

I found an interesting article on [Streetsblog LA](#) about parking spaces at current Los Angeles Metro Rail and Bus Rapid Transit stations, as well as the upcoming Crenshaw/LAX. The map shows all of the Metro stations, with larger circles being stations that have more parking spaces. The circles are also differentiated by whether the station has paid parking, free parking, or a combination of paid and free parking. The article then states that only 6.6% of the 24,000 parking spaces across the Metro system are paid parking while the rest are free. The author is critical of free parking as free parking is heavily subsidized and has negative environmental impacts on transit riders, however Metro is looking at stations to pilot parking.

I think that the map that is used is good overall, as it combines the number of parking spaces at Metro stations and types of parking spaces into a clear, concise map. I think that this article could be improved by adding an interactive map with satellite imagery with vector files for Metro lines, stations, and outlines of parking lots. An interactive map would show the viewer just how many parking spaces are at certain Metro stations, especially suburban areas of LA County like Norwalk, El Monte, and in the San Fernando Valley. This article spoke to me overall the article addresses wasteful land use practices around transit stations, and applies an equity lens by explaining that free parking does not help lower-income riders because free parking benefits higher-income riders and also the air quality around stations is worsened because of people driving to the station (especially in areas that are already very polluted such as the Metro Green and Silver Line corridors). I probably would go further in the article and advocate for transit-oriented development at stations with large parking lots to allow for affordable housing near transit and to reduce emissions near those stations.

<https://la.streetsblog.org/2016/09/23/new-map-shows-metros-20000-parking-spaces-mostly-free/>