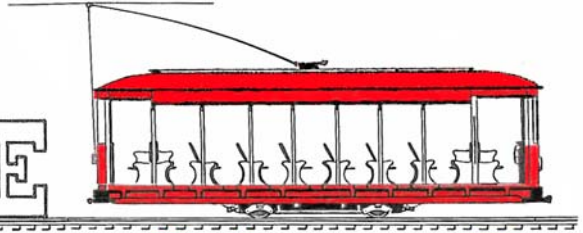


TROLLEYVILLE



The Gerald E. Brookins Museum of Electric Railways
P.O. Box 38117, Olmsted Twp., Ohio 44138



Welcome From Trolleyville—Update June 2004

We have been busy finding a new home for this priceless collection that we all have enjoyed over the years. Gerald Brookins amassed an anthology of 40 streetcars that tells the story of Cleveland, and America's, growth in the last 100 years. The Brookins family's determination to keep it in Cleveland has led an effort to create a museum and operating trolley line in downtown Cleveland. We want to share with the progress we have made and the work still to come to make this vision a reality.

Vision

Electric trolleys once again ply the streets of Cleveland in conjunction with an interactive museum, showcasing one of the world's premier collections of cars. Enhanced pedestrian and visitor traffic restore vibrancy to downtown Cleveland reminiscent of the original streetcar era. Major investments grow along the right-of-ways of trolley lines as has been demonstrated in recent years in other major cities, i.e. Tampa, Dallas, Portland.

Three Components

- **Museum**-an interpretative center where the public can view and learn the rich heritage represented by this stately form of urban transportation. This facility would showcase the ten to fifteen finest examples of trolley cars. Displays describing the workings of a trolley operation would also be present as well as a possible working restoration pit for viewing.
- **Trolley Operation**-A working trolley line will showcase regularly scheduled trolleys on city streets connected to the museum while making inherent economic/development sense in its own right. It will be designed to encourage further economic development and promote tourism. The design and implementation of the trolley line will occur in phases to eventually serve as a downtown circulator loop.
- **Carbarn**-A site will be needed to store the cars not currently being used and a separate building with a state-of-the art service and restoration facility. This facility would be large enough to house approximately 40 antique streetcars with close access to the museum and working trolley route, as well as the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's Waterfront rail line.

Getting Involved

A lot of progress has been made in the last six months; we established a planning group, did an initial survey of potential sites for the museum, carbarn and operating line; garnered the enthusiastic support of the city and Congressman LaTourette, along with the interest of Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and the administration of Cuyahoga County, initiated engaging an engineering firm for a feasibility study and started fundraising. Obviously there is the beginning of a long process and we need everyone's help. Read on the backside our progress to date and ways you can get involved.

Sites

The Sites Committee developed a matrix outlining the needs for the museum, carbarn and operating trolley line. They evaluated a number of sites in consultation with long-time Trolleyville enthusiasts, City of Cleveland, GCRTA, architects and engineers.

The premier site under consideration for the 45,000 s.f. carbarn with appropriate rail yard is inside the loop bridge on the GCRTA waterfront line in the Flats. The east end of the Waterfront line is also under consideration.

We have been actively engaged in the discussions on the redevelopment of the Lake Erie Waterfront being led by the City of Cleveland. Several sites around East Ninth and Dock 32 have been identified as possible locations of the museum. Sites near the soon to be developed Canal Basin Park in the Flats are also being looked into.

The first phase of the operating trolley line is being considered as the "people mover" for the redeveloped lakefront connecting the new residential development and existing museums with the new restaurants and shops.

Preliminary Engineering Study

The next step is for an engineering firm to review these sites to ensure that they will meet our needs. A letter of inquiry went to firms that were identified with the assistance of the City of Cleveland and GCRTA.

All the firms responded with enthusiasm to be involved. Our Interagency Working Group reviewed qualifications of the firms and are now working with the premier candidates to develop the scope of work.

Fundraising

It is going to take a lot of support to make this vision a reality. We have started the search to bring a professional fundraiser on board to assist in building the necessary support. They will assist in securing funds from foundations, local and national governmental sources and corporations.

However, to make any of this possible the private supporters of Trolleyville need to concretely demonstrate their backing of this vision with their financial support.

City of Cleveland Fully Supportive in Bringing Trolleyville USA Downtown

Mayor Jane Campbell and her administration are committed to working with the Brookins family to preserve this collection in Northeast Ohio. Please see the attached letter of support. Chris Ronayne, Director of City Planning, his staff and the Department of Economic Development have worked closely with Trolleyville USA to develop the current plans.

Dream Catchers

We need everyone to be involved if we are going to catch this dream of a permanent home for this priceless collection of over 40 streetcars with an operating trolley line in the streets of downtown Cleveland. Please let us know if you are willing to donate your time, talent, and/or financial support by filling out the form below or emailing us at steve@trolleyvilleusa.org.

Trolleyville USA, P.O. Box 38817, Olmsted Twp., Ohio 44138

We want to keep in touch with everyone with a monthly news sheet such as this in addition to a regular newsletter. **Please give us your email address so we can keep you updated.** Thanks.

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