CLAIMS:

1. A ride system, comprising:

a motion governor comprising:

a conveyor configured to rotate along a track disposed within a flow path of a water ride;

a driving mechanism configured to control rotation of the conveyor in response to a control signal; and

at least one support element coupled to the conveyor, wherein the at least one support element is configured to contact a ride vehicle to control movement of the ride vehicle along the flow path in response to the control signal, wherein the at least one support element is not in contact with the ride vehicle when the control signal is not active; and

a controller configured to receive a location signal indicative of a location of the ride vehicle along the flow path; estimate an arrival time to a show element based on the location; determine that the estimated arrival time deviates from a scheduled show element start time; and generate the control signal upon determining that the estimated arrival time deviates from the scheduled show element start time.

2. The ride system of claim 1, wherein the at least one support element comprises a paddle configured to reversibly contact a front, rear, or lateral side of the ride vehicle or a combination thereof.

3. The ride system of claim 2, wherein the paddle comprises a plurality of through passages such that fluid from the flow path passes through at least one interior portion of the paddle.

4. The ride system of claim 1, wherein the at least one support element is configured to be retracted or positioned out of the flow path in a default position and wherein the control

signal causes deployment of the at least one support element into the flow path in an activated position.

5. The ride system of claim 1, wherein the at least one support element comprises a first support element and a second support element, wherein the first support element is positioned proximate a front side of the ride vehicle and the second support element is positioned proximate a rear side of the ride vehicle, and wherein the ride vehicle is configured to decelerate in response to contact with the first support element, accelerate in response to contact with the second support element, and free float when disposed between the first support element and the second support element.

6. The ride system of claim 1, wherein the controller generates the control signal to control rotation of the conveyor based on the location of the ride vehicle and a conveyor location such that rotation of the conveyor moves the at least one support element towards the ride vehicle.

7. The ride system of claim 6, wherein the control signal causes the conveyor to move the at least one support element along an axis of travel of the ride vehicle in the flow path.

8. The ride system of claim 1, wherein the at least one support element is not fixed to the ride vehicle.

9. A ride system, comprising:

a controller configured to:

determine a location of a buoyant ride vehicle in a flow path and with respect to a show element;

determine an estimated arrival time of the buoyant ride vehicle at the show element based at least in part on the location;

determine that the estimated arrival time deviates from a scheduled show element start time;

generate a control signal comprising instructions to rotate a conveyor upon determining that the estimated arrival time deviates from the scheduled show element start time; wherein at least one support element is coupled to the conveyor and wherein the at least one support element comprises a first support element and a second support element, wherein the first support element is positioned proximate a front side of the buoyant ride vehicle and the second support element is positioned proximate a rear side of the buoyant ride vehicle, and wherein the buoyant ride vehicle is configured to decelerate in response to contact with the first support element, accelerate in response to contact with the second support element, and free float when disposed between the first support element and the second support element; and

output the control signal to a motion governor coupled to the conveyor.

10. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the controller is configured to generate the control signal to actuate a driving mechanism at a rate configured to slow down the buoyant ride vehicle based at least in part on a determination that the buoyant ride vehicle will arrive to the show element before a scheduled show element start time.

11. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the controller is configured to generate the control signal to actuate a driving mechanism at a rate configured to increase a speed of the buoyant ride vehicle in the flow path based at least in part on a determination that the buoyant ride vehicle will arrive to the show element after a schedule show element start time.

12. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the control system is configured to output a disengage control signal in response to determining that the buoyant ride vehicle will arrive at the show element on time, wherein the at least one support element is configured retract from the flow path to avoid contact with the buoyant ride vehicle in response to the disengage control signal.

13. A ride system, comprising:

a motion governor comprising:

a conveyor configured to rotate along a track disposed within a flow path of a water ride;

a driving mechanism configured to control rotation of the conveyor in response to a control signal; and

at least one support element coupled to the conveyor, wherein the at least one support element is configured to be retracted or positioned out of the flow path in a default position, wherein the control signal causes deployment of the at least one support element into the flow path in an activated position, and wherein the at least one support element is configured to contact a ride vehicle in the activated position; and

a controller configured to receive a location signal indicative of a location of the ride vehicle along the flow path; estimate an arrival time to a show element based on the location; determine that the estimated arrival time deviates from a scheduled show element start time; and generate the control signal upon determining that the estimated arrival time deviates from the scheduled show element start time.