Aerial Gondolas as Urban Transit

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3S or Tricable Detachable Gondola (TDG)

Funitel

Monocable Detachable Gondola (MDG)

Bicable Detachable Gondola (BDG)
Gondola Characteristics (MDG)

**Cabin Capacity:** 4-10 seats

**Cable Speed:** Average 11 mph, maximum 15.5 mph

**Interval Between Cabins:** 12 seconds minimum

**Maximum Capacity:** 3000 people per hour per direction

**Maximum Grade:** Approximately 45 degrees

**Height of Towers:** 30-60 feet typical

**Spacing of Towers:** 300-400 feet
Light Rail Transit

• Tried and true
• View obstruction at east end
• Traffic & parking impacts
• Some pleasure riding
• No privacy issues
• No queueing issues

Skyway (Gondolas)

• New and unproven
• View obstruction near stations
• Few traffic & parking impacts
• Significant pleasure riding
• Possible privacy issues
• Possible queueing issues
Pacific Beach Alternatives

Light Rail Transit:
$550 million cap. cost  $2.8 million annual op. cost

Gondola:
$163 million cap. cost  $6.6 million annual op. cost

Gondola is 30% of the capital cost of light rail but 2.3 times higher in operating cost
Pacific Beach Alternatives

Light Rail Transit:
$550 million cap. cost  $2.8 million annual op. cost
$419 million cap. cost  $2.8 million annual op. cost

Gondola:
$163 million cap. cost  $6.6 million annual op. cost

Gondola is 39% of the capital cost of light rail but 2.3 times higher in operating cost