

MATA Welcomes Brown to the Board



The MATA Board of Directors has a new member – but he's not new to the trolleys. In fact, Travis Brown rode the M-Line on its very first day of service in 1989.

"I was a kid, and my dad took me to the opening day," he recalls. "There was a parade, a festival and live music... everything. It was a big deal!"

Brown is a Dallas attorney with Thompson Coe, where he became a partner in 2016. In connection with his practice, he frequently handles appellate matters before state and federal courts.

But he never lost his interest in the M-Line – and in recent years, that interest has grown.

"I work downtown, and my office overlooks I-345 [an elevated section of highway that some have advocated rebuilding at grade-level]. The whole civic discussion that it sparked piqued my interest, and I became fascinated by urban planning," he says. He now describes urbanism as his hobby, which led him to a renewed interest in transit. In addition to taking DART Rail to work every day, Brown often hops the M-Line during the day and rides for a loop while reviewing documents or preparing a brief.

"It's a great working break from the office," he says. "Some people go to Starbucks; I go to the M-Line. So being on the board of directors is an honor and a perfect fit." Brown was appointed to the board in December.

Uptown is a Boom Town

The urban landscape surrounding the M-Line continues to grow. And in at least one case, the M-Line is getting a little name recognition.

Trammell Crow's new 20-story apartment tower – named the M-Line Tower – is coming on line this summer, with a wait list already beginning to fill up. The 20-story tower will have 261 residential units and 13,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. Café Express, which originally occupied the site, will take up part of the ground floor.

The M-Line Tower sits right across Bowen Street from MATA's existing car barn – and a cool name-check isn't all that the M-Line is getting. As part of the project, developer Trammell Crow donated a new 60-foot streetcar bay that can house up to two cars, as well as 670 square feet of office space. The new spaces will augment MATA's current facilities.

Another 20-story apartment tower, One Uptown, was constructed at McKinney and Boll. Residents are already beginning to move into the strikingly designed building that includes 198 luxury rental units and 18,000 square feet of restaurant and retail.

And that's not all that's happening along McKinney Avenue. Directly across the street from One Uptown, an 18-story apartment tower will rise at the current site of the Idle Rich pub. The building, which will resemble New York's Flatiron Building, will have underground parking, a restaurant on the ground floor and a fitness center on the second floor. The 110 residences will be high-end rental units. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2018.



Photo: John Landrum, MATA VP, McKinney Ave. 1990(s)

On the Trolley with Dotty Griffith

Grab a glass of wine and join us On the Trolley with Dotty Griffith for a private reservation on Thursday, March 23rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.!



Dotty Griffith, the former Food Editor and Restaurant Critic for the Dallas Morning News, will be hosting this private Charter, sharing Texas tales and insights into her *Enchilada Queen Cookbook*, and *Texas Holiday Cookbook 2nd Edition*, so you won't want to miss out on what she'll be bringing to the table!

We'll be starting the reservation from our Uptown Station (2700 Cityplace West Blvd. Dallas, TX 75204) where we'll be serving beer and wine to our attendees starting at 5:45 p.m., and departing the station at 6:00 p.m.

From there we'll be making a full loop around our M-Line tracks, making a few stops along the way, including one at our Klyde Warren Park stop, for Savor Gastropub to deliver some special appetizers to our riders!

Upon arriving back at our Uptown Station at 7:00 p.m., Dotty will be holding a book signing and will have *The Enchilada Queen*, and *The Texas Holiday Cookbook 2nd Edition*, for sale.



You won't want to miss out on this fun filled event with Dotty and keep in mind that all of the ticket purchases for this event goes directly back into operational funding to keep our M-Line services FREE!

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and you can purchase your tickets for On the Trolley with Dotty by clicking this link here; <http://bit.ly/2mK4mMv>

We hope to see y'all there!