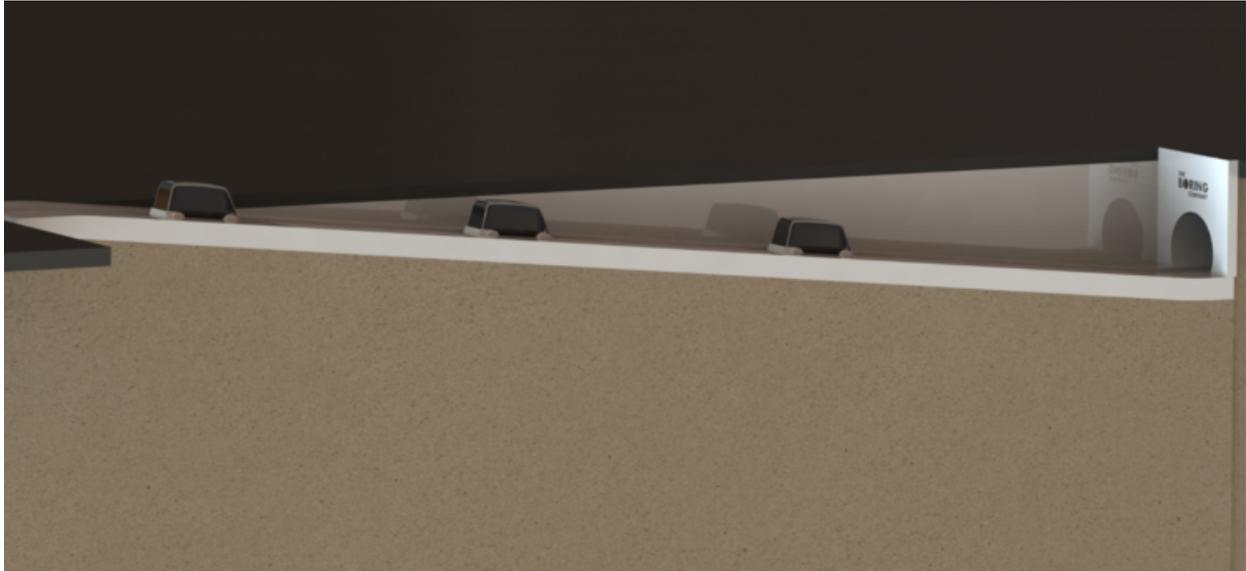
Concept design of transportation pod



Rendering of O'Hare Airport terminus (Chicago)



Elevators lower transportation pods into tunnel



Ramp to lower transportation pods into tunnel