



REPLICA CARS

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STREETCARS ARE BACK!!!

- **Dominant Mode**
 - Late 1800s Through WW II
- **All But Disappeared**
 - “Conspiracy Theory”
 - Federal Utility Regulations
 - US Love of Automobiles
- **Began Comeback in 1970s as “LRT”**



TODAY – 7 Old Systems that Defied Abandonment

- Boston
- Cleveland
- New Orleans
- Newark
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh
- San Francisco

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14 New LRT Systems

- Baltimore
- Dallas
- Denver
- Houston
- Hudson Bergen
- Los Angeles
- Minneapolis
- Portland
- St. Louis
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Diego
- San Jose
- Tacoma

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AND

Approximately 27 "New" Operating, and 50 Planned Streetcar Lines all across the US.

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Light Rail Transit

- State-of-the-Art Modern Technology
- Designed For:
 - High Capacity
 - High Speed
 - Long Routes





Streetcar Lines

- Designed For:
 - Low speed
 - Low Capacity
 - Short Routes
 - “Tourist” Operations
 - Urban Development



Streetcars

- Restored Vintage Cars
- New Modern Vehicles
- New “Replica” Cars



Restored Vintage Cars

- Often “PCC” Cars
 - San Francisco
 - Philadelphia



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Restored Vintage Cars

- Sometimes Older Museum Quality Cars
 - Charlotte "85"
 - Dallas "Birney"



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Restored Vintage Cars

- New Orleans (Perley Thomas)



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New Modern Vehicles

- Portland (Skoda Inekon)



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New "Replica" Cars

- Built From "Blueprints" of Old Cars to Create "Authentic" Vintage Look Reproductions
 - New Orleans (Perley Thomas)



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New "Replica" Cars

- Charlotte (Birney)



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New "Replica" Cars

- Lowell MA (Brill)



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New "Replica" Cars

- Some Operations Utilize Less Exact Designs Intended to Evoke the Spirit of Vintage Cars While Not Copying Specific Models

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New "Replica" Cars

– Galveston



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New "Replica" Cars

– Memphis
(Birney)





2005 Inventory*

- Restored Vintage Cars
 - 130 on 19 Systems
 - 50 pre 1940 (35 in New Orleans)
 - 40 PCC cars
 - 40 Imported
- New Modern Vehicles
 - 10 on 2 Systems
- New "Replica" Cars
 - 62 on 10 Systems

* John Smatlak, Railway Preservation Resources



Why Replica Cars?

- Replica Cars are Increasingly the Vehicles of Choice Because:
 - Fewer Headaches
 - Deteriorating Bodies, Frames, and Trucks
 - Lack of Amenities
 - Unavailability of Spare Parts
 - Obsolete Equipment
 - Supply of Authentic Vintage Vehicles is Finite and Nearly Exhausted



Why Replica Cars?

- Communities and Sponsor Agencies Often Want to Create an "Atmosphere", Not Just Provide Transportation
 - Friendly
 - Quaint
 - Streetscape Compatible

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Vintage Car Suppliers

- **New Replica Cars:**
 - Gomaco Trolley Company, Ida Grove, IA
- **Restored Cars :**
 - Historic Railway Restoration, LLC, Seattle, WA
- **Mainly Trucks and Equipment:**
 - Brookville Equipment Company, Brookville, PA

(Still a US Industry)

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Why Replica Cars?

- **Some New Projects have Opted for "Modern" Vehicles**
 - Portland
 - Tacoma



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Why Replica Cars?

- **Most Communities Prefer the Charm of Vintage Designs Reborn as Replica Cars**
 - Predictable Cost and Delivery
 - Modern Amenities e.g. Air Conditioning and ADA Compliance
 - Available Spare Parts
 - Modern Technology
 - Lower Maintenance Costs
 - Higher Reliability

PR



REPLICA CARS

A Bright Future -
for a Fondly Remembered Element
of America's Past


