CLAIMS:

1. An attraction loading system, comprising:

a turntable configured to rotate about a vertical axis;

a ride vehicle configured to travel along a perimeter of the turntable while the ride vehicle travels along a loading path; wherein the ~~along a~~ loading path is disposed about the perimeter of the turntable;

a first track switch disposed along the loading path configured to be disposed in a first position to direct the ride vehicle to a main portion of the loading path from an attraction path, and configured to be disposed in a second position to direct the ride vehicle to the main portion of the loading path from a secondary portion of the loading path; and

a second track switch disposed along the loading path configured to be disposed in a third position to direct the ride vehicle from the main portion of the loading path to the attraction path, and configured to be disposed in a fourth position to direct the ride vehicle from the main portion of the loading path to the secondary portion of the loading path.

2. The attraction loading system of claim 1, wherein the ride vehicle travels along the loading path at a speed aligned with a rotational speed of the turntable such that the ride vehicle maintains a fixed distance from a particular point on an edge of the turntable while traveling along the loading path.

3. The attraction loading system of claim 1, comprising a fixed platform positioned coaxially within the turntable and that does not rotate with the turntable.

4. The attraction loading system of claim 3, comprising a passenger entrance path that connects to the fixed platform.

5. The attraction loading system of claim 1, ~~comprising a~~ wherein the ride controller is configured to control a speed of the ride vehicle in the attraction path to adjust a spacing of the ride vehicle relative to another ride vehicle.

6. The attraction loading system of claim 5, comprising a variable speed zone disposed at an end of the attraction path, wherein the ride vehicle is configured to move through variable

speed zone, and wherein the first track switch is configured to be disposed in the first position to direct the ride vehicle from the variable speed zone to the main portion of the loading path.

7. The attraction loading system of claim 6, wherein the ride controller is configured to control the speed of the ride vehicle while the ride vehicle is in the variable speed zone to adjust the spacing of the ride vehicle relative to a second ride vehicle within the variable speed zone.

8. The attraction loading system of claim 7, wherein the ride controller is configured to control the speed of the ride vehicle, control a second speed of the second ride vehicle, or both, within the variable speed zone to increase a distance between the ride vehicle and the second ride vehicle within the variable speed zone.

9. The attraction loading system of claim 7, wherein the ride controller is configured to control the speed of the ride vehicle, control a second speed of the second ride vehicle, or both, within the variable speed zone to decrease a distance between the ride vehicle and the second ride vehicle within the variable speed zone.

10. The attraction loading system of claim 1, comprising a ride controller, wherein the ride controller is configured to receive a load confirmation signal associated with the ride vehicle while the ride vehicle travels along the main portion of the loading path, and wherein the ride controller is configured to adjust the position of the second track switch based on whether the ride controller receives the loading confirmation signal.

11. The attraction loading system of claim 10, wherein, upon receipt of the confirmation signal, the ride controller is configured to position the second track switch in the third position to direct the ride vehicle from the main portion of the loading path to the attraction path.

12. The attraction loading system of claim 10, wherein, absent of receipt of the confirmation signal, the ride controller is configured to position the second track switch in the fourth position to direct the ride vehicle from the main portion of the loading path to the secondary portion of the loading path.

13. A method to load passengers into ride vehicles, comprising:

directing a ride vehicle along a loading path at a first location of the loading path toward a second location of the loading path; wherein the ride vehicle is configured to travel along a perimeter of a turntable while the ride vehicle travels along the first location of the loading path toward the second location of the loading path; wherein the loading path is disposed about the perimeter of the turntable;

~~;~~

determining an occupancy status of the ride vehicle; ~~and~~

based on the occupancy status of the ride vehicle, controlling a track switch to direct the vehicle along either the loading path or along an attraction path at the second location along the loading path.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining the occupancy status comprises determining whether the passengers are loading into the ride vehicle or have loaded into the ride vehicle.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein controlling the track switch comprises controlling the track switch to direct the ride vehicle along the loading path at the second location based on determining that the passengers are loading into the ride vehicle.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein controlling the track switch comprises controlling the track switch to direct the ride vehicle along the attraction path at the second location based on determining that the passengers have loaded into the ride vehicle.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein directing the ride vehicle along the loading path at the first location comprises controlling a second track switch to direct the ride vehicle along a main portion of the loading path from a secondary portion of the loading path or along the main portion of the loading path from a variable speed zone of the attraction path.

18. An attraction loading system, comprising:

a turntable configured to rotate about a vertical axis;

a loading path disposed about a perimeter of the turntable, wherein a ride vehicle is configured to move along the loading path; wherein the ride vehicle is configured to travel along the perimeter of the turntable while the ride vehicle moves along the loading path; wherein the loading path is disposed about the perimeter of the turntable;

a first track switch disposed along the loading path, wherein the first track switch is configured to direct the ride vehicle to a main portion of the loading path from either a secondary portion of the loading path or an attraction path; and

a second track switch disposed along the loading path, wherein the second track switch is configured to direct the ride vehicle from the main portion of the loading path to either the secondary portion of the loading path or the attraction path.

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19. The attraction loading system of claim 18, ~~comprising a ride controller,~~ wherein the ride controller is further configured to control a speed of the ride vehicle along the loading path such that a speed of the ride vehicle along the loading path substantially matches a rotational speed of the turntable.

20. The attraction loading system of claim 18, comprising:

a variable speed zone disposed at an end of the attraction path, wherein the first track switch is configured to direct the ride vehicle ~~from~~ to the main portion of the loading path from either the secondary portion of the loading path or the variable speed zone of the attraction path; and

a ride controller configured to adjust a speed of the ride vehicle through the variable speed zone based on a presence of a second ride vehicle disposed along the secondary portion of the loading path.

21. An attraction loading system, comprising:

a loading and/or unloading area comprising a conveyor;

a loading path disposed about a perimeter of the conveyor, wherein a ride vehicle is configured to move along the loading path; wherein the ride vehicle is configured to travel along a perimeter of a turntable while the ride vehicle moves along the loading path; wherein the loading path is disposed about the perimeter of the turntable;

an attraction path coupled to the loading path; and

a ride controller configured to direct the ride vehicle from the loading path onto the attraction path based on a first occupancy status of the vehicle or to direct the ride vehicle to re-loop the loading path based on a second occupancy status of the ride vehicle.