



GONDOLA PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



Facts and Figures

3 Million+
trips per year



140,000+ hours

in operation since 1996

(more than any other comparable system)



20,000+ riders

per day during peak seasons

(one of Colorado's busiest transit lines)



First and only

fare free gondola transit system
in the U.S.



32% increase

in ridership between 2011 and 2017



~4 Million

projected riders for 2037

but current system is at capacity



65-75% of riders

are non-residents (reducing traffic
between and within both towns)

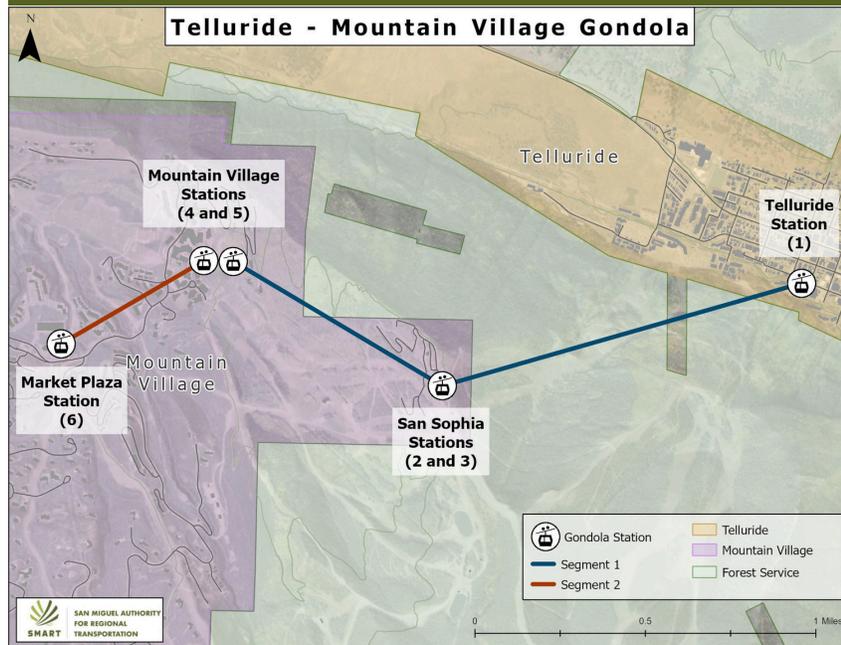


25-35% of trips

are work or school related for locals

Gondola Background

- Built in 1996 to connect the Town of Telluride and Mountain Village
- Originally constructed to improve air quality and reduce traffic impacts
- Provides a critical fare free transit link between the Towns with shared economic, environmental and quality of life benefits
- Currently owned and operated by the Town of Mountain Village
- The current operating agreement expires at the end of 2027
- After 2027, the San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) will operate and maintain the gondola as a public transit service



SMART Project Funding

Two ballot initiatives have been passed to continue gondola service after 2027 between Telluride and Mountain Village (initiatives 3A and 2A).

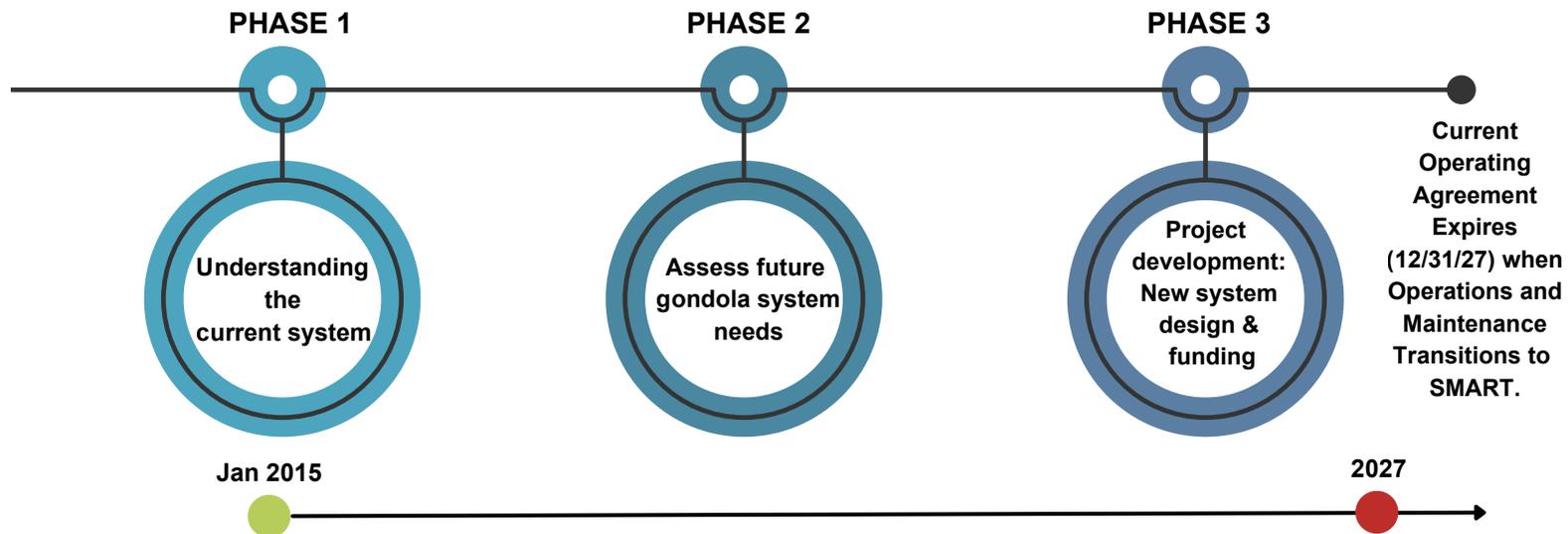
Funding collected in 2025, 2026 and 2027 will be used to:

- Sustain gondola operations after 2027 and support a portion of the future system rebuild.
- Maintain and improve SMART's bus transit system to enhance regional connectivity.

The Increasing Need for a New Gondola

- The gondola is at maximum capacity with the maximum number of cabins (57)
- System is 30 years old and at the end of its designed lifespan
- Wait times are substantial during peak seasons and getting longer
- Substantial ridership loss due to length of wait times (1.5+ hours on July 4th)
- Many parts are no longer manufactured which leads to increased downtime and costs
- Ridership demand is projected to increase but system is already at capacity

Gondola Planning Roadmap



For more information visit OurGondola.org, contact your local government project partner or email SMART.info@SMARTtelluride.com.

