

CLAIMS:

1. An amusement park transportation system comprising:
 - a plurality of separated park areas;
 - an autonomous vehicle configured to drive along ground surface vehicle paths within the plurality of separated park areas, the autonomous vehicle comprising a gondola attachment integrally coupled to a roof of the autonomous vehicle;
 - a gondola system configured to transport the autonomous vehicle between the separated park areas, the gondola system comprising a gondola arm and a locking device coupled to an end of the gondola arm, the locking device configured to engage with the gondola attachment; and
 - a control system configured to operate the autonomous vehicle to:
 - engage with the locking device of the gondola system via the gondola attachment to secure the autonomous vehicle to the gondola system to facilitate transport of the autonomous vehicle between the separated park areas by the gondola system; and
 - disengage the locking device of the gondola system from the gondola attachment to allow the autonomous vehicle to drive along the ground surface vehicle paths within at least one separated park area of the plurality of separated park areas.
2. The amusement park transportation system of claim 1, wherein the gondola system comprises a plurality of gondola stations configured to facilitate engagement or disengagement of the autonomous vehicle to or from the gondola system, and wherein the autonomous vehicle is configured to drive along the ground surface vehicle paths separately from the plurality of gondola stations.
3. The amusement park transportation system of claim 2, wherein a gondola station of the plurality of gondola stations comprises a guide rail configured to contact a side of the autonomous vehicle to guide the autonomous vehicle to an engagement position within the gondola station.
4. The amusement park transportation system of claim 2, wherein a gondola station of the plurality of gondola stations comprises a sub-surface positioning system disposed beneath

a surface of a gondola drive path and configured to contact wheels of the autonomous vehicle to guide the autonomous vehicle to an engagement position within the gondola station.

5. The amusement park transportation system of claim 1, comprising a controller of the control system, wherein the controller is configured to:

receive a first signal indicative of a first location of the autonomous vehicle;

receive a second signal indicative of a second location from a user interface of the autonomous vehicle; and

provide a third signal to a vehicle controller of the autonomous vehicle to cause the autonomous vehicle to travel from the first location to the second location.

6. The amusement park transportation system of claim 5, wherein the first location is disposed in a first park area, and the second location is disposed in a second park area that is geographically separate from the first park area, and wherein, based on the third signal, the vehicle controller is configured to cause the autonomous vehicle to engage with the gondola system to travel from the first location to the second location.

7. The amusement park transportation system of claim 6, wherein the first park area is geographically separated from the second park area by one or more obstacles, and wherein the one or more obstacles comprises a public roadway, a body of water, a land form, or a combination thereof.

8. An autonomous vehicle transportation system, comprising:

a gondola system configured to provide a gondola path between at least two separated park areas, the gondola system comprising a gondola arm and a locking device coupled to an end of the gondola arm;

a vehicle configured to at least partially autonomously drive along surface vehicle paths of ground surfaces within the separated park areas and comprising a gondola attachment integrally coupled to a top portion of the vehicle, wherein the gondola attachment is configured to support a weight of the vehicle, and wherein the gondola attachment is configured to:

engage with the locking device of the gondola system to allow the gondola system to carry the vehicle along the gondola path from a first area of the at least two separated park areas to a second area of the at least two separated park areas; and

disengage from the locking device of the gondola system to allow the vehicle to move along a portion of the surface vehicle paths of ground surfaces within the second area; and
a controller configured to maneuver the vehicle into an engagement position relative to the gondola.

9. The autonomous vehicle transportation system of claim 8, wherein the gondola attachment comprises a convex surface, wherein the locking device coupled to the end of the gondola arm comprises a concave surface, and wherein the convex surface of the gondola attachment is configured to move along the concave surface of the locking device to facilitate engagement between the vehicle and the gondola system.

10. The autonomous vehicle transportation system of claim 8, wherein the vehicle comprises wheels configured to drive the vehicle along the surface vehicle paths of ground surfaces, wherein the gondola attachment is configured to engage with the gondola arm based on a position of the wheels.

11. The autonomous vehicle transportation system of claim 10, wherein the wheels are configured to switch between a retracted position and an extended position, and wherein movement from the retracted position to the extended position is configured to cause the locking device to engage with the gondola arm.

12. The autonomous vehicle transportation system of claim 8, wherein the gondola attachment comprises a gondola arm integrally coupled to the top portion of the vehicle, and wherein the gondola arm comprises a grip configured to engage with a cable of the gondola system.

13. The autonomous vehicle transportation system of claim 8, wherein the vehicle comprises a seat configured to support a passenger.