



BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.
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2020 Annual Fund Drive for The 5706 Fund and The General Fund

This is the start of our annual fund raiser to support the Association's ongoing General Fund expenses and to continue building the 5706 Fund. Despite the limitations placed on us by the Covid-19 epidemic, we have been able to distribute *RollSign* by email and have just restarted the print version as well. We have also been able to add to our 5706 Fund by your generosity through contributions, with dues renewals, our appeals in June and December 2019, and a number of grants from fellow non-profits. Once again, we ask for your help in successfully continuing our programs.

Type Five 5706

The car exterior bodywork is complete, including a new roof. The interior is next, and 5706 has a new floor from which to work. First will be installation of control power, heating and lighting wiring and fixtures, headlights, and the roof monitor lights. Major wiring will occupy a wire trough on one side of the floor. On the other side is a trough for the air brake and door piping. Final interior work will include two exterior and interior top-coats in the window areas before the new window sash, purchased a number of years ago, is set in place. New doors we have on hand will be installed and painted as well.

Next, we will rebuild the trucks that we acquired from the Connecticut Trolley Museum at Warehouse Point, and install our rebuilt motors. The installation of underbody piping and wiring, the brake rigging and brake cylinder, and our new air tanks, all of which we have on hand, will follow. The remainder of the carbody will then receive at least two paint topcoats. Finally, the car will undergo operational testing.



Type 5 No. 5706 passes the building that would later become Boston's famed Angell Animal Medical Center as it climbs South Huntington Avenue near the Perkins Street intersection ca 1957. Type 5s were rush hour workhorses as this loaded car bound for Arborway illustrates.

Bradley H. Clarke Collection

We have raised \$373,793 as of June 4, 2020, for the 5706 restoration. Included in this total are two grants of \$1,000 each from the Mass. Bay RRE Railroad Preservation Fund, awarded respectively in April 2019 and April 2020, \$1,000 from the Amherst Railway Society in September 2019, and \$5,000 from the Mystic Valley Railway Society in May 2019. We are also anticipating a bequest, which your board has voted to allocate to the 5706 Fund. Between April 1, 2019, and June 4, 2020, 261 cash donors have contributed \$32,204 to the 5706 Fund, 92 of whom gave more than once. In the

following list, asterisks acknowledge donors who have contributed to this fund more than once during this time period. Thank you all very much for your donations and continued support!

Your contributions will speed this work on its way as we move closer to the day when the car will run on its own, a major achievement and a matter of considerable pride for the BSRA and its members and friends.

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The General Fund

The current pandemic has disrupted our normal operations significantly as it has much of the rest of the world. Nevertheless, we have been able to distribute via the Internet two electronic editions of *RollSign* and a new periodic update eBulletin, and we have finally been able to resume the printed edition of *RollSign* as well. These efforts have occupied much of our time in the past months, and your positive comments have been very encouraging.

We are also working on holding electronic meetings, also via the Internet, in lieu of our monthly business meetings at the MidTown Hotel in Boston. Gatherings of ten or more are still prohibited in Massachusetts as a precaution against transmitting Covid-19. It may be some time before we can resume meetings in person. We urge everyone that can to give us your email address and grant us permission to use it for meeting participation and electronic publication distribution.

General Fund contributions allow us to meet rental fees for publication inventory and library material storage, office supplies and postage, and internet-related expenses. Your help also ensures continuing publication of *RollSign*, work on forthcoming books, and responding to historical and technical inquiries from the media and the general public.

We have a long wish list. A major future hope is acquiring a dedicated office space and library area to allow better access to our important historical collection. Right now we rent space for these functions. If you know of affordable office space in metropolitan Boston, please keep us in mind.

From April 1, 2019, to June 4, 2020, we received General Fund cash contributions totaling \$16,226 from 218 donors, 76 of whom gave more than once. In the following list, asterisks acknowledge donors who have contributed to this fund more than once during this time period. Thank you all very much!

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As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, there are new charitable giving incentives. For tax year 2020, even if you don't itemize, you can take a new deduction of up to \$300 in charitable donations. Also, for tax year 2020, for those who itemize deductions, there is no limit for charitable cash contributions (versus the 60% of adjusted gross income limitation in past years).

Every year we have asked for your help, and every year you have responded strongly. We thank you for your support over many past years and for your future contributions as well. The Association is run by unpaid volunteers. Our income is entirely devoted to the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 and for *Roll/Sign*, rented space and running expenses, and ongoing project work on new publications. All are recurring costs. In the past, your generosity has made this appeal a great success. We would appreciate your help once again in achieving your Association's goals!

Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope. If you prefer to give online, you can make your contributions by credit card or by PayPal on our website, thebsra.org. Contributions to the BSRA are also eligible for many employer matching gift programs. If your employer has such a program, please ask if they match gifts to community historical organizations.

Again, thank you very much for your support!

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6/18/2020