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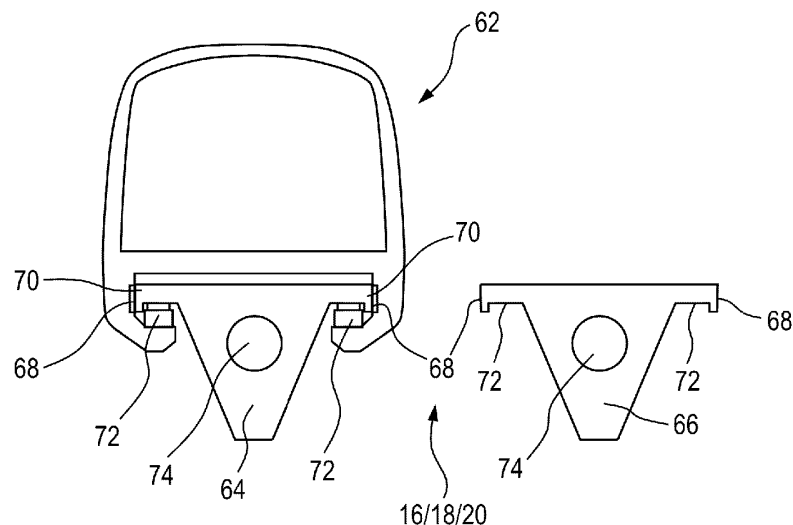


Fig. 3

(57) **Abstract:** A transportation system comprising a network of rails (10) connecting a plurality of spaced apart locations (12, 14), plural vehicles running on the network of rails, and plural rail switches (22). Each rail switch (22) guides a vehicle of the plural vehicles from one section (16, 18, 20) of the network of rails to a selected one of at least two further sections (16, 18, 20) of the network of rails or from a selected one of at least two sections (16, 18, 20) of the network of rails to another section (16, 18, 20) of the network of rails, said selection depending on a position of the rail switch. The transportation system further comprises at least one controller (24) configured to control switching of the plural rail switches (22) whereby each of the plural vehicles travels from one of the plurality of spaced apart locations (12, 14) to a selected one of the other of the plurality of spaced apart locations (12, 14). Each of the plural vehicles comprises one of a primary and a secondary of a linear motor. The network of rails (10) comprises the other of the primary

[Continued on next page]

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and the secondary of the linear motor. The other of the primary and the secondary is distributed in the network of rails (10) whereby the other of the primary and the secondary extends along sections (16, 18, 20) of the network of rails. The one of the primary and the secondary of each vehicle is disposed relative to the other of the primary and the secondary when the vehicle is on the network of rails (10) such that the vehicle is propelled relative to the other of the primary and the secondary when the primary is energised to thereby propel the vehicle through the network of rails.