

# Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

## Case study



▲ The new video wall is at the center of information sharing for CUMTD.

## Bigger screens, better results

The move to newly-built, larger headquarters gave the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) the perfect opportunity to create a larger, brighter video display for their transportation control room.

At the same time, the organization took advantage of the grants offered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create a new safety and security system. It's an ideal pairing; the video feed from the new security system is shown on the new video display wall.

A large component of the safety and security system is 300 security cameras that were installed at the bus stops with the highest number of boardings, at the Transfer Facility building — called Illinois Terminal — and internally in the CUMTD maintenance and administration facilities.

The cameras' video feeds have two uses. The cameras' presence and video provide security for CUMTD employees who work in maintenance and administration, and also for bus passengers and the tenants in Illinois Terminal.

The video feeds also help bus dispatchers monitor the activity at CUMTD's busiest bus stops, and if there is a crush load, dispatch additional buses.

*"It's the quality of the products, the ease of installation and the service that I knew I would get from Christie that made the decision [to use Christie] easy. They were all spot on, and we will definitely use Christie products again."*

**Jay McArdle,**  
lead engineer with Zdi, Inc.  
[www.zellerdi.com](http://www.zellerdi.com)

### Customer:

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

### Location:

Urbana, Illinois

### Industry/Market:

Control rooms

### Partners:

- AECOM
- Zdi, Inc. Normal, IL

### Requirements:

- High resolution and excellent image quality
- Durability
- Reliable performance
- Visibility in high-ambient light
- Partner and customer service

### Summary:

When the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) moved to new headquarters, it was the ideal time to create a larger, brighter video display for their transportation control room.

### Products:

- Christie FHD551-X tiled LCD flat panels

### Results:

The CUMTD is pleased they made the move to Christie products. The video display in their new control room is bigger and displays data more clearly and quickly than before, making it easier for employees to respond to incoming information.

None of this monitoring and activity was possible with CUMTD's old control room set up, which didn't have the ability to show video feed. The old CUMTD center had a projector, a small video wall and a Jupiter video processor.

CUMTD planned to run their new video wall 24 hours a day and seven days a week in a bright environment, so the new design specifications called for LCD flat panels, which are known for their durability and high-resolution, bright images. The video wall displays graphics such as the global positioning system information of bus locations, video feeds from the stops and along the routes, and other feeds such as live weather reports and television news. It was important that the video wall display was clear and easily viewable from anywhere in the room so that the control room staff could always be up-to-date on conditions that could affect service and safety.

Jay McArdle, lead engineer with Zdi, Inc., designed and managed the installation of the CUMTD video wall. Working with an architect, he was able to address challenges with the new facility's layout and the video wall's power requirements. McArdle was especially impressed with the spacers that came with the Christie® FHD551-X LCD flat panels, stating that they "worked beautifully and made [it] a simple installation."

Happy with his decision to use Christie products based on his experiences with Christie's "great service, especially post-sale," Jay anticipates no downtime to the video wall. Although the video wall is used around the clock, the LCD panels themselves are rated for use 20 hours per day and seven days per week. McArdle devised an operating procedure that easily lets CUMTD have their 24/7 operation and

comply with warranty instructions: CUMTD switches off the top five screens for a four-hour period, then does the same with the bottom five screens.

Asked of his overall impression working with Christie and Christie products, McArdle enthuses "It's the quality of the products, the ease of installation and the service that I knew I would get from Christie that made the decision [to use Christie] easy. They were all spot on, and we will definitely use Christie products again."

Karl Gnadt, director of market development, CUMTD agrees. He notes that "one Christie monitor wasn't working well out of the box but Christie turned that around immediately and got a replacement."

Perhaps most importantly, the dispatchers who use the video wall in their jobs are giving very positive feedback. The information they use is shown on a much bigger screen that's easier to see. Information feeds come in more quickly and data is easier to use, helping speed up response times and ease administrative duties.

According to Gnadt, "The [dispatchers] love the new control center, love the screens and their ability to enlarge images and see video feeds. And visitors and guests are very impressed."

### Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from a Christie solution.



▲ Bus routes displayed on the CUMTD's videowall



▲ The videowall shows feeds from 300 cameras.

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