



# Primadonna – Buffalo Bill’s UniTrak™ People Mover

Primm, Nevada



*THE EXPLOSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF A ONCE-SLEEPY BORDERTOWN CASINO INTO A LARGE DESTINATION RESORT RELIED UPON SDI TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS FROM THE BEGINNING OF PLANNING. TODAY SDI TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY TRANSPORTS THOUSANDS OF GUESTS AND EMPLOYEES BETWEEN THREE HOTEL/CASINO DEVELOPMENTS AND OVER AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY TO KEEP THE PRIMM VALLEY RESORT COMPLEX OPERATING SMOOTHLY.*



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## PRIMADONNA-BUFFALO BILLS UNITRAK PEOPLE MOVER SYSTEM



THE HOTEL, CASINO, ENTERTAINMENT, SHOPPING & residential complex that makes up Primm, Nevada is among the most rapidly growing developments in Nevada. Since the owner's expansion plans were initiated in 1988, the property has evolved from a small border-town truck stop and gambling hall called Whiskey Pete's to a sprawling sixty-three-acre resort containing three high-rise hotel/casinos with a total of 5,300 rooms, an amusement park featuring the world's highest roller coaster, a large outlet shopping mall, a convention center and its own zip code. The Phase I expansion began in 1988 with construction of the Primadonna Hotel-Casino, which is located on the opposite side of U.S. I-15 – the sole highway connecting Southern California with Las Vegas – from Whiskey Pete's. To move guests and employees safely and quickly between the two properties, SDI's transit team members designed and built a fully automated, cable propelled people mover that crosses the Interstate on an elevated concrete guideway.

In 1995, the owner implemented Phase II of the expansion plan that included a third hotel-casino called Buffalo Bills, the retail outlet mall, movie theaters, a performance theater for headline concerts and several other attractions. The accompanying increase in visitors created a clear need for a

second people mover system that would facilitate travel between the new and widely-separated attractions. Accordingly, the owner requested proposals for an automated transportation system that would provide a safe and reliable alternative to walking, shuttle buses or auto traffic.

SDI's winning proposal was selected by the owner and his consultant on the basis of price, utilization of existing structures, minimal disruption of the resort's daily operation, use of proven technology and SDI's rapid project schedule.

The SDI UniTrak people mover technology, developed specifically for this project, is based upon proven monorail principles but incorporates a broad range of technical updates and improvements, especially with regard to guidance and controls, that makes it a new and superior people mover system. Rather than traveling on a single guideway beam, the system is designed with propulsion bogies that travel upon dual-beam running surfaces, each one foot wide and spaced four feet apart, that provides a smoother and more stable ride than a conventional monorail. The four-car train accommodates 96 all-seated passengers and carries 2,200 passengers per hour per direction. A state-of-the-art onboard computer control system handles all operational functions, and an attendant supervises and interfaces with passengers. Automated vehicle doors, station gates and railings direct the passenger flow for embarking and exiting the train.

Performing as turnkey contractor, SDI designed, constructed, commissioned and delivered the system in a period of only 14 months, on schedule and without a single change order. The people mover has performed with greater than 99.8% availability since its opening and continues to operate reliably and accident-free today.

