



## Tram Buyers Guide

### **1. Safety Features**

When moving people, safety is the number one priority. Necessary safety features such as air-over-hydraulic brakes, low floor design, and driver air bags should come standard on a tram. The tram should also be outfitted with a public address system to communicate safety messages, crowd control, and tour commentary.

### **2. Performance**

Look for a variety of engine options including gas, diesel, and propane depending on your specific application. An engine and transmission from a reputable auto manufacturer such as Ford will yield great power and durability while allowing for ease of serviceability at local dealerships. Additionally, air-ride suspension will give riders a smooth and gentle ride no matter what the operating terrain is like. To maneuver throughout your venue make sure the trailing units have all-wheel steering and a minimum turning radius of at least 30 feet.

### **3. Ease of Maintenance**

Not only will a drive-train provided from a reputable auto manufacturer allow for servicing at local dealerships, but it will also yield a drive-train warranty. Look for a minimum of a 3 year/36,000 mile sub-system warranty. Also look for 3<sup>rd</sup> party reliability and in-service performance testing from an accredited program such as Altoona.

### **4. Modern Design**

There are many trams on the market today that have antiquated designs. Many times a tram is the first thing your visitors will experience and you want to give them a good first impression. Selecting a tram with a more modern design will show your guests that you are willing to invest in quality, not only for your trams, but for your entire venue.

### **5. Fit and Finish**

The quality of a tram should exist on all levels. Features such as custom molded fiberglass seats, reinforced fiberglass top, and durable non-slip flooring will result in lower maintenance and better long-term appearance of your tram.



#### **6. Operator Comfort**

Tram Operators can work long shifts in the driver's seat. By ensuring your Operator is comfortable is not only good for employee morale, but will also improve the safety of your operation. Comfortable Operators can experience less fatigue resulting from heat exhaustion and poor ergonomics. Look for standard heating and Air Conditioning, a comfortable driver's seat, as well as air bags to ensure safe and comfortable operation of your tram.

#### **7. Passenger Capacity**

Many tram operations require the ability to transport large numbers of guests at one time. By transporting multiple trailers and large numbers of guests you can greatly reduce your operating costs. Some trams are able to comfortably transport up to 104 passengers at one time depending on the operating terrain. Since capacity typically fluctuates, make sure your tram incorporates an easy to use hitch system for connecting and disconnecting the trailing units.

#### **8. Add-on Features**

Depending on your application you may have the need for rain curtains, luggage racks, advertising panels, or video monitors. Make sure the tram manufacturer you select offers any additional features you may require and is willing to meet your operating needs.

#### **9. Wheelchair Accessibility**

Guests who are confined to a wheelchair should also be able to ride on your tram. To make this possible, the tram should incorporate a light-weight retractable ramp for easy entrance and exit, as well as a locking system to secure the wheelchair during the ride.

#### **10. Passenger Access**

Your tram should allow guests easy entrance and exit. A low-floor design with no more than one step will allow riders to move on and off the tram safely and comfortably. Additionally, an open-air design will provide a great view and non-confined experienced for your guests.