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## Airtrans Operation Remains in Question

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As final preparations are under way this week for Sunday's opening of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, operation of the giant terminal's Airtrans people-mover system is still in question.

The system was not running for the public during

Sunday's open house, disappointing many airport visitors.

Thomas Sullivan, airport executive director, said Monday, "The suspension of the operation of the Airtrans system for public use during the open house came after the staff determined that further testing was necessary.

"It is possible that the system's opening day operation would be limited to transfer of passengers and baggage between terminals," he said, "with the back-up bus system providing transportation to and from remote parking areas."

Sullivan said the decision on whether it will be in operation will be determined later this week.

Airtrans, a fully automated system controlled by computer program, is similar to other systems in use around the country which also have experienced operating difficulties, reportedly the result of computer program problems and not mechanical failures.

Airport officials here have not said what Airtrans' difficulties might be.

If the system is not in full operation by Sunday, Sullivan said the back-up bus system will provide total service.

During the open house, visitors were asked to fill out evaluation sheets on the airport and list criticisms.

Airport officials said many of those who attended Sunday wanted more specific signs and directions, both outside and inside the terminal complex, to help persons find proper gates, parking and exits. Other criticisms faulted narrow 1-lane access roads and slim parking spaces.

A general review of the evaluations and discussion of Airtrans' problems is expected to come during the airport board meeting Tuesday.