CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

Connie Llanos
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
100 South Main Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 972-8470
FAX (213) 972-8410

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 23, 2023

Allison Colburn
Public Information Officer
Caltrans District 7
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: **Amestoy Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Overcrossing at U.S. 101 Upgrade or Removal Project**

Dear Ms. Allison Colburn,

As part of Caltrans' goal to provide safe transportation options that also complement the unique character of communities, Caltrans is seeking public feedback on the future of the Amestoy Avenue pedestrian bridge. The Amestoy bridge is the only crossing point that can be used solely by non-motorists in the Encino community within the City of Los Angeles. All other pedestrian crossing points in Encino connect to overpasses and underpasses. The nearest crossing points from the Amestoy bridge are about a quarter of a mile to the east at Balboa Boulevard and a quarter of a mile to the west at Louise Avenue. Built in 1958, the Amestoy Avenue bridge is in need of upgrade and repair to bring it into compliance with modern performance standards and better match local community character. Several options under Caltrans consideration include to rehabilitate the pedestrian bridge, demolish the bridge, or leave the bridge as is.

LADOT's mission is to lead transportation planning, project delivery, and operations in the City of Los Angeles. We work together and collaborate to deliver a safe, livable, and well-run transportation system in the city and region. To meet our safety, equity, and connectivity goals as outlined in our Mobility Plan 2035 (Transportation Element of the General Plan), LADOT supports maintaining a pedestrian crossing at Amestoy Avenue to reduce the harms inflicted upon the surrounding communities by the development and expansion of freeways over the past century. The existing multi-modal bridge crossing enables Angelenos of all ages and abilities to access opportunity, including reaching critical destinations like jobs, schools, and parks and services. As Encino's only crossing point that prioritizes non-motorists, demolishing the bridge exacerbates and compounds existing equity and safety issues.

LADOT conducted a connectivity analysis to measure the impacts of demolishing the Amestoy Avenue pedestrian bridge. A connectivity analysis measures changes in access to opportunities and destinations as a result of land use and mobility investments. This type of analysis measures travel time from a certain point to destinations within an equal time period. Travel time is calculated by taking into account existing physical constraints, infrastructure, and land use. For example, a person walking uphill for 30 minutes would cover a shorter distance than a person walking at grade, and an even shorter distance than a person walking downhill. The connectivity analysis allows us to visualize the advantages or disadvantages of changes to infrastructure and land uses in terms of what opportunities or destinations can be reached within a certain timeframe. Through the connectivity analysis we can compare and present quantifiable results of the impact of proposed changes to infrastructure and land use on the number of destinations reachable within a certain time such as the number of jobs, medical centers, schools, and groceries stores.

This analysis visually presents the connectivity impacts the Encino community would face if the Amestoy Avenue bridge at U.S. 101 is removed. The analysis measures 30 and 60 minute distance trips for walking and transit modes. The analysis focused on connectivity to jobs and schools for residents. Summary tables and maps are included in the attachment to this letter.

Key Findings:

- The Amestoy Ave pedestrian bridge provides a critical north-south connection over U.S. 101 within the Encino neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles.
- Removing the pedestrian bridge will limit connectivity of thousands of residents to hundreds of jobs.
- Access to one elementary school will also be impacted.
- Measuring within a 30-minute distance, those who live south of the freeway are more impacted than those who live north of the freeway.
- Measuring within a 60-minute distance, those who live north of the freeway are more impacted than those who live south of the freeway.

In summary, the Amestoy Ave pedestrian bridge traversing the 101 freeway in the Encino neighborhood is an important north-south connection for local residents who walk and take transit. The Amestoy Avenue bridge is Encino's only crossing point that can exclusively be used by non-motorists. Neither crossing within ¼ mile of the Amestoy Bridge provides direct or convenient access to residential neighborhoods and could feasibly replace the Amestoy Avenue crossing. LADOT recommends maintaining the bridge to avoid disrupting connectivity and creating new inequity and safety issues.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact my staff at rubina.ghazarian@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

Tomas Carranza

Tomas Carranza
Principal Transportation Engineer
Transportation Planning & Land Use Review Bureau
Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)

C: Rubina Ghazarian, LADOT
Severin Martinez, LADOT
Tim Fremaux, LADOT
Silva Abramian, LADOT
Mehmet Berker, Council District 4

Attachments: Connectivity Analysis Summary and Overview

Attachment: Connectivity Analysis Summary and Overview

Summary Table

This table quantifies the loss of connectivity for Encino residents to schools and jobs if the pedestrian bridge is removed.

30 Minute Distance

	Population	**Schools***	**Jobs**
North of Bridge	-247	0	-538
South of Bridge	-3,525	0	-295
Total	**-3,772**	**0**	**-833**

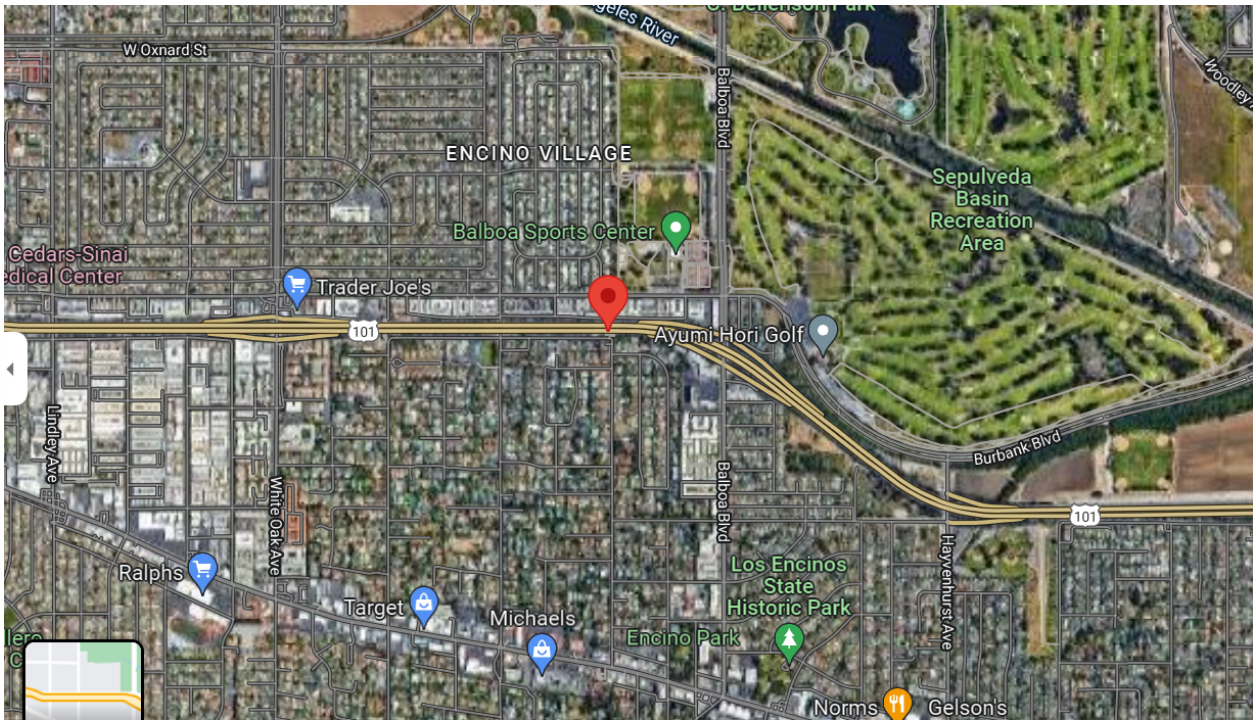
**no loss of connectivity, access to one school north of the bridge remains intact.*

60 Minute Distance

	Population	**Schools**	**Jobs**
North of Bridge	-603	-1	-610
South of Bridge	-376	0	-294
Total	**-979**	**-1**	**-316**

Context Map

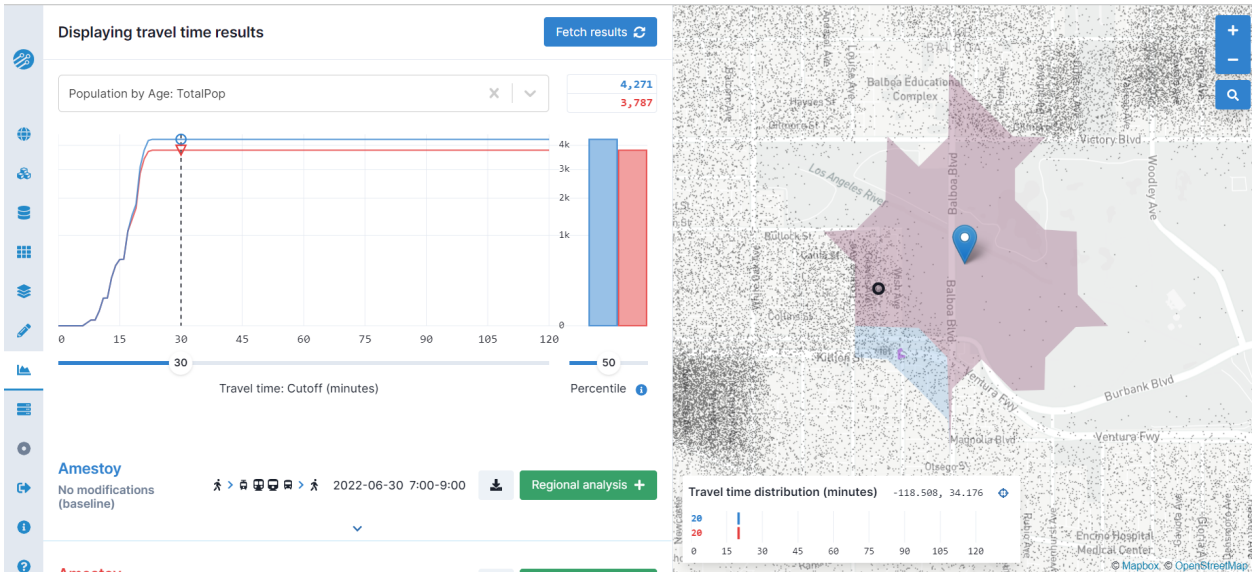
The scenario analyzed consists of removing the Amestoy Ave. pedestrian bridge that connects N and S overpassing freeway 101.



Scenarios Analyzed

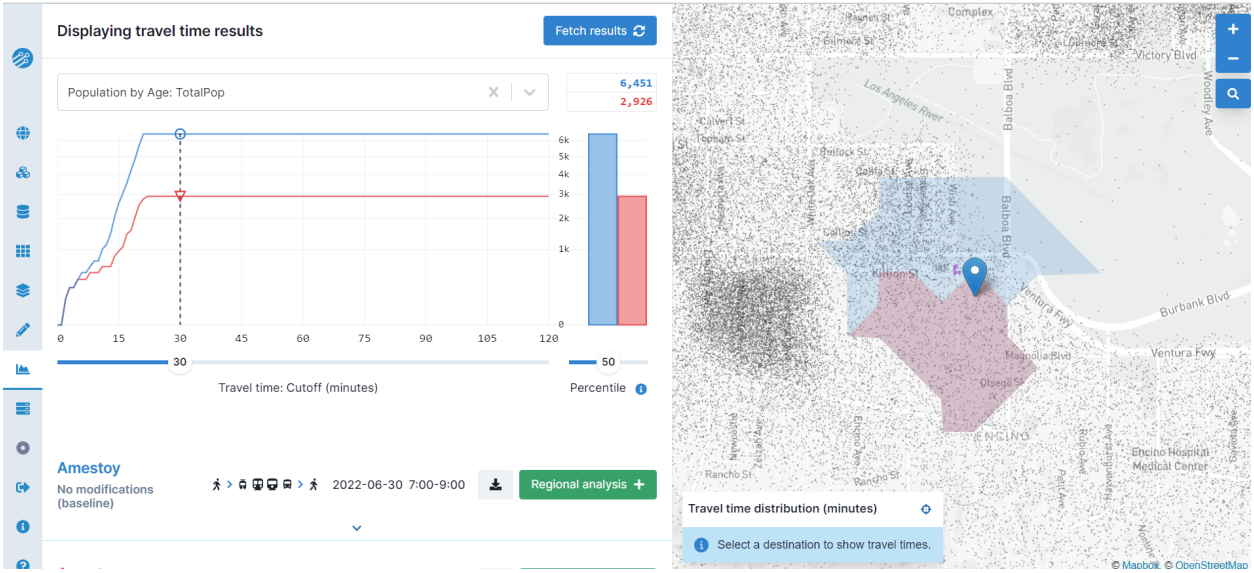
1. **30 min Population Served, North** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of Connectivity for 247 residents living north of the bridge
- Currently 9,117 of the total population benefits from the usage of the bridge, once the bridge is removed the population coverage will be reduced to 8,870 of the population (area of observation is North of the bridge)


Displaying travel time results
Fetch results
Population by Age: TotalPop
4,271
3,787
4k
3k
2k
1k
0
0 15 30 45 60 75 90 105 120
30
Travel time: Cutoff (minutes)
50
Percentile
Amestoy
No modifications (baseline)
2022-06-30 7:00-9:00
Regional analysis
Balboa Educational Complex
Victory Blvd
Los Angeles River
Balboa Blvd
Woodley Ave
Burbank Blvd
Ventura Fwy
Magnolia Blvd
Otsego St
Encino Hospital Medical Center
Travel time distribution (minutes)
-118.508, 34.176
20
20
0 15 30 45 60 75 90 105 120
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

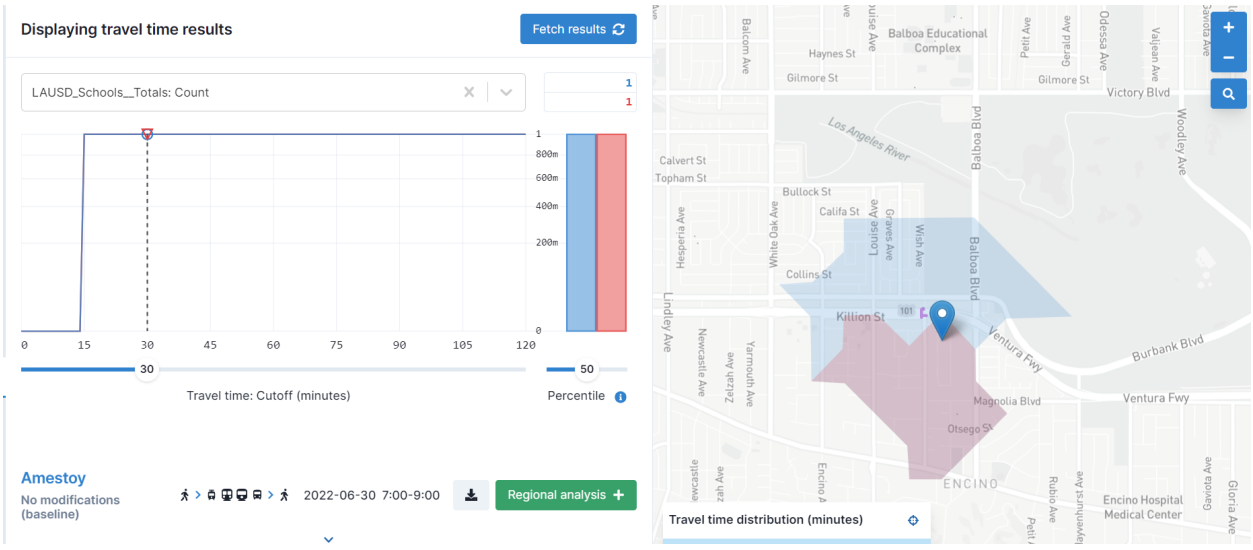
2. **30 min Population Served, South** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of Connectivity for 3,525 residents living south of the bridge
- Currently 6,451 of the total population benefits from the usage of the bridge, once the bridge is removed the population coverage will be reduced to 2,926 of the population. (area of observation is South of the bridge)



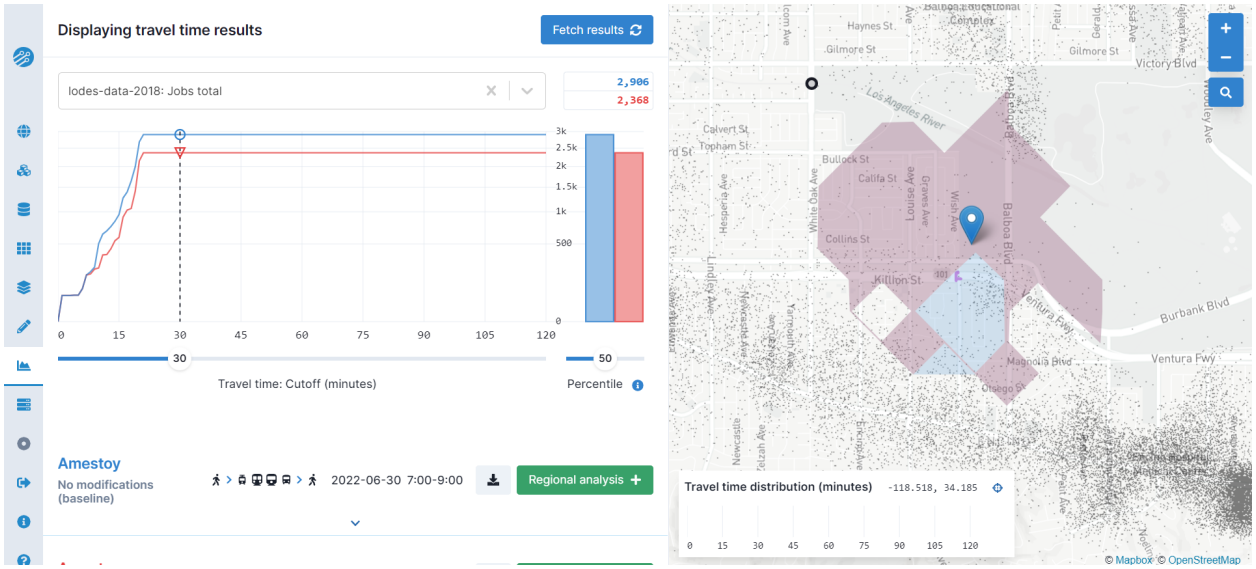
3. **30 min Connectivity to Schools, North & South** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- One school (Behavioral Learning Network) is currently benefiting from the bridge and the removal will not change the number of schools.



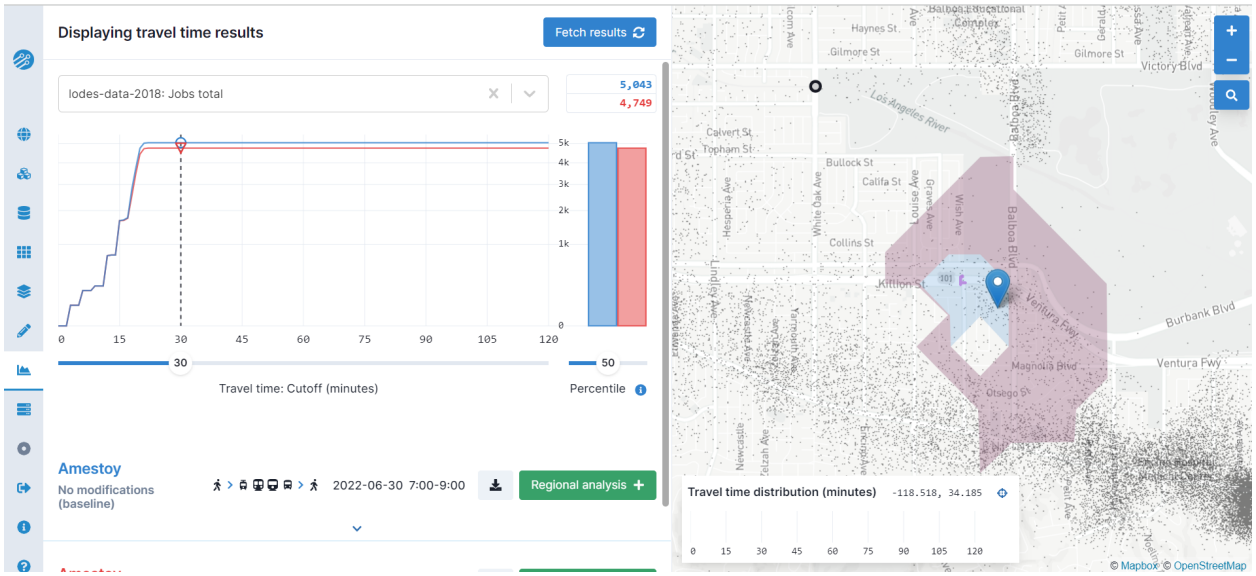
4. **30 min Connectivity to Jobs, North** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of Connectivity to 538 Jobs for 247 residents living north of the bridge
- Jobs coverage was reduced from 2,906 to 2,368 (area of observation was North of the bridge).



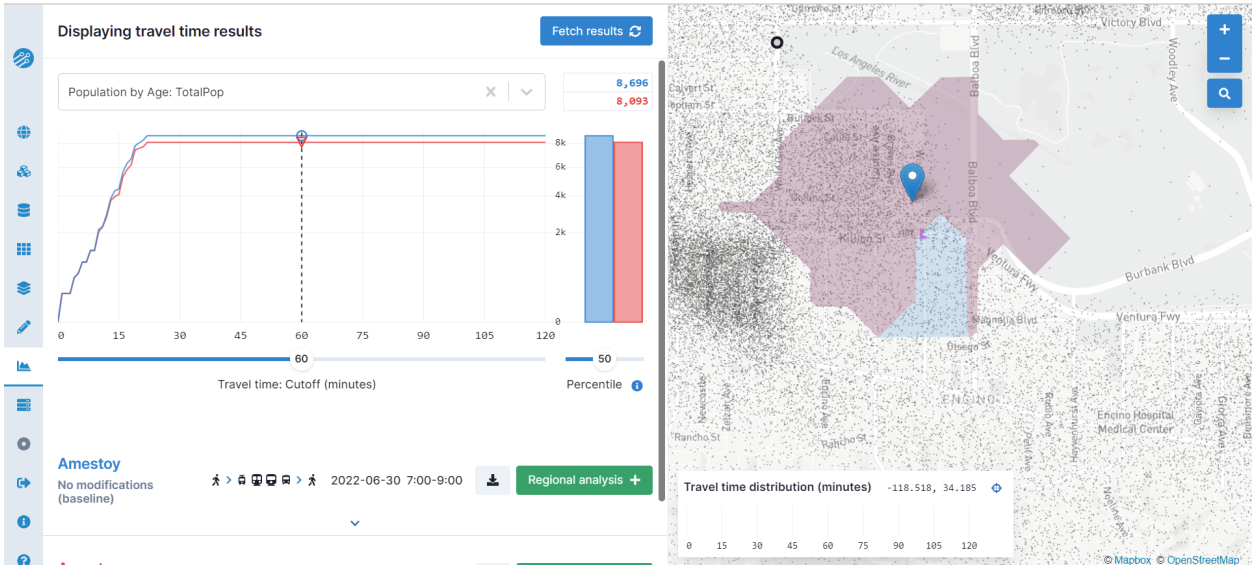
5. **30 min Connectivity to Jobs, South** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of Connectivity to 295 Jobs to for 3,525 residents living south of the bridge
- Jobs coverage was reduced from 5,043 to 4,749 (area of observation was South of the bridge).



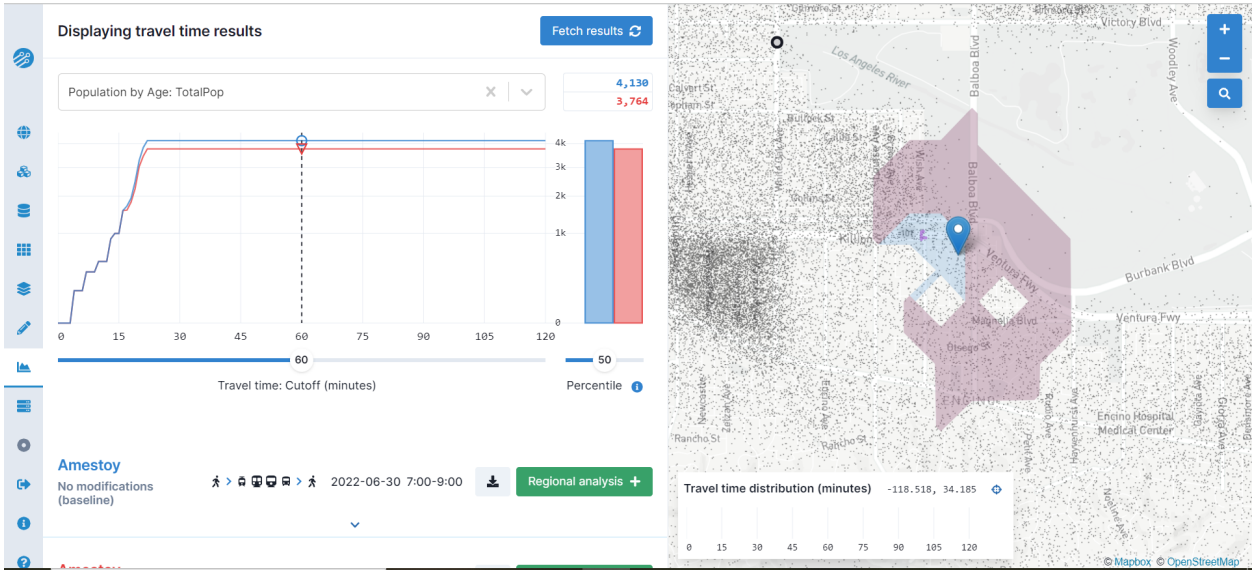
6. **60 min Population Served, North** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of Connectivity for 603 residents that live north of the bridge.
- There is an existing 8,696 total population that lives North of the bridge benefitted by the bridge. The removal of the bridge will generate a change to 8,093 total population.



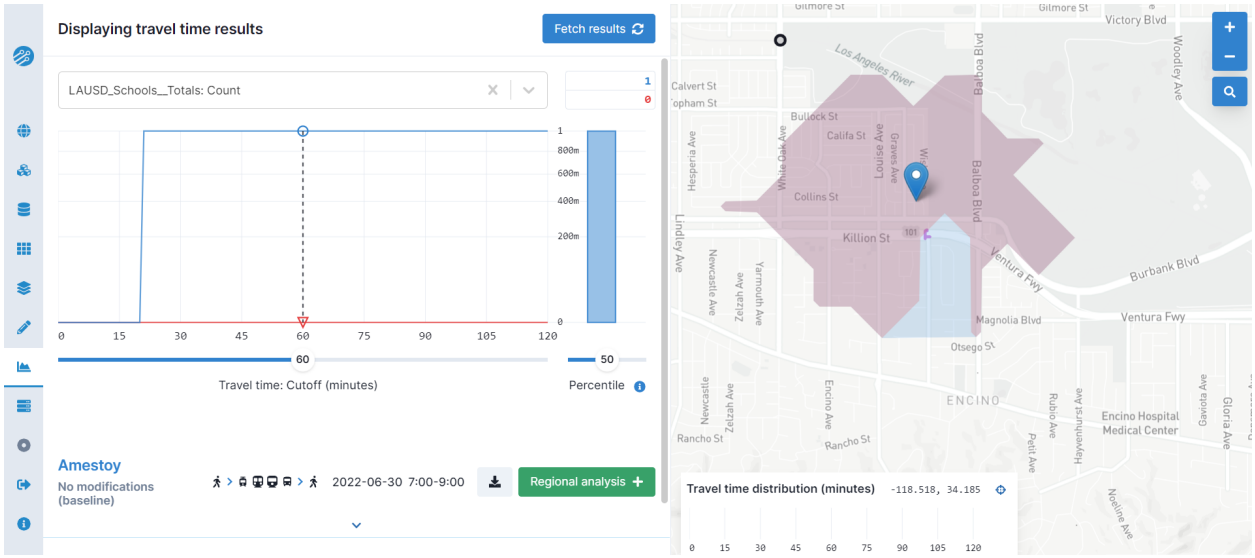
7. **60 min Population Served, South** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of connectivity for 376 residents that live south of the bridge
- There is an existing 4,140 total population that lives or commutes from the South of the bridge that benefits by the bridge. The removal of the bridge will generate a change to 3,764 total population.



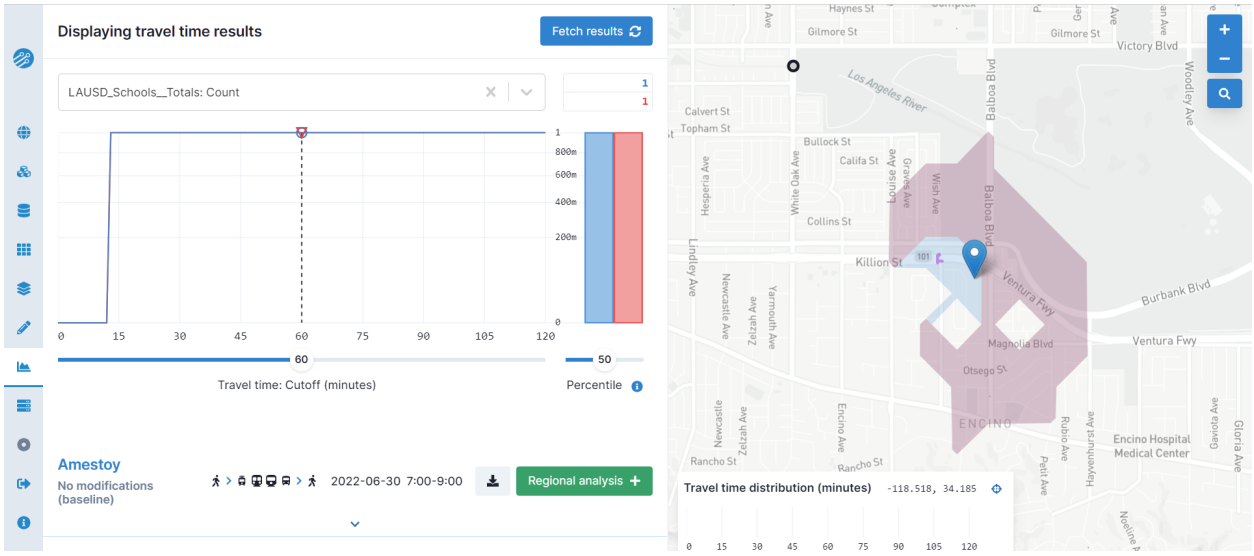
8. **60 min Connectivity to Schools, North,** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- One elementary school is affected by removal of a bridge with a 60 mins cutoff time for schools (observation is North of the bridge)



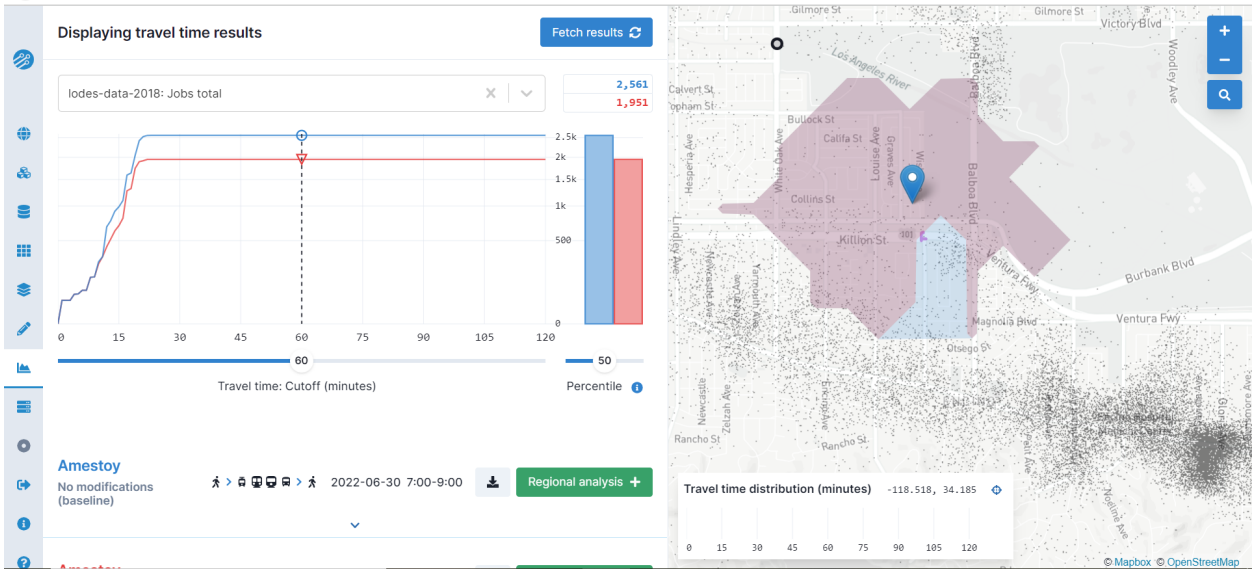
9. **60 min Connectivity to Schools, South** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- No change in school by removal of a bridge with a 60 mins cutoff time for schools (observation is South of the bridge)



10. **60 mins Connectivity to Jobs, North** *(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss of connectivity to 610 jobs for 603 residents that live north of the bridge
- There are an existing 2,561 total jobs North of the bridge that benefit by the bridge. The removal of the bridge will generate a change to 1,951 total population.



11. **60 min Connectivity to Jobs, South***(The blue area shows current benefits. The red shaded area shows a proposal.)*

- Loss Of Connectivity to 294 jobs for 376 residents that live south of the bridge
- There is an existing 4,753 total jobs that benefits by the bridge. The removal of the bridge will generate a change to 4,459 total population.