

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Sixtieth Annual Report

2019

Both our General Fund programs and the restoration of Boston Type 5 No. 5706 showed considerable progress this past year. Your ongoing support has been the key to our success, and we deeply appreciate your help. We urge you to look over our Treasurer's report on the last page, as it shows in a nutshell where our revenues come from and where they are spent.

Among our accomplishments supported by the General Fund:

- RollSign has been greatly enhanced with our acquisition of a new computer and large monitor.
- A full year of great meeting entertainment programs.
- Progress on our new book in the *Streetcar Lines of the Hub* series.
- Strong mail order and website publications sales.
- Significant donations through our Annual Fund Drive efforts and dues renewals.

Our other significant accomplishment is the restoration work on Boston Type 5, No. 5706. This year Keith Bray, our contractor, completely replaced the letterboard, installed new roof carlines, roof boards, a tack strip and a new roof canvas. Keith also made numerous "touch up" steel adjustments, residual work remaining from earlier years. Finally, 5706 received new primer that will be part of a new, polyurethane-based paint system, and a detailed parts listing.

On September 29, 2019, just a day before the end of the fiscal year, the Association hosted a well-attended bus fantrip commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the MBTA. Featured were the T historic bus, No. 2600; RTS bus No. 0309, the last of this series in service, and No. 0528, a 2004 Neoplan AN440LF bus, which represents a series soon slated for retirement. All in all, a great way to end the year!

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

Type 5 No. 5706 received a considerable amount of attention this year, starting with the installation of a new letterboard around the entire perimeter of the car. The letterboard is located above the windows and just below the roof and is so called because streetcar companies often used this space to display their corporate name, or for lesser purposes, such as advertising. Advertising on the letterboard was not Boston Elevated, or MTA practice, however. The new letterboard has greatly improved the appearance of the car.

In the course of working on the letterboard, Keith discovered that most of the carlines, the curved sections that support the roof boards and which are visible from inside the car, had deteriorated badly, and that the connections to the sides of the car had corroded and failed in a number of instances.

Accordingly, a decision was made to replace all the carlines and the roof boards as well, which also included replacing the roof canvas. As this work proceeded, Keith noted that our car still had the original roof installed at the J. G. Brill factory when the car was built some 95 years ago – in 1924. Most Type 5 cars had new roofs installed over the years before their final retirement in 1959, but not our car – until now. We also installed a new tack strip for the roof canvas and a new roof canvas as well. The canvas installation required several thousand tacks!

Major steel replacement had been completed before Keith Bray began work, but minor touch-ups remained. Grinding

excess weld metal, patching and filling small steel areas, and spot shimming to square some openings were completed.

We also selected a new polyurethane-based paint system, which came directly from the Mattapan-Ashmont PCC cars on the MBTA. A new grey epoxy primer was part of this system, and all steel on 5706 was sprayed with two heavy coats.

Finally, for the first time ever, we prepared a comprehensive parts list for the car. Type 5 No. 5706 was complete when we acquired it in 1959, but in the course of work over the years, the car was largely disassembled. This year we identified, located, and listed all car parts on hand and consolidated them in one place. Ironically, the only missing parts were the pinion gears fabricated in the 1960s and the first replacement parts we ever purchased! We expect to find these gears as well.

All of this work on Type 5 No. 5706 was accomplished with funding from you, our many members and friends, and by grants from the Amherst Railway Society, the Mass Bay RRE, and the Mystic Valley Railway Society. To date, we have raised \$357,190 for 5706, and we offer our most sincere and deepest thanks to you all!

Report of the ROLLSIGN Director

In 2019, the Association published five issues of RollSign, and at the time of this writing, a sixth, the July/August 2019 issue is in production. A brief listing of each of these editions and its contents follows.

September-October 2018 contained testing of articulated battery buses on the MBTA's Silver Line, improvements to MBTA bus tracking, dispatching and workforce management software, and Orange and Red Line modernization work. The issue also featured photographs showing the testing of new Green and Orange Line cars, and Commuter Rail engine overhauling.

November-December 2018 featured an article on the first revenue trip of a Green Line Type 9 car, No. 3900. Reviewed were the Type 9 design, procurement, and acceptance process, supplemented by renderings of different design proposals, photographs of the car's exterior and interior, pictures of the car in testing, and photo coverage of the first revenue trip.

January-February 2019 had the annual MBTA vehicle inventory, compiled by Jonathan Belcher. Jonathan works throughout the year to provide the Association with accurate information and we are grateful for his efforts. The covers featured overhauled F40PH-3C locomotive No. 1054.

March-April 2019 featured the restoration progress of the Association's Type 5 car, No. 5706. Additionally, there was a piece on the end of the carhouse at South Point (known historically as the Bay View Carhouse). The issue also summarized current MBTA news.

May-June 2019 featured Part 1 of Edward A. Anderson's article on Boston's first PCC car, No. 3001, the "Queen Mary," which joined the Boston Elevated Railway streetcar fleet in 1937. This richly detailed commentary was supported with superb historical photographs.

The July-August 2019 issue will include Part 2 of the Queen Mary article and a review of MBTA current events, notably the first revenue run of the new Orange Line trainset.

The Association purchased a new computer and a large computer monitor screen this year to keep production of

RollSign up with the times and to enhance its quality. The quality improvements and time savings achieved by using this equipment has been substantial.

In the past year your Editor has made an effort to include more detailed current event articles and supplementary images. We received many photo submissions and limited space made it difficult to include all of them, even if their quality merited publication.

The RollSign would not be possible without the hard work and help of many BSRA members. Fitting all of this content into 112 pages each year is a challenging task. The RollSign Editor thanks the members and other contributors who make our successful publication possible.

Report of the Vice-President

During Fiscal Year 2019, the Vice President monitored the mailbox on the Association's website, responding directly to requests in some instances and directly forwarding other queries to appropriate officers. This office also provided written responses to other correspondence and acknowledgements for memorial donations, prepared the press releases for monthly meetings, and assisted at them

The Vice-President also proof-read reports and drafts for other officers and reviewed financial statements, including annual filings prepared by the Treasurer for the Internal Revenue Service and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Public Charities.

This office also submitted Annual Corporate reports to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and completed work with the HMBD Insurance Agency on a policy for officers' and directors' liability. The Vice-President also prepared the report of the Nominating Committee for presentation to the membership.

Report of the Publications Director

In 2019, the BSRA Publications Department produced six Publications Catalogues and a year-end supplement, producing good sales via mail order and our online store at www.thebsra.org. Our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, works through summer heat and winter cold to keep orders moving and to maintain our stock, and he deserves high praise for his dedication. Proceeds from publications sales help us reach our goals and maintain the organization year-round. We thank everyone who has chosen to purchase their publications from us!

Among this year's best-selling titles were *Building Chicago's Subways*; *Charlie on the MTA: Did He Ever Return?*; *Boston 1945-2015*; *Allegheny Valley Trolleys*; *Long Island Rail Road series*; *Detroit's Streetcar Heritage*; *Brighton & Allston Through Time*; *Underground Philadelphia*; *Chicago Motor Coach Company*; *Boston & Maine Steam, Vol. 2*; *Mid-century Memories*; *Queen City Rails: Manchester's Railroads*; *Rhode Island Trolleys*; *Chicago Surface Lines II*; *A Travel History of Martha's Vineyard*; *Revere Through Time*; an MBTA Sticker Package; and an MBTA Subway Tote Bag.

In January, we continued our presence at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA, displaying our books and other items for sale and our free promotional literature. This event benefits the BSRA in two ways: we are able to raise money by selling a wide variety of regional and national transit publications and gift items; and we are able to "fly the flag" and make the show's visitors aware of the Association and our activities. Our sincere thanks are due our volunteer staff, which consisted of Mike Prescott, Nick Tomkavage, Dana Frisbee, and Paul Tomkavage, with additional support from Danny Cohen, Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, and Bill Pollman.

Work continued to progress on the next installment in our Streetcar Lines of the Hub book series. However, we

were not able to make it to publication this year. We continue to work to bring this book to the finish line and publish it in 2020.

Report of the Secretary

Our mailing list now numbers 722. Since October 1, 2018, we have added 33 new paid members and subscribers, and we reinstated 1 more; we lost 49 members and subscribers due to attrition, including 15 deceased and 34 who did not renew, for a net loss of 15 members and subscribers. Our membership and ROLLSIGN circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Regular	430	428
Intermediate	6	6
Associate	192	179
Subscriber	78	79
Honorary	6	5
Complimentary	26	25
Totals	738	722

The Secretary maintained the minutes of the monthly Business Meetings and the quarterly Directors' Meetings throughout the year on an ongoing basis. This office also processed membership renewals and donations that were received with renewals to the 5706 Fund and the General Fund, ticket sales for the bus fan trip in late September and managed the annual election of officers and directors at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Report of the Entertainment Chair

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

Dana Frisbee, our Entertainment AV Manager, continues to earn our strong appreciation for steadfast work before each of these shows and makes them possible, and whose unfaltering work afterwards makes sure that everything in the meeting room is in good order when we leave.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all who presented at our 2018–2019 meetings, as well as those in years past.

October 13, 2018. Boston from the 1960s through the 1980s. Paul Shackford projected his own version of "Lost Boston", in Kodachrome slides that he took of different transport scenes in the Boston area: the Elevated Railway, Harvard Station before the Red Line was extended, the New Haven Railroad from Back Bay to Forest Hills before the Southwest Corridor project, the Central Artery, and the elevated section to Lechmere in the West End.

November 3, 2018. Portland Streetcars. Nick Tomkavage presented a contemporary review of the Portland, Oregon streetcar network, one of America's preeminent modern systems. Nick showed images and video clips of light rail and bus operations, including a few historical photographs. Highlights included the Portland Transit Mall, Portland Union Station, Steel Bridge, and the Tilikum Crossing.

December 1, 2018. European Trams, Vintage American Rail, Washington DC, Eastern Europe, and Baltimore. Clark Frazier presented a whirlwind tour of European tram systems operating Tatra PCC trams, Gotha and older two-axle trams, DUEWAG articulated trams and other modern trams. The main short subject was a survey of East German two-axle trams in 1978. Closer to home, a few US and Mexican railroad scenes were presented. The main feature was Washington, DC streetcars operating from 1958–1961, along with 1978 views of ex-Washington PCC streetcars still operating in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Finally views of nearby Baltimore from 1958–1961, including the Sparrows Point line on the last day of service were shown.

January 5, 2019. The History of Transit in Dorchester. Stuart Spina traced the history of transportation in Dorchester from the Dunmore Brothers and their stagecoach to Boston in the 1830s, to the contentious horsecar rivalries of the 1860s, to the arrival of rapid transit in the late 1920s and more. From steam railroad, both mainline and street, to the latest in hybrid bus technology: Stuart presented an adventure across the ages, from Savin Hill to Milton Lower Mills to Mattapan Square.

February 2, 2019. Electric of Portugal. Nick Tomkavage presented a photo and video tour of electric traction in Portugal, one of Europe's most interesting streetcar countries. Scenes of Lisbon's famous yellow cars moving the masses through narrow streets, and Porto's historic streetcar lines and contemporary light rail system were shown along with views of the comprehensive tramway museums of Lisbon and Porto.

March 2, 2019. Pennsylvania Traction Museums. George Chiasson showed recent photos of traction museums and museum lines in Pennsylvania, including the Electric City Trolley Museum; the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania; Steamtown National Historic Site, the Strasburg Railroad; and some photos of current service in the Baltimore area, winding up with a fan trip in Philadelphia on a SEPTA PCC II in May 2015.

April 6, 2019. North Shore Trolleys. Leo Sullivan presented vintage photos of trolley service from Boston to Rockport and Newburyport, MA, with considerable attention to the places in between.

May 4, 2019. Donald Nevin's Canadian Travels Part 2. Donald Nevin presented a slide show of his Canadian travels in March 1988, starting on the *Adirondack* from Albany-Rensselaer (NY) to Montreal; then across Canada to Vancouver on the *Canadian* and the *Super Continental*; and finally, light rail and trackless trolley operations in Edmonton and the *SkyTrain* in Vancouver.

June 1, 2019. My Beantown Transit Adventure 2.0. Following up on his popular previous show on the subject, Byron Nash showed more photographs that he took of every MBTA transit mode (other than paratransit), this time also including video footage, along with more archival photographs. This included buses; the Red, Orange, Blue, and Green Lines; Commuter Rail;

Final Remarks

We look forward to a successful 2020, with the expectation of your continued support, publication of our next book in the Streetcar Lines of the Hub series, continued membership growth, and advances in the car 5706 restoration project.

and Commuter Boat service; plus, coverage of the current status of each transit vehicle fleet.

July 13, 2019; Pennsylvania and Ohio Transit Museums. In May and June 2018, George Chiasson went to the Vintage Electric Streetcar Company in Pennsylvania to examine stored equipment as a possible parts supply for antique transit equipment still in use in Boston and Chicago; In addition, he made stops in Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, and went to Cleveland, Ohio, and the Northern Ohio Railway Museum, presenting extensive coverage of all of these locations.

August 3, 2019. American LRV Construction. Jim Matthews, Senior Analyst at LTK Engineering, gave an overview of streetcar LRV construction in the United States, showing an inside view of the manufacturing facilities of three different car builders.

September 7, 2019. Cleveland and Dayton, Then & Now. Len Bachelder presented scenes from Ohio in the old days and in modern times, featuring Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton, along with some photos of ex-Cincinnati equipment running in Toronto.

Your support of our programs, both financially and as volunteers has made everything that we have accomplished to date possible. It is YOUR Association and you have much of which to be proud

Respectfully submitted,

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

Bradley H. Clarke, President and Chairman
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