



PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY MUSEUM

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Pennsylvania Trolley Museum celebrates completion of key projects at its East Campus

The *On Track for the Future Campaign* has been the Museum's most ambitious and successful campaign. To date, over \$17.5 million has been raised thanks to a generous lead grant of \$5 million from the Allegheny Foundation and the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) \$2.5 million grant, administered by the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County. The campaign has received generous support from other foundations, corporations, and individuals as well. This generous support enabled the Museum to complete many visitor improvements.

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, we celebrated the completion of major interim projects at our East Campus: The High-Level Platform in our Trolley Display Building, Volunteer Boulevard (formerly Trolley Street), the Trolley Platform and Canopy, Falconi Plaza, and the Christopher Golofski Memorial Gazebo. These projects were completed with generous donations from the Washington County Community Foundation, Washington County Tourism, the Helen Ruth Gordon Trust, the Fairbanks-Horix Foundation, and many private donors.

At 2:30 p.m., a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for our High-Level Platform in our Trolley Display Building. Present for the cutting were Washington County Commissioners Diana Irey Vaughn and Larry Maggi as well as donors who made this project a reality.

This wood platform recreates a vintage Philadelphia rapid transit "elevated" station platform and allows ADA access to three historic electric railway cars: Market-Frankford Subway/Elevated "Almond Joy Car" #606, Norristown High Speed Line "Bullet Car"

#209, and Philadelphia & West Chester Traction Company trolley freight car #07. Car #07 is undergoing extensive restoration with new siding, paint and other improvements funded by private donations and the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys. The platform was funded by private donations and constructed by Washington County jail inmates through the "Furlough into Service" program. Materials were provided by Brownlee Lumber.

At 3:00 p.m., a second ceremony was held to celebrate our new, outdoor projects.

A number of remarks were made by PTM President Edward C. Morasczyk, Vice President Raymond Betler, State Senator Camera Bartolotta, State Representative Jason Ortity, Washington County Commissioners Vaughn and Maggi, President of Washington County Tourism Jeff Kotula, President of Waller Corporation Lou Waller, the project's General Contractor, and representatives from the offices of Governor Josh Shapiro and Congressman Guy Reschenthaler.

Volunteer Boulevard: This beautiful, fully brick paved street allows our trolleys to operate in both directions. Volunteer Boulevard features 33,000 hand laid bricks! Larry Lovejoy, the Museum's Director of Engineering and long-time volunteer, talked about the importance of volunteers to the Museum's development. Larry introduced Dan Bower, a long-time PTM volunteer who generously funded the brick and concrete paving. Bower dedicated this street to the "volunteers that make the Museum possible." Dan then completed the ceremonial laying of the final brick.

Other highlights of this street include trolley rail that came from Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Beechview and Overbrook lines. Koppers, Inc. donated the railroad ties while the City of McKeesport donated the 1940s traffic signals. The safety island is an authentic reproduction of the hundreds of such trolley stops once found on Pittsburgh Railways Company's lines. Funding was provided by the Allegheny Foundation, Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency, the Fairbanks-Horix Foundation, First Energy Foundation, the Tom E. Dailey Foundation, a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Recreation and

Conservation, Environmental Stewardship Fund (administered by the Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation). Construction work was done by both contractors and PTM volunteers.

Washington County Community Foundation Trolley Platform: This concrete platform provides an excellent boarding area for the Museum's visitors to start their journey on the Museum's historic trolley cars. It is made possible by a grant from the Washington County Community Foundation. Betsie Trew, the Foundation's President, made remarks and unveiled a plaque honoring their support.

David & Kathryn Black Trolley Canopy: This canopy provides weather protection for Museum visitors waiting for their trolley and is a key architectural element along Volunteer Blvd. The canopy is supported by 1935 vintage "tee" columns which came from the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad's Pittsburgh Station (now Station Square) and were donated by Station Square/Forest City Trust with help from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. David & Kathryn Black and the Fairbanks-Horix Foundation provided financial support for this project. Kathryn Black made remarks and then she and David unveiled a plaque recognizing their support.

Falconi Plaza is dedicated to the late Angelo Falconi, uncle of Museum President Ed Morascyzk. The Plaza includes a landscaped seating wall, a working street clock, an antique fountain that was once at Angelo Falconi's house, an antique streetlamp, and a 40-foot flagpole. Flowers were planted by volunteers from the Penn State Master Gardeners program. Ed Morascyzk remarked that this plaza is a nice addition and will serve as a focal point at the east end of Volunteer Blvd. The Falconi family funded this project, and Ed's grandchildren turned on the fountain at the ceremony.

The Christopher Golofski Memorial Gazebo: This gazebo is dedicated to Chris Golofski, past Museum President, and long-time volunteer, who was a big supporter of this project in its early stages. This structure will be a wonderful focal point at the west end of Volunteer Boulevard that will be used for concerts and other events. It has been funded by a grant from the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency and many private

donations. The ribbon was cut by Rose Golofski, Chris' widow, with many family and friends in attendance.

Work is well underway to complete the 21,000 square-foot Welcome & Education Center as well as other related improvements. When these projects are completed, they will be opened to the public. These projects provide an immersive experience for our visitors as they relive the Trolley Era. Said Morascyzk of this project, "we are celebrating turning dreams into reality. For a quarter of a century, the Museum has dreamed of a multi-faceted East Campus. When completed, this experience will truly catapult the Museum to regional and national prominence."

The generous support from our donors and volunteers has allowed the Museum to expand and improve upon its reputation as a nationally significant transportation museum as well as a unique heritage and tourism attraction for southwestern Pennsylvania. This development will benefit our community through more interactive exhibits, educational opportunities, special events, and a chance to learn about the significance of the Trolley Era. "We broke ground not that long ago and have gotten a lot done since then," said Scott Becker, Executive Director, and CEO. "We are constantly evolving here at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum."