



Museum of the American Railroad
Educational Programs & Outreach

Stream-Liner

Science • Technology • Railroading • Engineering • Arts • Mathematics

Immersion Experience Classrooms...on a Train!

A New Life and a New Purpose for a Timeless Design: Metra's Highliners Arrive in Frisco

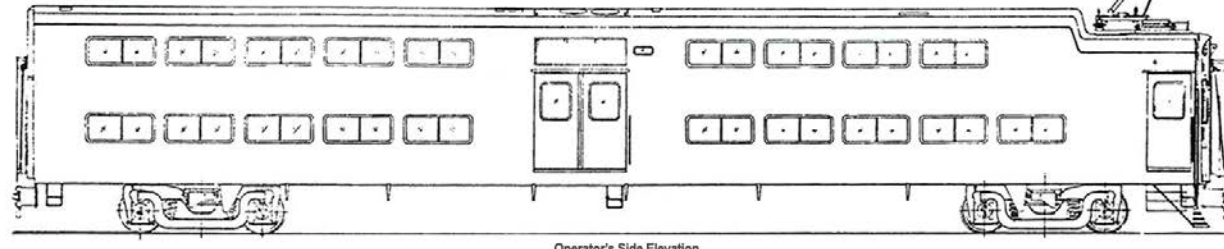
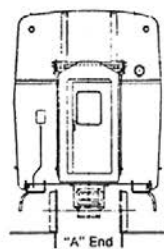


For over four decades Chicagoans lived, worked, and played by the comings and goings of these commuter cars. They lived, and in many cases scheduled their lives by the movement of trains on Chicago's Metra Electric District. While the line through south Chicago is busier than ever, the 1970s-era "Highliner" bi-level commuter cars have reached the end of their careers.

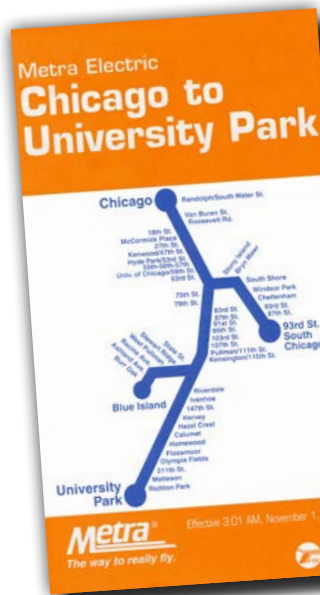
The "Highliners" were built by the St. Louis Car Company for the Illinois Central Railroad, original operator of the line between downtown Chicago, University Park, and 93rd Street. The line was conveyed to Metra in 1987 during formation of Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority. The cars served another 28 years under Metra, with an average of 1.4 million miles and 3.2 million passengers each before retirement in 2015.



The cars, officially known as bi-level EMUs (Electric Multiple Unit), have 156 seats each, with 92 on the lower level and 64 seats on the upper level galleries. The term "Highliner" was applied when the first of these cars were delivered in 1971. They are divided into two sections, with center-entry doors. This arrangement makes them ideal for use as immersion experience classrooms.



With the generosity and support of Metra, the Museum acquired ten of the cars through a public offering of the retired 166-car fleet. These are the survivors, having escaped the scrapper's torch to tell their stories and provide unique and inspiring space for the presentation of Museum programs.



The Metra cars join the Museum's nationally recognized collection of historic rail cars and locomotives, but more importantly, they will provide inside climate-controlled space for

educational programs. Stretching a total of 850 feet in length, the ten cars will be arranged on one of the Museum's display tracks and become a destination within the Museum.

The entire train is now dubbed *Stream-Liner*, drawing on the popular railroad term as an acronym for Science, Technology, Railroading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Each car will be outfitted according to subject, and create space that enables museum educators to build trust and engage the interest of students quickly, making the most efficient use of their visit.

Two "Highliners" will be preserved in their original configurations. The eight remaining cars will receive modifications to facilitate educational programs, special events, and community activities. In addition to hosting individual instruction by

Museum education staff, select cars will receive audio visual enhancements, differentiated digital learning stations, and interactive exhibits. The *Stream-Liner* will be one of the most unique and inspiring places of learning in North Texas. With the help of Metra's Electric Division and BNSF Railway, the Museum of the American Railroad is proud to preserve an important aspect of cultural history and urban life. At the same time, the cars will be repurposed and continue their role in public service.

