

# San Diego Metro Transit System

AVIGILON  
THE BEST EVIDENCE™



## Challenges

Ensure passenger safety, protect critical assets, and comply with industry regulations.

## Solution

San Diego Metro Transit System (SDMTS) installed Avigilon 5 MP, 8 MP, and 11 MP HD cameras to monitor the platform and parking lots and several Avigilon analog video encoders to boost performance of existing analog-based cameras. Security personnel manage the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system using Avigilon Control Center Enterprise network video management software (NVMS) with High-Definition Stream Management™ (HDSM). The system is monitored the around the clock and storing 15 days of continuous surveillance video.

## Benefits

Leveraging the advanced features of Avigilon Control Center, SDMTS can quickly and easily review footage of an event and zoom in to analyze detailed regions of interest to improve the quality and speed of investigations. SDMTS also required fewer Avigilon cameras to achieve greater coverage, reducing installation, maintenance, and replacement costs. SDMTS has been able to resolve false liability claims with greater accuracy for further savings.

- Decreased false liability claims
- Lowered installation costs
- Reduced investigation times

Market: Transportation  
Location: USA  
Partner: Electro Specialty

## Featured Products



ACC Software



5 MP HD Camera



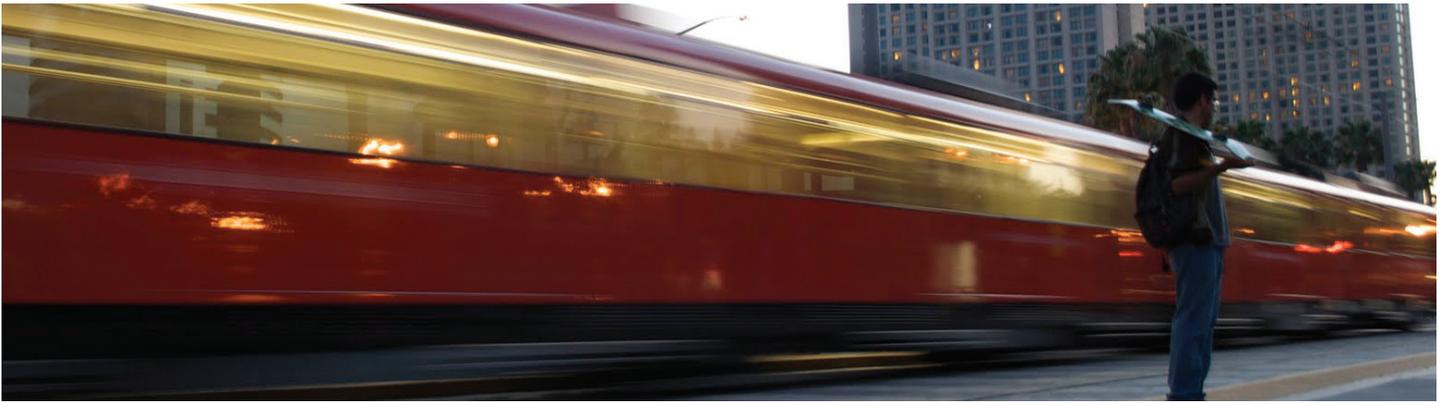
11 MP HD Pro Camera



Analog Video Encoder



Network Video Recorder



## San Diego Metro Transit System Protects Passengers and Critical Assets with Avigilon High-Definition Surveillance System

Recognized as one of the nation's most efficient metro transit systems, the San Diego Metro Transit System (SDMTS) is continually redesigning its transportation network and business operations to create a reliable, affordable, and commuter-focused system. Serving more than 82 million annual passengers on 80 bus routes covering a 570 square mile area in San Diego County and on its 53 mile trolley system, SDMTS has a history of embracing innovation to deliver the best service possible, and its approach to commuter security is no exception. Leveraging the superior image quality and advanced management features of the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system, the SDMTS security team can effectively ensure passenger safety and protect critical assets across its transit stations.



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### Meeting Industry Regulations

Like any metropolitan transit system, SDMTS faces a variety of security challenges that range from operating in high crime areas to dealing with theft, vandalism and the threat of terrorism. Governed by the California Public Utilities Commission, Federal Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security, SDMTS is always seeking the newest and most advanced security solutions to better protect its site. “To qualify for the Transit Security Grant Program sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, we need to meet specific security requirements,” said Larry Savoy, assistant director of Security and Code Compliance at SDMTS. After meeting Avigilon at an industry event, the SDMTS security team quickly realized that the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system was better aligned to meet their needs than their existing analog-based system, which was lacking in performance and reliability. “The Avigilon high-definition surveillance system is a strategic component of our overall security initiative, helping us achieve the high standards set by the industry.”

## Avigilon in Transit



With the assistance of Electro Specialty Systems, a local provider of surveillance system design, installation, and service, SDMTS installed a mix of Avigilon 5 MP, 8 MP, and 11 MP HD cameras to monitor the platform and parking lots at several transit stations, with plans to add more cameras at another four stations over the next two years. SDMTS also installed several Avigilon analog video encoders to boost the performance of its existing analog-based cameras located in its remaining stations. Security personnel manage the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system using Avigilon Control Center Enterprise Network Video Management Software (NVMS) with High Definition Stream Management (HDSM) and monitor the system around the clock. SDMTS stores 15 days of continuous surveillance video on existing servers. “After reviewing our options, it became clear early on that Avigilon was a good fit for our purposes,” explained Savoy. “Not only did Avigilon meet our requirements for reliability, ease-of-use, and image quality, it was also competitively priced.” In fact, SDMTS has been so impressed with Avigilon’s quality that it has now set the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system as its de facto standard for any new surveillance applications moving forward.

## Advanced Features for Detailed Analysis

According to Savoy, Avigilon Control Center software offers many useful features that improve response times and reduce investigation times, including high-definition recording and playback, quick video searching, and digital zooming capabilities. “A big selling feature for us is the fact that we can go back and review footage of an event and zoom in to analyze detailed regions of interest after the fact,” noted Savoy. “With a conventional surveillance system, what you record is what you get — there is no variation.” Another key benefit, the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system delivers exceptional image clarity for indisputable evidence. “With our older conventional system consisting of both fixed and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras, we could record and review footage to retrieve the history of an incident, but we were unable to achieve the detail recognition required to confirm the nature of the event,” added Savoy. “Depending on the angle of the camera or lighting conditions, we simply could not capture the image definition needed for resolution.” The 120 security officers and 35 compliance officers at SDMTS have been pleased with the results they have achieved since deploying the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system, which has helped them dramatically improve the quality and speed of their investigations. “In addition, all law enforcement agencies in San Diego whose jurisdictions we traverse know about our system and come to us almost daily to review footage of incidents either at station or near a station — a true testament to Avigilon’s performance and reliability,” said Savoy.

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## Avigilon Helps Solve Crime

“With its advanced video search capabilities and ease-of-use, the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system has played a key role in our ability to resolve conflicts and prevent criminal activity across our transit system,” stated Savoy. In fact, SDMTS has worked closely with local law enforcement on several occasions to identify and arrest known offenders. With access to indisputable evidence, Savoy confirms that his team can now achieve a better quality of productivity. “The proof in the pudding is the image quality we are now able to obtain. With Avigilon, we certainly get a better result.”

## The Added Advantage of Cost Savings

“Our focus has always been on deploying the best solutions available to best address our surveillance needs,” commented Savoy, who explained that Avigilon was easily able to meet its requirements with fewer cameras, better angles, greater coverage, and improved image detail. “We would need twice as many analog cameras to achieve the same coverage.” As an added benefit, SDMTS has also realized significant cost savings. “With fewer cameras needed, we have saved in installation, maintenance, and replacement costs,” Savoy added. As an unexpected benefit, the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system has also proven useful in helping to clarify liability claims to reduce the cost of false claims. “Like any transit system, we deal with claims of trips and falls, which add to the cost of doing business. Avigilon delivers better quality footage so our ability to resolve potentially false claims is improved,” stated Savoy.

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## Securing Ground Transportation

Unlike air travel, where many layers of security work together to ensure passenger safety, the reality of ground transportation is quite different. “Because we are a commuter transit system used by thousands of passengers daily, we are unable to deploy the same type of security screening procedures that you see in airports,” concluded Savoy. “But by deploying only the most advanced, highest quality security solutions, including the Avigilon high-definition surveillance system, we can more confidently protect our passengers from potential harm.”