



# BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## 2020 Holiday Appeal for our 5706 Fund and our General Fund

As 2020 nears the end, your BSRA officers and directors would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a great New Year! The Covid pandemic has restricted our regular activities for most of 2020, but we have worked hard to compensate for the compromises we have had to make and have managed to keep our plans and programs intact, and even improved them.



Bradley H. Clarke Collection

Mid-afternoon, and Type 5 No. 5706 follows an inbound revenue trip on Huntington Avenue. The car has just passed Brigham Circle, which was and is heavily used by staff from nearby hospitals and many visitors. The car will likely lay over at Northeastern University for overflow college student riders. This scene was played out innumerable times until the Type 5s were replaced by double-end PCCs, purchased from Dallas, Texas in 1958 and 1959 by the MTA. Most of the remaining Type 5s were rehabilitated and repainted in 1957, so judging from the automobiles, this shot was likely taken in late 1956 but before October 1957. Historical records show that 5706 was painted in this program on October 2, 1957, when the blue MTA oval logo replaced the MTA map.

None of what we have been able to do this year would have been possible without your continuing support. In fact, in the period from October 1, 2019, to November 20, 2020, donations from 347 members and friends, and grants and bequests, totaled \$80,673!

With your help in 2021, the coming year looks promising as we return to normal operations. Some actions that began this year, such as Zoom-based Internet meetings, electronic distribution of *ROLLSIGN*, and meeting and event eBulletin notifications will stay. But much will remain the same, such as the printing and mail distribution of paper editions of *ROLLSIGN*. Looking to 2021, we plan to complete the interior restoration of the car body of No. 5706 and publish the next volume in our *Streetcars of Boston* series, on the Green Line from 1964 to date.

Our programs and their successes are entirely a result of your help and interest, a vote of confidence in the truest sense for our programs, and the Association is grateful for the continuing support that your donations represent.

### Type Five 5706

We were forced to suspend the physical restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 in 2020. Our contractor had to postpone the completion of his new shop facility, expected last summer, due to Covid-related difficulties but which will now be done in 2021. This has set back the project schedule, but on the positive side, we have received much of a sizable bequest. Strong donations to the 5706 Fund and a Mass. Bay RRE grant have also increased available funding and put us in excellent condition for continuing the work aggressively when the project resumes.

A look back at where we are now shows how far we have come. The entire car exterior bodywork is complete, including a new floor and roof. Most of the interior parts, seats, seat pedestals, window sash, doors, and interior metal

trim, have been restored or purchased, and we have rebuilt six Westinghouse 508A motors, purchased new air tanks, and have installed underbody equipment mounting brackets, among many other things.

Completion of the carbody interior is our next task. First will be installation of control power, heating and lighting wiring and fixtures, headlights, the roof monitor lights and air piping. Final interior work will include installation of seats and new window sash and doors. Your contributions will speed this work as we near the finish line.

Thank you all very much for your past and continued donations. We also appreciate the outside support that we have received over time, including grants from Amherst Railway Society, the Boston Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Mass Bay RRE, the Mystic Valley Railway Society, and the National Historical Railway Society. As of November 20, 2020, We have raised \$416,067 for the 5706 restoration project. In the period from October 1, 2019, through November 20, 2020, we received \$58,804 from 283 donors and 178 of these donors gave more than once in this time period, as shown by asterisks on the list that follows.

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## The General Fund

The General Fund supports our publishing efforts including *ROLLSIGN*; our monthly meetings; rented warehouse space for publications storage and sales and our library; postal fees for box rentals and postage; office supplies of all kinds; and the purchase of equipment as needed, such as our recent purchase of a new printer for the treasurer's office. Now the General Fund supports our newly instituted Internet-based digital outreach efforts as well.

We have resumed the printed version of RollSign, after a brief suspension due to Covid-19 last spring, and we've also begun publishing an electronic version. We are now sending both the printed and electronic versions to all US members who request them. Also, in-person meetings at the Midtown Hotel haven't been possible since April. Using our new email list and the Zoom conferencing platform, however, we began holding monthly meetings on the Internet, reaching a much larger, more widespread audience than ever before.

From October 1, 2019, to November 20, 2020, we received General Fund cash contributions totaling \$21,795 from 260 donors, 150 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!

## General Fund Contributors

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**Finally**

Through the years Your Association has asked for your help, and you have responded generously. Unpaid volunteers keep the Association running from day to day, so our income is entirely devoted to the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 and for General Fund expenses. Your past contributions have made this appeal a great success, and we would appreciate your help once again.

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).

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](http://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. Thank you very much for your ongoing support and future help as well.

**Again, our very best wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Great New Year!**

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