



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **East Troy Railroad Museum Announces Plans to Restore NS #761 and SS #6**

*Work is already underway to return historic cars to operating condition*

EAST TROY, WI – January 17, 2020 – Volunteers at the East Troy Railroad are working to bring two historic interurban railroad cars back into operating condition. Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee Car 761 ran on the North Shore Line between the Loop in Chicago and downtown Milwaukee from 1930 to 1963. Chicago South Shore and South Bend Car 6 ran on the South Shore Line between Chicago and South Bend, Indiana from 1926 to 1983.

“Restoring both of these cars is a priority for us, each for a different reason” said Ryan Jonas, President of the East Troy Railroad Museum. “We depend on our South Shore fleet to run our popular special event trains, like the Bunny Trains and Christmas Trains. South Shore Car 6 will give us a backup in case one of the other South Shore cars needs repairs. We want Car 761 back in service so we can showcase another interurban car with Wisconsin history. Our historic railroad runs on the only remaining electric interurban track in the state.”

The East Troy Museum acquired Car 761 from a Michigan museum in 2001 and started initial work to restore the car soon afterward. Volunteers replaced the roof, had new doors made, and purchased fabric to reupholster the seats. Efforts ground to a halt when volunteers discovered structural deterioration on the north end of the car. When a qualified welder joined the volunteer team in East Troy, the Board agreed that it was time to restart the restoration work.

Car 6 came to the museum in 2010 via the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (now Indiana Dunes National Park). When the South Shore Line’s original 1920s-era cars were replaced by new equipment in 1982 and 1983, a Congressman serving northern Indiana worked to pass a bill to transfer the retired cars to the Park Service. The goal was to establish a museum at Indiana Dunes. Four of the stops on the South Shore Line are at stations in or near the dunes. When the planned museum failed to gain funding, the retired cars were transferred to several other museums. The East Troy Railroad received five of the cars, including Car 33, which was restored to service in 2016.

Car 6 needs to have its wheels and trucks refurbished, needs two traction motors rebuilt, needs its seats reupholstered, needs new flooring, some rewiring, and much cosmetic work to restore its appearance. The pantographs above the car must be removed and replaced by trolley poles, so the car can run on the East Troy Railway. A new canvas roof will also be installed.

In addition to the structural work, Car 761 needs body work, needs to be repainted inside and out, needs new flooring, needs the seats reupholstered, needs the electrical system cleaned, repaired and tested, needs the brake lines reinstalled to both control stands, needs new doors and new glass installed on the south end of the car, and needs the stairways reinstalled on both ends.

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A GoFundMe page has been set up for people who would like to support the restoration efforts. A link to the page is posted on the East Troy Railroad Museum's web page at [easttroyrr.org](http://easttroyrr.org), or you can find it at: [charity.gofundme.com/ss-car-6-and-ns-car-761-restoration](http://charity.gofundme.com/ss-car-6-and-ns-car-761-restoration).

You may also send a check payable to the East Troy Railroad Museum to:

East Troy Railroad Museum  
P.O. Box 943,  
East Troy, WI 53120.

Write "Cars 6 and 761" on the memo line to indicate your support for these cars.

We can also receive gifts of common stock, which allows a donor to take a deduction of the value of the stock, while avoiding the capital gains associated with selling the stock themselves.

All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt. The East Troy Railroad is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural institution.

If you have more time than money, we'd love to have you join us as a new volunteer. Our maintenance facility across from the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago is heated, has an inspection pit for working underneath the cars, and has a wood shop and metal shop. We can use your skills and will train you for work you might be interested to try. Please visit [easttroyrr.org/volunteer](http://easttroyrr.org/volunteer) to download a Volunteer Application today!

**About Us:** The East Troy Railroad Museum operates regular 14-mile round trip excursions from its historic East Troy depot and museum to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago, with a stop at the popular Elegant Farmer store and deli. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation run by 130 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](http://www.easttroyrr.org) or call 262.642.3263.

*Captions for Photos Attached:*

1. Chicago South Shore & South Bend Car 6 is pictured on its trip to East Troy in 2010. Credit: East Troy Railroad Museum archives. (The car is orange)
2. Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Car 761 in Chicago in its "Silverliner" paint scheme. Credit: Gordon E. Lloyd Transportation Library. (The car is silver)