RAILVOLUTION
SALT LAKE CITY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2005
KEITH JONES
If They Can Build a Streetcar Line in Arkansas
What We Built

• **2.5 miles of track and overhead power**
• **11 Platforms**
• **3 Replica Streetcars**
• **Trolley Barn**
• **Cost: $20 million** ($8 million/mile)
What We Are About to Add

- Phase 2
- 4500’ of Double Track
- Connect to Clinton Presidential Library
- 2 More Streetcars
Central Arkansas Transit Authority
49 Peak Pullouts
15 Paratransit Vans
$10 million annual operating budget
NO DEDICATED FUNDING
What Has Happened So Far

- Opened November 1, 2004
- Ridership Exceeded Projections
  - 180,000 through August 30, 2005
  - 15 to 20,000 per month
- Widespread public enthusiasm
- Catalyst for continued redevelopment of two downtowns
- Tourism multiplier
- Diverse local ridership
- Event enhancer
- Connect the cities
1997 Feasibility Study

Project Goals

- **Tourism/Economic Develop.**
- **Convention Visitors**
- **Support Arena Events**
- **Attract a Downtown Population**
- **Revive Historic Connection to Streetcars**
Connecting The Cities
Community Enthusiasm
Community Enthusiasm

**River Rail Trolley marks its 50,000th rider**

By Jake Sandlin

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

The River Rail trolley has passed the 50,000 passenger milestone just one week after the line was extended to the Clinton Presidential Center.

Two new 860,000 dollar streetcars are on order, according to the city of Little Rock. The first streetcar will cost approximately $650,000, and the second will cost approximately $450,000.

The extension to the Clinton Presidential Center will provide a direct link to the city's downtown area and the Arkansas State Capitol.

**Reunion with family makes drive sweeter for trolley operator**

By Jake Sandlin

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

When River Rail trolley driver Nelson Bensley drove to Arkansas to see his family, he decided to take a different route: the new electric trolley, that winning fact not just part of the job.

Bensley, an electrician who works for the city of Little Rock, has been working on the trolley for two years and said he enjoys driving the trolley.

The trolley was launched in 2009 and is currently running between the Clinton Presidential Center and the Little Rock Central Terminal.

**With 100,000 riders under belt, River Rail is reaching new heights**

By Jake Sandlin

Monday, May 23, 2009

River Rail is celebrating its 100,000th passenger milestone, reaching a new high point in ridership.

The line has been operating since 2007 and has seen an increase in ridership each year.

**Streetcars**

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The city of Little Rock has approved the purchase of four new streetcars for the River Rail trolley system, bringing the total number of streetcars to six.

The new streetcars will be delivered in 2010 and will be used to increase service and accommodate future growth.

**Get U.S. out of WTO**

It has been reported recently that the Department of Commerce is considering withdrawing the United States from the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The WTO is an international organization that was created to promote economic growth and open trade.

The withdrawal could have significant implications for the U.S. economy and international relations.
Historic Connection

Last Streetcar Run – 12/24/1947

First Streetcar Run – 10/28/2004
The Why and the How
Part of Vision for Downtown Renaissance

- Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines
- Mayor Patrick Hays of North Little Rock
- Mayor Jim Dailey of Little Rock
Primary Anchors

- Alltel Arena
- Convention Center
- River Market
SECONDARY ATTRACTIONS
Little Rock
Secondary Attractions
North Little Rock
Planning & Community Input

- Design By Walking Around
How was the Project Funded?

• Federal government provided 80% of the funding we needed from three sources.
  • Approximately half of federal funding came from New Starts and remainder garnered from Flexed STP and TEA 21 HPP funds.
• Local funding comprised 20% raised by Pulaski County, Little Rock and North Little Rock.
Total Cost

- $20 million (<$8 million per mile)
- Included design, purchase of 3 cars, trolley barn or maintenance facility, 2.5 miles of track and accompanying overhead electrical wiring.
- Received a supplementary appropriation of $2 million for streetscape with grants from Livable Communities and TCSP earmarks.
Streetcars

- Built by Gomaco Trolley Company in Ida Grove, Iowa
- Double truck Birney replicas
- Trucks and controllers used for years in Milan, Italy
- Each car handicapped accessible with step well wheelchair lifts
- Air conditioning and heating in all cars
- 45.5 feet long and 8 feet 10 inches wide
- Constructed at $800,000 each
Supporting Economic Development

- Over $10 billion has been spent by public and private entities in last decade to ensure two cities have bright future
- Over 300,000 visitors in Little Rock since opening of Clinton Library
- Developments over $80 million announced in first 6 months
- Last Month
  BallPark in NLR: $28 million
New mixed-use development slated for downtown

Filling in the gaps

By R.J. Langley

"Condos and store-fronts to replace former skate park, police substation on Main." "What say you, Mr. Wilson?"

"Yes, I'm sure. We're talking about the project and the Main Street Historic District."

"I'm fine with that. I think the project will be good for the neighborhood."

By the way, the project will be close to the skate park."
Conclusion

• **Streetcars are bringing character back to our cities.**
  — Connecting with our past.
  — Providing a unique, leisurely, comfortable mode of transportation.
  — Strengthening sense of community.
Thank You

Questions?

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