Looking east from Lincoln Heights towards the Soto Street Bridge over Mission Road. The community of El Sereno starts right at the bridge.

Some of the Art Deco designs that line the Soto Street Bridge. The bridge embodies the Art Deco architecture popular in Los Angeles during the 1920s and 1930s.
In 2000, the City approved the construction of 70 affordable housing units in a 4-story building with 119 parking spaces on a vacant site of 5.62 net acres at 2580 North Soto Street (right adjacent to the Soto St Bridge). Before releasing building permits, the City demanded that the developer cover the cost of putting up a light signal and cross walk.

City Council File 00-1168 states-
Prior to any issuance of a building permit for the proposed housing development, the applicant shall install a full traffic signal with pedestrian control at the intersection of Huntington Drive, Huntington Drive South, Canto Drive, Mission Road, at Soto Street including curb ramps for handicapped access, protective wall, adequate exterior lighting in the underpass and painting the proposed crosswalk white to improve pedestrian visibility for drivers. The applicant shall assume the entire cost of the design and installation of a full traffic signal and crosswalk.
The developer put up $150,000 required to have the improvements done. Yet, these crucial safety improvements were not done, the developer's money was instead transferred to Boyle Heights. This would have cost the City ZERO dollars, the developer had agreed to pay for the cost of the study and all the required improvements in FULL. The City decided our safety was not of major importance.

These photos were taken on a Sunday afternoon. During the 15 minutes I stood on this part of the bridge, at least 5 individuals crossed the busy street. The nearest light signal/crosswalk is 1/2 a mile in either direction.
Bureau of Engineering (BOE) claims that the bridge is structurally unsound or obsolete, but we can clearly see that the bridge has been retrofitted.
Simple maintenance and a fresh coat of paint will do wonders in restoring the bridge's image.
The bridge was built to carry four tracks of the P&E Railway; BOE/Caltrans have reduced the lanes on the bridge to only two. This was purposely done to cause the traffic flow to slow down during peak rush hours. BOE is now using this “traffic problem” to claim that demolishing the bridge will create more lanes and help alleviate traffic.
The Soto Street Bridge is a community icon and local historic landmark; it’s the Gateway to El Sereno. The bridge sits on the official border of the Lincoln Heights and El Sereno communities.

All photos are courtesy of the El Sereno Historical Society