



M-Line

Newsletter :

April





Become a Friend of the M-Line

The M-Line is a recognizable symbol of Uptown and downtown Dallas, and we're growing to become an even bigger part of Dallas' pulse – but amid our expansion, we still have bills to pay and maintenance costs to meet. Much of our operational budget comes from riders like you, and that's why we're inviting you to make a tax-deductible donation and become a valued supporter of MATA.

We offer opportunities for volunteering; nearly any talent or skill you have likely can be pressed into service. We also have openings for motormen, in both volunteer and paid capacities.

In addition, we welcome enterprising souls who would like to assist us in forming an official "Friends of" organization. Stay tuned for

Fresh New Faces

The latest addition to the M-Line's rolling stock is named Betty, and she's been in regular rotation since early March.

Keep your eyes peeled for the 83-year-old trolley car, which has a long Dallas pedigree. If you happened to live in Dallas 60 years ago, you may have even seen her before. From 1929 through the mid-1950s, Betty plied virtually every route of the Dallas streetcar system.

After the streetcar system shut down in 1956, Betty found new life as a playhouse for the family of Ben and Betty Carpenter – whose family spread was the land that now comprises Las Colinas. For many years, it had a starring role in a Wild West mock-up town on the Carpenter family's ranch that also included a general store, jail and saloon. Betty Carpenter, of course, is the trolley car's namesake.

In 1994, Ben Carpenter donated the car to the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority. Today, while her restoration features historically accurate appearance and finishes, Betty also has special resilient wheels to provide a smoother, quieter ride; double-thick flooring; and motor-assisted braking that results in gentler starts and stops. Of course, she's air-conditioned. Betty is the best of both worlds: an authentic, vintage streetcar with the comforts of a modern rail car.

Meanwhile, MATA is completely refurbishing an as-yet-unnamed car that we acquired last year in Belgium. It's currently at a fabrication vendor in Dallas, where a new door is being installed. Next, we will paint it, put in new seating and add air conditioning. Look for it to be plying the M-Line sometime later this year – probably by September.

more information as it develops. To contact us, call 214.855.0006 or visit mata.org.



Make the Big Connection

The M-Line is not only the perfect way to trundle up and down McKinney Avenue, it's your connection to the entire DART Rail System. It also connects with the new D-Line bus shuttle providing service to the Main Street District, Bishop Arts District and beyond. And when the new extension opens connecting to DART's St. Paul station, your options will multiply, including light rail service to 10 cities, plus commuter rail service to Fort Worth and Denton.

The M-Line is an integral part of our regional transit system. To plan a trip, check out the DART Trip Planner at tripplan.dart.org.



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Extended Engagement

The extension of the M-Line is continuing apace. As of now, opening of the extension is still under planning.

This first section will branch off the main line and run the length of Olive Street to Federal Street, a couple of blocks from DART's St. Paul Station. This construction is being conducted by MATA, and it will take the M-Line straight through the heart of the Dallas Arts District.

By the end of 2014, the second phase of our expansion will be complete, linking the Olive Street segment to our current terminus in a continuous loop. DART is conducting this second part of the extension using federal "urban circulator" funds.

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