

# Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

## Fifty-Sixth Annual Report

### 2015

#### Summary

Fiscal 2015 ended with a bang. We completed the second of the Streetcar Lines of the Hub Series, *Boston's MTA: Through Riverside and Beyond*. This new book, which features a large number of color maps and photographs, picks up the story of the Metropolitan Transit Authority from the end of the first book in 1950 to the creation of the MBTA in 1964. This is the culmination of efforts by many members and friends of the Association, especially those of Mike Prescott, who performed yeoman service in designing and laying out the book, and by Gerry O'Regan, who revised our existing maps for the new publication. On a sad note, on the day of this writing, October 1, 2015, Gerry passed away, and we will miss his friendly advice, quick wit and technical prowess which he shared with the BSRA and so many other organizations.

On November 9, 2014, the BSRA operated a bus fan-trip to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the MBTA. Vintage GMC "old-look" bus 2600, RTS bus 0319, and a brand new New Flyer Xcelisior bus, No. 1402 were used on this trip. Riders visited and enjoyed and photographed many historic transit locations around the Boston metropolitan area. The BSRA thanks the MBTA and its employees who volunteered their own time to make this trip possible.

The *RollSign* featured another year of great historical and contemporary content, including many color photographs and graphics. We deeply appreciate the contributions of the *RollSign* staff and individual contributors who have done and continue to make our newsmagazine the successful publication that it always has been.

The Type 5 No. 5706 project continued to receive an additional boost with continued funding from you our members. We anticipate putting these funds to good work in the near future with work on sash, floor and seat installation in dry surroundings protected from harsh New England weather.

Membership held steady, the number of those not renewing being offset largely by the addition of new members. We make every effort to reach out to and retain our existing members, and our consistently high renewal rates demonstrate the importance of this program.

The Vice-President's office was busy as it is every year, handling historical and membership inquiries on our website and by mail. Meeting official document filing dates of the various forms that the BSRA as a public charity is required to prepare, is another important responsibility and one that this office handled well in Fiscal 2015.

Lucius Chiaraviglio, our Entertainment Chair, and his committee arranged another year of great entertainment. This effort is very time-consuming, but well worth the work given the enjoyment of our members who attend the monthly meetings.

Financially, the year was quite successful. Once again, we enjoyed a modest surplus and maintained our bank balance at a comfortable level. The General Fund received

\$13,800.00 in donations, and contributions to the 5706 Fund totaled \$18,000.00. We currently have a 5706 Fund balance of \$62,600.00 and have raised \$267,800 since we began the 5706 Restoration Project.

We continue to receive bequests, usually photographs and printed matter, and sometimes in cash. As we have said in the past, we appreciate very much your considering the BSRA in your estate planning.

Finally, the Association thanks once again our many members and friends for your support, counsel, and interest in seeing the BSRA succeed in its charitable and educational goals.

#### Report of the *RollSign* Director

During Fiscal 2015, the Association published six issues of *RollSign*: September-October 2014, November-December 2014, January-February 2015, March-April 2015, May-June 2015, and July-August 2015. These issues contained 100 images in color images and 41 in black and white.

The Association gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Brandon Barlow, Daniel Cohen, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Byron Nash, Ray Nault, John Pellegrino, Barry Steinberg, and George Zeiba to the magazine during the past year.

The September-October 2014 issue featured the BSRA's fan trip on historic MBTA GMC bus No. 2600. This issue also included an obituary honoring former BSRA secretary James M. Kidd.

The November-December 2014 issue, "RollSign Presents 50 Years of the T", celebrated the half-century anniversary of the MBTA. This issue was published entirely in color and featured dozens of spectacular photographs. Edward A. Anderson provided us with many exquisite images and we are very grateful for his contribution.

The January-February 2015 issue contained the annual MBTA vehicle inventory, produced by Jonathan Belcher. Jonathan also compiled a summary detailing the impact that the historic snowfall of January and February 2015 had on the MBTA. Jonathan works tirelessly through the year to provide the Association with accurate information and we are very grateful for his efforts.

The March-April 2015 issue featured a summary of MBTA current events and a winter 2015 picture review.

The May-June 2015 issue featured a great article by Edward A. Anderson on the Dudley Street wreck of 1910. Ed routinely provides *RollSign* with excellent historical content. He is truly an asset to the magazine and his work has received very favorable comment from our members.

The July-August 2015 issue featured a summary of MBTA current events with text and pictures.

On September 12, 2015, Stuart E. Spina was appointed as an Associate Editor of *RollSign*. Stuart provides the magazine with a robust selection of current events photographs

and information. He also contributes by writing articles and assisting with editorial content. We are grateful to have him on the team and his appointment to Associate Editor is a reflection of his consistent efforts.

### Report of the Publications Director

The 2015 fiscal year was another successful one for the BSRA Publications Department. We produced six Publications Catalogues, which included a wide variety of books, DVDs, gift items, and more, and which were distributed to our retail and RollSign mailing lists. The new items from our catalogues (along with many other titles) were also made available in our online store at [www.thebsra.org/store](http://www.thebsra.org/store). Among the best-sellers this year were *Chicago Cable Cars*; *Red Arrow Lines in Color*; *Dirty Old Boston*; *The Elevated Railways of Manhattan*; *The Railroads and Trolleys of Amherst, MA*; *Dominion Atlantic Railway*; *Pittsburgh Trolleys in Color Vol. 2*; *Streetcars of Florida's First Coast*; *Illustrated Atlas of Maine's Street & Electric Railways*; *Railroads of Cape Cod & The Islands*; and *Staten Island Rapid Transit*.

Our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, braved record snow, winter cold, and summer heat to keep our warehouse in operation and orders shipped out to our customers, and we appreciate all he does. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for his volunteer efforts.

In January, we manned two tables at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. Despite low attendance due to a snowstorm (a harbinger of the winter to come), we once again set a sales record for the show weekend. This is entirely thanks to our volunteer staff, which included Dana Frisbee, Nick Tomkavage, and Paul Tomkavage, with additional support from Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, Dan Cohen, and Bill Pollman. In May, we also staffed a table at the Boston Chapter NRHS' Collectors Night in Newton, which was also successful.

Much of our spring and summer was spent whipping our next book into shape. As a result of many long days and nights from several people, the second installment of the Streetcar Lines of the Hub series, titled *Boston's MTA: Through Riverside and Beyond*, will be published this fall. We can't wait for you to read it!

### Report of the Director of Car Restoration

Support for the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 has continued at a gratifying pace, thanks to our many members and friends who continue to support this effort. At the end of the fiscal year, we had raised \$267,759.00 for this project. The BSRA appreciates your contributions and asks for your continued interest in this project in the coming year.

The extreme weather of this past winter necessarily put a halt to any continuing work. Continuing work on 5706 had been planned around the move of the car into the shop area, currently occupied by DC car #766. More work on #766 delayed its removal from Rail Technical Services property, and subsequently our planned move into the shop area. These moves will take place in the near future, at which time the 'weather-sensitive' projects of plumbing, wiring, and installation of sub-flooring, sash and doors can proceed uninterrupted.

Anticipated work on rebuilding the truck frames and replacing or refurbishing the wheel and axle sets remains high on our list. We are presently considering outsourcing this project to a shop which is dedicated to this type of work, and

will continue to submit grant requests for funding this project.

Our members and friends have continued to strongly support the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706. The Association deeply appreciates and thanks you for your contributions. Our very successful fund-raising efforts during the past year and have placed us in a strong position to expedite the remaining work on the car, and we ask for your continued support in 2016.

We are considering additional work which will include installation of a pantograph and low voltage interior lighting to "keep the lights on" when passing under de-energized sections of overhead wire or when losing the trolley pole. We would also like make the car ADA compliant to make the car capable of operation on an active streetcar system, and to comply with the current American Public Transit Association standard for Vintage/Heritage Trolley Vehicle equipment.

### Report of the Secretary

Our paid membership remained relatively stable for this year, and our mailing list now numbers 782. Since October 1, 2014, we have added 37 new members, reinstated 1, and lost 44 due to attrition, including 11 deceased, 2 resignations, and 31 who did not renew, for a net loss of 6 paid members. Our membership and *RollSign* circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Regular	432	439
Intermediate	4	3
Associate	238	230
Subscriber	80	76
Honorary	7	7
Complimentary	<u>32</u>	<u>27</u>
Totals	793	782

### Report of the Vice-President

This office handles much of the "back office" paperwork that keeps us going during the year. This work has included policy and action planning and compilation of a library of policy statements and standard responses for inquiries, which come to Association on a repeated basis. Monitoring the mailbox on the Association's website including responding to requests and forwarding them to appropriate officers for action are another responsibility.

The Vice-President also prepares press releases for monthly meetings, assists other officers and directors with reports and drafts, and reviews financial statements. He prepares and submits the Annual Corporate report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, reviews the annual financial reports submitted by the Association to the IRS and the Public Charities Office of the State Attorney General.

Other tasks include the preparation of the report of the nomination committee for presentation to the membership, documents for the tellers for use in tabulating votes at the annual meeting, and managing our membership in ATRRM (Association of Tourist Railroads and Railroad Museums).

This last year, this office evaluated proposed By-Law changes for the Branford Electric Railway Association, Inc. (Shoreline Trolley Museum), of which the Association is a member and made recommendations to the BSRA Board of Directors.

## Report of the Entertainment Chair

Lucius Chiaraviglio continues in the position of Entertainment Chair, obtaining shows from presenters and organizing the Entertainment Calendar.

Dana Frisbee, our Entertainment AV Manager, continues to earn a round of applause that is not heard often enough, for steadfast work before each of these shows that makes them possible, and whose steadfast work after each of these shows makes sure that everything in the room is in good order for the Masons when we leave.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all who presented at our 2014 - 2015 meetings, as well as those of years past.

In addition, before meetings we show traction videos (VHS and DVD), and we invite members to bring pre-meeting entertainment. In particular, we are thankful to the people from MassDOT and associated contractors that came in to present MBTA expansion plans and progress (October 4, 2014 and September 12, 2015).

**October 4, 2014. A MassDOT Special.** Just two months after the 50th year anniversary of the MBTA, we saw a two-part special featuring upcoming expansion to the system. In Part 1, South Station Expansion Project Manager Matthew Ciborowski (MASSDOT Office of Transportation Planning) updated us on expansion plans for South Station, first whetting our appetite with some historical slides, and then proceeding to what is being put together today. Then in Part 2, Gregory Yates, P.E. (Project Manager for AECOM/HNTB) updated us on the extension of the Green Line into Somerville and Medford. After each part, we had time for questions and answers.

**November 1, 2014. Portugal, Land of the Semi-Convertible.** From Donald Nevin's travels in 1961, 1971, 1973, and 1985, we saw the still-partly-extant trolley systems of Lisbon and Porto and the now-extinct trolley system of Coimbra. Donald will also show us some trackless trolleys, buses, steam trains, steamboats, funiculars, and a giant elevator designed by Gustav Eiffel.

**December 6, 2014. The Race Underground.** Author Doug Most, deputy managing editor at the Boston Globe, discussed his recently released book, about the development of America's first subway in Boston, and the race between brothers Henry Melville Whitney of Boston and William Collins Whitney of New York to be the first to put together such a project, in a friendly rivalry set in America's First Gilded Age.

**January 10, 2015. That '70s (Slide) Show, Part 2: Outside Boston.** George Chiasson presented archived scenes from the 1970 - 1979 period, showing transit in New York City, including Staten Island Rapid Transit (SIRT) and Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH), Philadelphia, the Boeing-Vertol plant in Ridley Park, PA, Washington DC, Cleveland, and Chicago.

**February 7, 2015. Western Europe.** Herb Pence offered one of his interesting and informative slide shows, visiting Graz and Innsbruck in Austria, Cinque Terre and Genoa in northwestern Italy, Monaco, and suburban Berlin in Germany, showing us his travels in 2004, 2005, and 2007, and although these photos are of recent vintage, they are already historic for showing us much transit equipment which is no longer in revenue service. The show also included a few photos of Seashore Trolley Museum cars.

**March 7, 2015. The Bachelors' NRHS Convention Adventure, Part 1.** Leonard Bachelder and his wife Nancy attended the 2013 NRHS convention in Alaska, turning this into a 6-week trip through Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, and Alaska. In addition to incredible scenery, they sampled light rail systems in Calgary, Edmonton, and Seattle; VIA service to Prince Rupert; the Alaska Marine Highway; and the narrow-gauge White Pass and Yukon Railway. Along the way, we also got to see slides from earlier times.

**April 4, 2015. The MTA, 1958 - 1963.** Clark Frazier presented selected Kodachrome slides of Boston's Metropolitan Transit Authority from 1958 - 1963 (but starting with a few teasers from the 1970s for his upcoming show about the MBTA in that decade), featuring the Harvard Square lines, views of the now-closed Tremont Street, Watertown, and Arborway lines; plus slides of Beacon Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Mattapan-Ashmont, and the newly opened Riverside Line, as well as a few rapid transit shots.

**May 2, 2015. The Evolution of Transit in Jamaica Plain.** RollSign Editor Nick Tomkavage covered over a century of transit service and changes in one of Boston's richest transit neighborhoods, Jamaica Plain. He showed us a wide variety of lines, equipment, and infrastructure, including but not limited to the Arborway Line, PCCs and earlier types of streetcars, and the Orange Line Elevated. He included images from his personal collection and those of others, as well as from the RollSign archives.

**June 6, 2015. Street Railways of Greater Boston: The Horsecar and Early Electric Era, 1853 - 1905.** Stuart Spina presented the rise of the Greater Boston street railway system, starting with the Metropolitan and Cambridge Railroads in 1853 to just before the arrival of the first semi-convertibles in 1905. Stuart showed us scenes and anecdotes from the horsecar era and the early days of electric traction, along with a view of the street railway's impact on real estate development and the cityscape overall. Information on facilities, rolling stock, and noted persons complemented a handpicked selection of photos, including some rare, not-often-seen photos.

**July 11, 2015. Southern & Mid-Atlantic Trolley Videos.** Donald Nevin presented two videos, from Mark I Videos and Herron Rail Videos, featuring trolley and interurban operations in diverse cities and towns, including some interurban freight. The focus was mainly on the South of the United States, but we also saw some Mid-Atlantic systems, and some bonus footage from Melbourne, Australia.

**August 1, 2015. San Francisco's F Line.** Peter Ehrlich presented San Francisco's famous F Line, America's most successful heritage streetcar line, and its PCC and vintage car operations from the early days in the 1980's to the current and future operations, including the E Line that opens for regular service on the day of this show.

**September 12, 2015. South Coast Rail Project Update.** Jean C. Fox, MassDOT Project Manager for South Coast Rail, presented MassDOT's plans for extending MBTA Commuter Rail to communities in southeastern Massachusetts that currently have no service. Ms. Fox presented an overview of the region, proposed stations, a summary of project benefits, and a brief update on the design and permitting. After the presentation, we had a question and answer session.

## Final Remarks

As the Association enters Fiscal 2016, we go forward with a new book and a promising program for Type 5 No. 5706. We are optimistic about the future, largely due to the support and interest that we continue to receive from you, our many members and friends. Our unpaid volunteer staff appreciates your continuing support to be a vote of confidence in their efforts, and once again we thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

The Directors and Officers of the  
BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bradley H. Clarke, President and Chairman  
Thaddeus S. Anderson, Secretary  
Thomas Athearn, Vice-President and Clerk of Corporation  
Charles Bahne, Jr., Treasurer and Director  
Jonathan Belcher, Director at Large  
Lucius Chiaraviglio, Entertainment Chair  
Ronald Clough, Publications Manager  
Daniel R. Cohen, Director at Large  
Dana Frisbee, AV Manager  
James E. Gately, Librarian  
David F. Harling, Director of Car Restoration  
Gerard P. O'Regan, Assistant Librarian (Deceased October 1, 2015.)  
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director  
Nicholas M. Tomkavage, *RollSign* Editor

**Boston Street Railway Association  
Annual Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2015  
(after adjustments)**

		<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>General Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$10,000.93</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				
	Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$13,794.46	
	Dues, Regular		\$10,775.00	
	Dues, Intermediate		\$80.00	
	Dues, Associate		\$4,600.00	
	Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,200.00	
	Postage Surcharges from Members		\$168.00	
	Roll Sign, Retail		\$542.00	
	Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$247.00	
	BSRA Publications, Retail		\$1,327.43	
	BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$668.31	
	Publications, Resale		\$27,817.13	
	Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$761.80	
	Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$2,260.06	
	Fantrip Income		\$715.00	
	Other General Fund Income		\$82.83	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2015:</b>			<b>\$65,039.02</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				
	Management & General Expenses		\$4,609.93	
	Roll Sign Printing		\$12,605.00	
	Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$3,765.10	
	Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$529.66	
	BSRA Publications Printing & Production		\$1,274.04	
	Other BSRA Publications Expenses		\$0.00	
	Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$18,818.71	
	Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$6,230.60	
	Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$809.05	
	Publications Shipping Expense		\$2,568.65	
	Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$5,911.40	
	Monthly Meeting Expense		\$3,000.00	
	Library Expense		\$1,500.00	
	Fantrip Expense		\$39.93	
	Fundraising Expense		\$856.23	
	Refunds Paid & Returned Checks		\$0.00	
	Other General Fund Expense		\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2015:</b>			<b>\$62,518.30</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				<b>\$2,520.72</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>General Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$12,521.65</b>
<b>5706 Fund</b>				
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$46,367.12</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				
	Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$18,070.76	
	Interest, 5706 Fund		\$142.69	
	Other 5706 Fund Income		\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2015:</b>			<b>\$18,213.45</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				
	Car 5706 Restoration Expense		\$0.00	
	Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$0.00	
	Car 5706 Project Management		\$134.25	
	Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$1,815.17	
	Other 5706 Fund Expense		\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2015:</b>			<b>\$1,949.42</b>
<b>5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:</b>				<b>\$16,264.03</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$62,631.15</b>
<b>COMBINED CASH ON HAND:</b>		<b>September 30, 2015</b>		<b>\$75,152.80</b>
<b>PROOF OF BALANCE:</b>				
	Cash		\$0.00	
	Checking		\$4,782.32	
	Money Market		\$68,999.64	
	Savings		\$376.35	
	PayPal		\$994.49	
	Square		\$0.00	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>		<b>\$75,152.80</b>	<b>VARIANCE: \$0.00</b>
<b>5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:</b>			<b>\$267,759.42</b>	