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**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

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**THE POWER TO MOVE YOU**

# THE GENESIS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

In 1944, Dr. John Payne Roberts heard news that a local transit company was planning to send a mule-drawn streetcar to a war effort scrap drive and immediately feared a piece of history was about to be lost. With the help of his mentor, Dr. John R. Smith, he rescued the Bellefontaine #33 which carried passengers from downtown St. Louis to north St. Louis County from about 1870 to 1895. Foreseeing a rapid change in transportation, these two men realized that historic vehicles needed to be preserved and displayed. Banding together with other forward-minded St. Louisans, they founded the St. Louis Railway Historical Society.

In 1948, the organization was renamed the Transport Museum Association after it was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. Land was acquired on Barrett Station Road in west St. Louis County, along the right-of-way of the historic Missouri Pacific Railroad. Over the years, the Bellefontaine #33 streetcar was joined by hundreds of other significant exhibits. In 1979, the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation formally assumed the operation and development of the Museum.

On January 1, 2017 the Museum once again returned to the status of a private museum, changing its name to The National Museum of Transportation (TNMOT) the following year to better reflect the significance of its artifacts and collections. Today, the Museum works to honor its mission *"to be the leader in protecting and interpreting North America's transportation heritage."*



**1944** MUSEUM  
FOUNDED

when it accepted its first  
artifact, the mule-drawn  
Bellefontaine #33 street car

## The Bellefontaine #33

carried passengers from downtown St. Louis to  
north St. Louis County from about 1870 to 1895.

# WHY ST. LOUISIS?

St. Louis has been a center for trade and commerce since the mid-1700s. The city's central location and abundant water access made it a natural hub of transportation. Lewis and Clark began their westward journey in St. Louis in 1804. Steamboats, horses, and mules followed, bringing new forms of transportation through the city for settlers moving westward. This rich local history, and its relevance to our nation, is celebrated at The National Museum of Transportation.

After the Civil War, St. Louis grew to become the fourth-largest city in the nation. Industrialization created the need for new infrastructure and transportation. The World's Fair of 1904 and the Olympics of the same year saw thousands of visitors riding on local trolleys and trams. This growth also made St. Louis a beacon of rail travel during the turn of the century and beyond.

In the early and mid-twentieth century, St. Louis had forty car companies building automobiles, and the Museum holds several artifacts from this era. This includes the legendary 1937 Adolphus Bus, a specialized truck designed and used to keep unpasteurized beer cold during transport.

Air travel has deep roots in St. Louis as well. Albert Bond Lambert, a St. Louis native, learned to fly with the Wright Brothers and reached the rank of Major during World War I. His namesake, St. Louis Lambert International Airport, is one of the most historic airports in the United States. With the establishment and growth of local aircraft and defense contractor McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing), the future of aeronautics was envisioned in St. Louis.

St. Louis remains the shining gateway to the West: the home of innovation and progress. The National Transportation Museum's commitment to preserving local and national transportation history is part of this continuing legacy.

- **After the Civil War, St. Louis grew to become the fourth-largest city in the nation.**
- **By the early and mid-twentieth century, St. Louis had FORTY CAR COMPANIES building automobiles.**
- **St. Louis Lambert International Airport, is one of the most historic airports in the United States.**



# THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

# TODAY

The National Museum of Transportation is located on an expansive 42-acre campus approximately 16 miles southwest of downtown St. Louis. This historic location once belonged to the Pacific Railroad and includes one of the first man-made railroad tunnels built west of the Mississippi River. The Museum readily shares its resources with the community, hosting nearly 200,000 visitors every year.

MEMBERSHIP  
BASE OF

2,700

supporters

42-acre

campus



200,000 VISITORS

annually

71 SCHOOLS  
participating in

field trips

# PROGRESS

It's what defines our nation. As Americans, our history is tied with progress and movement. The pursuit of progress is what The National Museum of Transportation is about. We make this heritage available to school children, modern-day travelers, and nearly 200,000 visitors annually. With more than 70 locomotives, The National Museum of Transportation houses the most complete collection of American rail power. Our automobile collection boasts rarities that celebrities and car enthusiasts travel hundreds of miles to see. The West Barretts Tunnel, a historic railroad portal built in 1853 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located on our grounds.

These and other treasures are in need of better shelter and repair to protect them from rust and ensure visitors can access them. We want to build upon what the Smithsonian Institution has called "one of the largest and best collections of transportation vehicles in the world." With our capital campaign, we will develop a visitor's experience unlike any other in the United States.

Through the Power to Move You capital campaign, we will revitalize our campus, starting with new displays for our unrivaled artifacts and archives collection. Our 42-acre grounds will include an expanded visitor's center, a new artifact pavilion, and a redesigned historic trolley experience. Our teacher-led STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) programs will provide children with the opportunity to learn about the science of motion.

We invite you to join us as we enter a phase of development that will be treasured by generations of St. Louisans and visitors from across the globe.



**locomotives**

**half of them  
one-of-a-kind  
or "sole survivors"**



**AUTOMOTIVE  
COLLECTION**

**200+  
UNIQUE  
ARTIFACTS**



# OUR ARTIFACTS

The Museum houses more than **70 LOCOMOTIVES**, many of which are the only ones of their kind in existence.

- The Union Pacific 4006 “Big Boy,” the largest steam engine ever built
- The Whale Belly Tanker, the largest tank car in the world at 96 feet
- The MP Eagle Observation Car, President Harry S. Truman’s personal car
- The only Reading Railroad Black Diamond car in existence
- The “Daniel Nason,” the oldest locomotive in the collection restored to its mid-1800’s glory

**The Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Center is full of rare gems as well, including:**

- The oldest automobile of its type in existence, manufactured by the St. Louis Carriage Car in 1901, possessing the first float carburetor and a tilt steering wheel
- A Chrysler Turbine Car, autographed by Jay Leno, boasts an engine that can run on corn oil, whiskey or paint thinner
- Bobby Darin’s one-of-a-kind Dream Car with headlights that sink down from a hidden compartment and 30 coats of translucent pearl paint bedazzled with diamond dust

**Other Museum favorites include:**

- A 1943 Douglas C47-A transport plane, thought to have been used in WWII invasion of Normandy
- The first Missouri River towboat with a steel, rather than a riveted, hull
- A Panama Canal mule locomotive that was used to tow ships from 1941 until 1964

## THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Like its artifact collection, the Museum’s transportation history archival materials are unrivaled anywhere in the United States. Historians come to The National Museum of Transportation to seek out treasures like the Plat Atlas, land patents from the Central Pacific Railroad of Kansas, and Pacific Railroad of Missouri maps, which outline historic landmarks and properties. The archives also maintain approximately 300,000 drawings from the American Car and Foundry, a company which built rail cars for every railroad nationally and internationally. The National Museum of Transportation possesses an extensive number of archival documents from the St. Louis Car Company, General Steel, and other major railroad, trolley car, and street car manufacturers. The Museum has one of the largest collections of engineering drawings anywhere as well as an enormous collection of artwork, films, advertisements, and travel posters.

**The William R. and Laura Rand Orthwein Education & Visitor Center**

Transportation fans are able to explore this 14,000 square-foot building



and enjoy the Barrett's Landing Café and the Boxcar Boutique Gift Shop. An open area for rotating displays of transportation treasures is popular with visitors. At holiday time, The E. Desmond Lee Holiday Train Exhibit offers an unparalleled indoor hobby train collection that delights people of all ages.

10

UNIQUE



garden spaces

**Pollinators and the Missouri Natives Gardens**

## THE GARDENS

Enticing to visitors of many species are the two varieties of unique gardens that help beautify the Museum grounds. Pollinator Junction is the largest pollinator garden in St. Louis, designed to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects. The Missouri Natives gardens feature an array of flowers, plants, and trees that are native to this area. Curriculum for the "Living Transport Exhibit" is available to enhance school-aged tours.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The National Museum of Transportation's education programs enrich the lives of 40,000 children annually. The Creation Station is available for children five and younger. Students attending preschool through sixth grade from school districts in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana regularly participate in facilitated field trips. A train car, nicknamed The Train of Thought, has been converted into a classroom for field trips and other educational experiences. Classes are encouraged to explore the Museum's campus and engage in age-appropriate scavenger hunts.

### A Focus on STEAM Learning

The Museum is an ideal environment for hands-on learning with over 70 schools visiting annually for field trips. Educational programs at the Museum are designed by professional teachers to incorporate the elements of STEAM learning—science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. Students can explore historically significant artifacts and learn about their mechanics, purposes, and historical backgrounds while being immersed in a moment in time.

### The Creation Station

The Creation Station, encompassing 2,400 square-feet of airy space in the Orthwein Center, is a learning center that encourages early learning skills by introducing young children to all modes of transportation. Children and their caregivers are welcome to play, explore, and learn in a self-directed environment. The Creation Station is one of the most popular activities at the Museum, prompting staff to encourage visitors to "come early" as the space fills with children and their caregivers daily.

40,000+

CHILDREN  
annually in  
EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMS



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

The work of the National Museum of Transportation is made possible thanks to the work of our dedicated volunteers. Approximately 159 volunteers generously give their time and experience to support Museum operations, leading tours, preserving artifacts, giving trolley rides, and performing other vital functions. The Museum estimates that volunteers donate approximately 30,000 work hours annually.

**159** VOLUNTEERS



**30,000** VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS





**75,950** RIDERS  
miniature train

GUESTS TRAVELED FROM **26** countries  
**48** states



**94%**  
of parties visiting included a child under the age of **twelve**



# THE POWER TO MOVE YOU:

## A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The National Museum of Transportation's world-class collection deserves a world-class campus. Building upon our principles of education, preservation, restoration and exhibition, the Museum's capital improvement projects will ensure a bright future for our historic past. This campaign will bring the Museum into a new era and offer a visitor experience unlike any other in the United States.

### Expansion of the **William R. and Laura Rand Orthwein Education and Visitor's Center**

Completing the Education and Visitor Center will allow visitors to be surrounded by breathtaking exhibits of all modes of transport from the moment they set foot in the Museum's doors. Planned enhancements, including the proposed Orthwein Lake, new exhibit signage, and watch platforms, will create a memorable visitor's experience.

### **PRESERVATION FACILITY**

Precious transportation artifacts belonging to the Museum are being stored at Washington University's Tyson Research Center. A permanent home on the Museum campus is needed to store these artifacts. A new facility will house road vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft so future generations can be inspired by their craftsmanship and their role in our nation's history.

### **TRAIN PAVILION**

Building a train pavilion is imperative to the preservation of our unique rail vehicles collection. Currently, the trains and cars housed on our exhibit tracks are exposed to the elements. An airy pavilion will protect the collection while allowing guests to see the restored interiors and exteriors of these artifacts firsthand. Building an enhanced artifact pavilion will allow the Museum to exhibit its extensive rare and one-of-a-kind collections of transportation artifacts, from lanterns and headlights to china and uniforms.

### **TROLLEY PLATFORM**

The Trolley Platform is nearing completion, but pole and wire installations are required for it to run as intended. Volunteers have laid track and lovingly restored regional trolleys. Trolley rides are a visitor favorite and improving the Trolley Platform will raise this area of the campus to the distinction it deserves.

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HISTORIC WEST BARRETTS TUNNEL**

The West Barretts Tunnel, included on the National Register of Historic Places, will receive cosmetic exterior repairs so visitors can safely get a better view of one of the first man-made tunnels west of the Mississippi. This historic site is currently unavailable for visitors to access.

### **PROJECT BUDGET**

The \$13,500,000 in capital and operational improvements funded by the Power to Move You campaign will enable the Museum to host more annual visitors, serve more school children, reduce maintenance costs, protect and preserve rare historical treasures, increase accessibility for all visitors, and improve the quality and breadth of its educational programming.

# Campaign Investment Opportunities

The Power to Move You Campaign will enable The National Museum of Transportation to host more annual visitors, reduce maintenance costs, protect and preserve rare historical treasures, increase accessibility for all visitors, and provide a visitor's experience unlike any other in the United States.

Gifts may be restricted into the following funds:

## DANIEL NASON FUND

Supports the greatest needs of the Museum

## RESTORATION FUND

Supports the restoration of the world class collection

## ARTIFACT PRESERVATION FUND

Supports the preservation and storage of items cared for by the Museum and provides room to expand the collection

### Selected Naming Opportunities

Artifact Preservation Facility .....	\$4,000,000
Visitor Center Expansion and Exhibit Space .....	\$3,000,000
Artifact Pavilion (two available).....	\$1,500,000
Restoration Building .....	\$500,000
Miniature Train Engine (two available) .....	\$300,000
Permanent Exhibit signage upgrade.....	\$250,000
Creation Station.....	\$250,000
Union Pacific mainline watch deck.....	\$225,000
Trolley Platform.....	\$200,000
Barrett Tunnell Preservation .....	\$200,000
Welcome Center Lake.....	\$150,000
Mini rail line water feature .....	\$150,000
Train of Thought Education Car (two available).....	\$100,000
Pollinator Junction.....	\$100,000
Picnic area (multiple).....	\$50,000
Speciality Railcar restoration.....	\$50,000
Meeting Pavillion (two) .....	\$40,000
Handcar Village .....	\$35,000
S.T.E.A.M learning rotating exhibit (multiple) .....	\$25,000
Walkway (multiple) .....	\$25,000
Garden Area (multiple) .....	\$15,000
Cosmetic Train restoration (multiple) .....	\$10,000
Interior train restoration (multiple) .....	\$10,000
Specific exhibit sign.....	\$10,000
Benches (multiple) .....	\$1,500
Miniature train/seat recognition.....	\$500
Paver stones.....	\$250
Creation Station wall block.....	\$150
Creation Station play block.....	\$75

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Commitment comes from within. The Board of Directors is exceptionally dedicated to the advancement and wellbeing of The National Museum of Transportation. All members of the Board have donated generously to the campaign.

### **OFFICERS:**

Dr. Darryl A. Ross, President  
Charley Taylor, Vice President  
Michael Morhaus, CPA, Treasurer

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Terri McEachern, Executive Director

### **Contact Us**

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**Mission Statement: to be the leader in protecting and interpreting  
North America's transportation heritage**

A private 501(c)(3) S.T.E.A.M. learning and History Preserving Museum