

## M - Line Trolley News

March 3, 2014



### On the Mend

---

MATA Chief Operating Officer John Landrum is on the mend after a serious car accident in August. The collision happened on a rural road outside Paris, Texas, where John owns property. A truck broadsided his vehicle at about 60 mph. John's injuries were extensive, including two cracked vertebrae, 12 broken ribs, a broken

pelvis, punctured lungs, a broken ankle and a head injury that caused his brain to swell. At Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, he was kept in a drug-induced coma for many days and was listed in critical condition for weeks.

As well as being deeply concerned for John's well-being, we at MATA were challenged to carry on in his absence. To say John is indispensable is an understatement. Through most of the M-Line's history – acquiring and restoring new cars, expanding service and becoming an iconic fixture in Uptown Dallas – his fingerprints have touched nearly every detail. If he's not in Brussels acquiring a heritage streetcar trolley car, he's in the car barn restoring one. Or he's putting his engineering background to use by designing the one-of-a-kind turntable that lights up Cityplace Station.

Aside from his ubiquitous contributions to the M-Line, John is a knowledgeable mentor, a steady presence and an all-around class act who is much beloved by the MATA family and many others. During his eight-week stay in the hospital, he received correspondence from well-wishers throughout the world – many from the world of heritage streetcars.

It is with great relief that we report that John's recovery, while hardly complete, is well ahead of the schedule envisioned by his doctors. His primary physician predicted that John would be out of the hospital by mid-December, but John beat that time frame by nearly two months. John is undergoing physical therapy and works three half-days a week at MATA. He plans to increase his workload steadily over the first few months of the new year.

Welcome back, John.



## Become a Member – or a Motorman!

---

Would you enjoy meeting people from around the world? How does operating a 100-year-old trolley grab you?

The McKinney Avenue Transit Authority has openings for motormen, in both volunteer and paid capacities. It's a unique way to have fun and become part of the Uptown community and the MATA family. As always, you can also become a member of MATA by making a tax-deductible donation.

Be part of living history. Learn a fascinating new craft. Interact with tourists and locals. And above all, help keep this Dallas institution rolling! Become part

of our M-Line family. For more information on employment, volunteering and membership opportunities, visit [mata.org](http://mata.org). Your text caption goes here

## Extended Engagement

---

The Olive Street Extension is nearly complete, and it should be operational sometime this spring. The extension 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. Most of the infrastructure is already in place, and the overhead lines are being strung. By the end of 2014, the second "downtown circulator" phase of our expansion will be complete, linking the Olive Street segment to our current terminus in a continuous loop.



## Taking Stock of Rolling Stock

---

In the car barn, new acquisitions are being groomed for service and an old friend is receiving a makeover.

Car 754, originally built 84 years ago for Dallas Railway and Terminal, spent many years as a playhouse for the grandchildren of local luminary Ben Carpenter. It is nearly restored and has been given a name: Betty.

While historically accurate in appearance and finishes, Betty features special resilient wheels to provide a smoother, quieter ride. The flooring is double-thick, and motor-assisted braking will result in gentler starts and stops.

Of course, it's air-conditioned. Car 754 is the best of both worlds: an authentic, vintage streetcar with the comforts of a modern rail car. She will begin making test runs in January and be put into service by summer.

Another new acquisition, simply known as #7169 (or "the Brussels car" in honor of her provenance) is being outfitted with an additional set of doors and is expected to hit the rails by the end of the year.

And Petunia, who had one of her ends clipped off by a cement truck (luckily, no one was hurt) is being fully restored to better-than-ever condition and should be back in action by April.

All told, by this summer, MATA will have a rolling stock of six cars — the most in its history.

*Copyright © 2014 McKinney Avenue Transit Authority, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website [mata.org](http://mata.org).

**Our mailing address is:**  
McKinney Avenue Transit Authority  
3153 Oak Grove Ave  
Dallas, TX 75204

[Add us to your address book](#)