



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2023

Contact: Steve Thomas
sthomas@easttroyrr.org
414-702-6257

East Troy Railroad Museum Receives \$10,000 Grant from John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust

Grant will help with the restoration of South Shore Car 107

EAST TROY, WI – April 20 – The East Troy Railroad Museum is pleased to announce that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust to help return Chicago South Shore & South Bend Car 107 to the operating roster.

The East Troy Railroad intends to return Car 107 to a mobile classroom, with the ability to easily convert the car to a third dining car. The \$10,000 grant from the Emery Trust will go toward the educational components needed, including upgrades to meet ADA requirements.

Car 107 is a passenger combine, a car that includes a small compartment at one end for baggage and freight. The car was built by the Pullman Company in 1926. Like many of the original South Shore cars, Car 107 was cut in half and lengthened during World War II to increase seating capacity. The car ran on the South Shore Line until the early 1980s. It was acquired in 2010, when the National Park Service transferred ownership of five former South Shore cars to the East Troy Railroad Museum.

“Restoring Car 107 is part of a larger educational project underway in partnership with the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Park,” says Ward Komorowski, president of the East Troy Railroad Museum. “We are working jointly to develop an educational curriculum and lesson plans focusing on electrical power generation, including how electricity can be efficiently transformed into motion. The curriculum has been designed to comply with STEAM requirements in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois.”

New energy-related interactive educational displays will also be developed for the East Troy Depot, with help from a previous grant from the We Energies Foundation. That grant has helped pay for new energy efficient windows and an HVAC system to be installed this spring.

“We have always been an organization devoted to history and heritage,” noted Komorowski. “Now we will also be able to offer interactive educational programs and displays that help children learn about electricity and transportation while also experiencing an electric interurban railroad firsthand.”

- MORE -

The Emery Trust donation adds to significant funds that were donated for the restoration of Car 107 by Alice and Steve Rudolph, who are active members of the East Troy Railroad Museum, as well as donations by the Baird Foundation and Robert W. Baird & Company's Angeletti Group. The Museum anticipates that additional funds will be required to complete this project. If you would like to contribute toward this restoration effort, toward development of our educational curriculum, or toward other projects at the East Troy Railroad Museum, please visit our website at easttroyrr.org. Or send a check to the East Troy Railroad Museum at P.O. Box 943, East Troy, WI 53120. The East Troy Railroad Museum is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

About the Emery Trust: John H. Emery established the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust specifically to fund restoration projects that can help re-create and preserve the rail passenger experience as it was in the U.S. from approximately 1920 through 1960. The Grant to the East Troy Railroad Museum is one of 19 grants awarded to railroad museums and historical societies in 2023. The Trust has awarded more than 120 grants since 2015, including a 2020 grant to the East Troy Railroad Museum to support the restoration of Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee passenger car 761, which was completed and returned to service in 2021.

About the East Troy Railroad Museum: The East Troy Railroad Museum operates 14-mile round trip train rides from its historic East Troy depot and museum to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago, with a stop at the popular Elegant Farmer store and deli. We are celebrating 116 years of riding the rails through Southeast Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine countryside. Our not-for-profit museum is operated, maintained and managed by over 150 volunteers dedicated to engaging visitors in the heritage of electric interurban railways and trolley systems through restoration, preservation and operation of historic Equipment.

For more information, visit www.easttroyrr.org or call 262.642.3263.

#

Photo caption if included photo is used:

The East Troy Railroad Museum intends to restore South Shore Car 107, shown here in 2010, to operating status over the next couple of years. The interior will be completely restored while the exterior will need a little clean-up as well.