



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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D Concourse tram replacement begins Feb. 4 ***Automated trams have logged more than 1 million miles in 10+ years***

LAS VEGAS – Travelers who fly through McCarran International's D Concourse will soon enjoy an improved automated tram system to carry them to and from the airport's main terminal. However, the installation of this much-needed upgrade will temporarily disrupt the trams' regular operations over several weeks in early 2009. **Those flying through McCarran's D Concourse from Feb. 4 through Feb. 21 could be affected.**

"The D Concourse opened in June 1998, and over the ensuing 10 plus years its trams have repeatedly and reliably traversed their 1.2-mile round-trip course between D and Terminal 1," said Randall H. Walker, director of the Clark County Department of Aviation. "These trams have literally covered a million miles, carrying tens of millions of visitors and local travelers along the way. But nothing mechanical lasts forever, and the time has come to replace the trams with new equipment that's capable of covering the next million miles and beyond."

Access to the D Concourse is typically provided using a pair of parallel trams, each equipped with three cars. Through a portion of February, only the south D tram will be in service to allow workers to remove and replace the north tram's old equipment. Once the north tram has been replaced, it will be put back into use before the south tram is taken offline for replacement beginning in mid-spring.

The project schedule was developed to minimize delays by avoiding, when possible, dates that include major Las Vegas events. To that end, dual-tram operations are projected to resume days in advance of NASCAR weekend, scheduled from Feb. 27 through March 1 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Numerous steps will be taken to minimize delays, though passengers arriving at McCarran during peak hours may require an additional 30 minutes to reach their destination during this construction period. During the D Concourse's peak periods – typically 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays – airport and airline personnel will direct some travelers toward an alternate bus route between Terminal 1 and the D Concourse. Employee access to the D trams will be restricted to improve travelers' tram accessibility.

Air carriers based at McCarran's D Concourse include AirTran, Alaska, Allegiant, American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Horizon Air, jetBlue, Northwest, SkyWest, Sun Country, Spirit, United and Virgin America.

Bombardier Transportation, a division of Montreal-based Bombardier Inc., is replacing McCarran's D Concourse tram system as part of a nearly \$43 million contract awarded by the Clark County Board of Commissioners in 2006. Upgrades include the new trams, and associated mechanical & electrical equipment.

The contract also required Bombardier to replace McCarran's C Concourse tram system, and later install a new tram system between the D Concourse and Terminal 3.



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