



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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D Concourse tram replacement begins Friday Fourth and final automated tram to be upgraded with new equipment; some travelers may experience delays between April 25 and May 9

LAS VEGAS – McCarran International Airport will soon complete a multiyear process of replacing the outdated automated tram systems serving its C and D Concourses. Three of the airport's four trams have already been replaced, and beginning late Friday evening the final phase of this much-needed airport upgrade will temporarily disrupt the D trams' regular operations over a period of two weeks.

Those flying through McCarran's D Concourse between April 25 and May 9 could be affected.

"We're nearing the end of a lengthy process, one that's caused some inconvenience but will ultimately result in a much better airport," said Randall H. Walker, director of the Clark County Department of Aviation. "The old C and D trams had each run more than 1 million miles, and like anything mechanical, they couldn't go on forever. The new C trams installed here last year have been great, as has the first new D Concourse tram put into service this February. We're anxious to get this fourth and final improvement in place for our customers' use."

Access to the D Concourse is typically provided using a pair of parallel trams, each equipped with three cars. Beginning late Friday, only the north D tram will be in service to allow workers to remove and replace the south tram's old equipment. The project schedule was developed to minimize delays by avoiding, when possible, heavy travel periods. To that end, dual-tram operations are projected to resume weeks in advance of Memorial Day weekend, which traditionally launches the busy summer travel season.

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 and United.

Bombardier Transportation, a division of Montreal-based Bombardier Inc., is replacing McCarran's 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. Bombardier will later install a similar tram system between the D Concourse and Terminal 3, which is scheduled to open in 2012.

