Welcome Executive Director Josh Hoaby
Railroad Reality Day
MTM Information Technology Updates
Just For Fun: Toyland Monorail
Archiving at MTM
Call for Board Nominations 2024
Welcome from Josh

Hello MTM Members and Families,

My family and I are so excited to join the MTM community! As I am continuing to learn more and more about MTM and all of its amazing members and volunteers who keep this place running, I thought it would be great to share a few things about myself.

My wife, Danielle, and I have been married for 12 years and have three awesome boys. Brock (11), Elijah (10) & Bear (5) and are neck deep in this year's hockey season. We enjoy and value our family time together which include summer lake time, walks around local parks and trails and now..TRAIN RIDES!!

My wife and I both grew up in Minneapolis/St. Paul area and are proud to continue to live and invest in our communities. We are thrilled to be part of the MTM team and are ready to continue to learn, entertain and educate ourselves and our community about this great organization.

Ride on,

Josh Hoaby

Visiting information

Wednesday  10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Admission $7 to $11.

Saturday  10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Admission $9 to $15

Saturday activities feature 20 minute train rides which is included in the admission fee

On the cover:

Santa’s back for another season of greeting kids of all ages to the Jackson Street Roundhouse.

Warren Plaisance
Railroad Reality Day 2023

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this year’s event a great success! It was a beautiful day for our guests to get a sample of what it’s like to work on the railroad. Our guest got a sample of what it's like to be involved in our restoration, equipment maintenance, our metalsmiths, and being on the railroad crew.

Thank you to all of those of you that participated and all of our volunteers that make this event possible.

If you missed today's event and would like to volunteer at the Minnesota transportation museum. Please contact us at:

volunteer@trainride.org

Scott’s Perspective

MTM Friends,

Once again it is time to announce my retirement. Thank you all for the amazing experience of being at the helm of MTM these past few years. It has been the most unique and interesting position I could have imagined. Working with each of you has been an honor.

As I leave, I wish more had been accomplished, such as a new roof on the roundhouse. That turned out to be a heavy lift! Fortunately, and with your help, we have put the building blocks in place. We have enough resources to get the project started, and we can be optimistic about some of the pending funding requests that we have made. I am seriously optimistic that this can be accomplished over the next couple of years.

I am also thrilled with the success of the railway and Jackson Street events. Of course, our incredibly skilled volunteers have given our railway equipment a polished look and major restorations are still underway. The Gritty Palace and the James J. Hill A18 will be showpieces of MTM for decades to come.

(Continued on next page)
Together we have made progress, and I hope to continue adding to that progress as a volunteer working side by side with you. There is always more to come!

As I leave, I want to congratulate and offer best wishes to Josh Hoaby, your new executive director. I have had the pleasure of working with Josh over the last couple of weeks. He brings a fresh and energetic perspective that I know will continue the progress and success of MTM. Please give Josh your support and get to know him.

Thank you again for your friendship and collegiality. I look forward to that continuing once the winter snow disappears. For the next couple of months, I will be sending you warm wishes from a sunny climate.

Happy Holidays,

Scott

Grants Update

As the year ends, there is good news to report on the grants front. According to outgoing executive director, Scott Hippert, the Minnesota Historical Society has given final approval to the two grants approved by the Minnesota Legislature earlier this year. These include $100,000 for restoration of the GN 1096 passenger coach and $100,000 for updated plans and designs for the roundhouse restoration project.

In addition, the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation has just approved a grant award of $75,000 that will go towards the roundhouse roof replacement project. Still pending is a $300,000 request to the Minnesota Historical Society for that same purpose. If approved, replacement of the roof on Bay D will begin in the spring.

Other pending grants include a $100,000 request to the Hardenbergh Foundation for general operations support and a request to Toro Corporation for the donation of a small tractor and snow blower for use at Jackson Street.

Support MTM through Give MN

Please consider a donation to MTM during this holiday season. Not only is it a worthwhile and good thing to do, it may even offer you some tax advantages. The easiest and most effective way to give is through MTM’s portal on Give MN. It allows you to choose how your donation may be spent, it keeps an accurate record of your donation, and it provides you with an immediate receipt and acknowledgement.

Some additional encouragement for our board members to donate. Many foundations and corporations require MTM to provide proof that all board members are active financial supporters. Please give as much as you are able, whether that be a large or modest amount. All donations are needed and appreciated.

To give to MTM, please go to Give MN at: https://givemn.org/organization/minnesota-transportation-museum.

Great Northern 1096 Update

Earlier this year you heard a lot of chatter about the restoration of the GN1096 passenger coach. It was sent to a restoration facility in Iowa for evaluation and hopeful restoration. “That plan hit a few snags,” according to Scott Hippert, newly retired former executive director. “However, the snags have been untangled and the 1096 is about to be restored to shining glory,” said Scott.

At present the GN1096 has been delivered by BNSF and the Union Pacific to Railway Service Contractors in Kansas City, Missouri. They will begin restoration work in early January after the treatment plan is approved by the Minnesota Historical Society.
This month there's a few updates from the MTM Information Technology team. Remember, we can be reached at it@trainride.org if you need us for museum IT help.

There is a rail camera installed and working on the north wall outside of the museum. Although it was a challenge to get running, now you can view the BNSF Midway sub on Youtube. Hardware is owned by Northern Transcon Railcams - Otter Tail Channel. MTM provides the Internet connection and the power. You can search youtube for "NTR-OTC St. Paul" or try this link https://www.youtube.com/live/PSIPDB5mSJs?si=Htek_Zfqd8d05h-H

Network infrastructure improvements are coming in early 2024. The ink isn't dry on the deal yet but things are looking great to replace or enhance our network gear (ethernet switches, firewall, wifi). More details when they are finalized...

We need your help in updating our system

In order to maximize this new network infrastructure and to stay up to date for our digital needs, we want to stay ahead of the curve and replace several out of date network servers. It is going to cost in the neighborhood of $2000-3000 and we are asking for your financial partnership to make this switch. Every dollar you can donate to this initiative helps MTM! Please donate at museum.square.site/product/support-the-minnesota-transportation-museum/3 and please email director@trainride.org and add a note that this is for the new server. Without the note, the donations will go into the general fund.

The new server will include many benefits:

- fault-tolerance (can handle a power breaker trip or hard drive failure and keep running)
- backups of all our museum computers
- file storage and sharing of many things: grant documents, event pictures, logs and records, basically anything digital we want to keep
- user management for logins
- security camera storage for longer term retention
- essential network services like DNS, DHCP, NTP (if you're into tech alphabet soup)
- scalable to grow with needs by adding storage later or off-site backup
- run virtual servers like crewsched
- award-winning interface so it's easier for new IT volunteers to get up to speed, very important for long-term stability of our information services.

In order to continue to create an irresistible experience for our visitors, volunteers and staff upgrading our technology in a way that it is working for us and not against us, is a needed step as MTM continues to move forward to educate, inspire, entertain, and engage visitors by sharing the story of Minnesota rail transportation history.

Thank you for supporting your Museum.
- Josh Hoaby and John Radimecky
What is a museum? Some people say it is a place to collect “old” stuff. Some would say it tells stories about history. Others might say it where you can see, read and hear stories about the past. The Mission of the Minnesota Transportation Museum is “To educate, entertain and engage visitors by sharing the story of rail transportation in the Upper Midwest region and how its evaluation shapes our lives, cultures(s), economy, and society.” Part of the Museum’s Vision Statement says “collect, preserve, and provide resources for visitors, researchers, partners, our communities and future generations”.

With the founding of the Museum in 1962, and through changes, direction and locations, the mission and vision remain today. For over 60 years MTM has been a collecting point for both donated and purchased railroad equipment and small archival items. These latter items include everything from railroad match books, individuals service awards, building blue prints, maps, technical manuals/books, photos, uniforms and unique tools to mention a few collectables in our inventory. It became clear in the past year or so that it was time to clean house, while prioritizing and organizing what we have been collecting.

A small group of dedicated volunteers took on the herculean task of getting us organized and following the MTM mission. The group is primarily comprised of 6 people, of which 3 are retired librarians. Who better to have on the team? Added to their experience is the fact that all of the members like railroad history. The first order of business was to agree to follow the MTM Mission. We agreed that from a historical standpoint we should collect items related to the legacy railroads that were key in the development of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. These railroads included: Great Northern (St. Paul and Manitoba); Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific (Milwaukee Railroad); Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern (and it’s predecessors); Northern Pacific; and the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste Marie Railroad (Soo Line). In addition to these legacy railroads there were several short-line, transfer rail lines, logging and mining railroads and roads that touched on a small area of the state. Materials in the collection that regard railroads that never came to Minnesota would be taken out of the collection and offered to an appropriate museum, sold through our gift shop or given to an auction house.

A museum needs to keep their displays interesting and displays turned over to keep visitors returning. The materials in the archive collection are the key source for new displays. The archive group has made significant progress to organizing for this purpose. The group meets every Wednesday morning in its alcove in the MTM basement.

Look for new displays regarding Minnesota railroad history.

Walter, Dave, Barb, Eric, John, and Lea Harp (not pictured) make up the archive dream team.
December MTM Board Meeting

Due the busy schedule everyone has booked in december, the board has decided to cancel their monthly meeting. This next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th, at 6:30 p.m.

Update of Northern Pacific 2156

I thought I should write a post on the front truck work of the 2156 as of now.

And I know that i don't have all who have heard or helped on the project listed so please let me know if others we can include. For instance, Tim N (and I don't know his last name) helped and really made a difference in what was accomplished.

So to date, the pedestals are in place and the boxes are in place. The rear boxes are corrected to the correct lateral. The right front box will get a spacer plate tomorrow hopefully and then we can locate which brass needs to go in which box. It must not overhang the thrust face and properly fit the axle. I have included a drawing from the Santa Fe practice. Please feel free to share this with anyone.

If anyone can help see me at the roundhouse.

Dave Wantz

Jobcorps recent projects include Milwaukee coach and NP 2153. Here’s a couple of photos of their work.
Santa is coming to town!

Preparations are in the final stages as you can see from a few photos I snagged on Wednesday during our regular open hours. Andrew will be providing hot lunches this weekend. - Warren

Please arrive by 9:30 for a crew briefing, park in the back lot. We will be doing soup and sandwiches for lunch again this year. Santa will be arriving at 10:30, rides will begin as soon as the boarding area is cleared.

Greeters and the Ramp traffic will greet people as they enter and point them up the ramp to the ticket office. Ramp traffic will be helped along if you can direct will call tickets (online reservations) to the person who can check them in. (not sure where this will be yet.) Those who need to buy tickets can be directed up the ramp to the ticket window. Santa pictures helpers will be briefed after you arrive but that position will be cashier for Santa only.

I know I'm missing lots, but thank you all so much. This is the biggest event at the Roundhouse, drawing many visitors who return year after year. Our most awesome Santa is back again and pictures are still only $5.

Barb - 651.291.0074 - 651.402.7816

John Cartright and B&J setting up.

The G Scalers are decorated for the season and their ballon is working again! Mickey Yazell was primping a wreath and Barb put up the Christmas tree in the Gritty Palace.
Could this have been your very first train ride?

In the era of online shopping, department stores are but a hazy memory of a bygone era. Even with all the convenience Amazon offers, it’s hard not to feel like we’ve lost something—especially the ceremonial experience of visiting a holiday market. Kids today just don’t get that experience, meaning they also miss out on something many older folks still remember: Riding the overhead monorail at the store.

This may sound familiar if you grew up near one of the roughly 26 stores across the United States that operated such rides around the winter holidays. These “Rocket Express” monorails (as they were often called) were the subject of a recent video by Peter Dibble on YouTube, who cataloged the attractions’ history and propagation.

These monorails were dotted around the U.S. in various department stores and malls starting in 1946, with the introduction of one at a Philadelphia-area store. The ride had been manufactured in part by industrial machinery company Louden, which supplied the overhead rails, while the rolling stock was made by a company calling itself Rocket Express—hence the train’s name.

The monorails were sold or leased to stores, which ran them above their toy departments, giving kids birds-eye views of entire store floors. Also, it let them torment shoppers: they often tossed pennies at them from above, or fired squirt guns at them and sometimes even spit on people. (Kids these days, blah blah blah.)

Approximately 22 to 26 of these rides were operated around the country between 1946 and 2007, when the last known kiddie monorail was retired before the New York mall it ran in was demolished. (The train was preserved in a museum, but doesn’t run any more.) It’s hard to imagine attractions like these disappearing if brick-and-mortar retail hadn’t withered over the last 15 years, owing to an unstable economy and digital retail’s coming-of-age.

I dunno about you, but I’d be willing to give up free shipping to shop somewhere with kids riding a train overhead—even if they’re tossing coins at me. It’s free money, I say.

Donaldson’s downtown Minneapolis fourth floor Toyland featured this children’s monorail scooting overhead from the late 1940’s to the mid 1950’s.
Facebook post from member Jeff Braun - Do you see it?

I won't give it away, let’s see how observant many of you are. What is one thing of note in this photo relevant to recent discussion on this group page?
Unknown photographer, circa 1930, shared by Gary Richard Nelson on his Facebook page.

Thank you pancake breakfast for our volunteers and retirement ceremony for Scott Hippert.

Pictures from the pancake breakfast held Sunday, November 19th. It was well attended and the food was terrific too!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Event Time</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Performers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Winona, Minn.</td>
<td>Amtrak Station, 65 East Mark Street</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Wabasha, Minn.</td>
<td>Gambie Avenue railway crossing by Bruegger Park</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Hastings, Minn.</td>
<td>CPKC Depot, 500 East Second Street</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Cottage Grove, Minn.</td>
<td>South Seiben Bridge, 7064 W Point Douglas Road</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Paul, Minn.</td>
<td>St. Paul Union Depot, 214 E 4th Street</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Golden Valley, Minn.</td>
<td>Railway Crossing at Golden Hills Drive</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Louis Park, Minn.</td>
<td>Railway crossing at the intersection of W. Lake Street and Library Lane</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minn.</td>
<td>Lions Park on 37th Avenue between 37th Avenue and Stinson Blvd</td>
<td>Tenille Townes and Breland</td>
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<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Loretto, Minn.</td>
<td>Hennepin County Road 19 railway crossing</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Buffalo, Minn.</td>
<td>5th Street NE railway crossing</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Annandale, Minn.</td>
<td>West side of Downtown Park over the Harris Street West railway crossing</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:55 p.m.</td>
<td>9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Eden Valley, Minn.</td>
<td>State Street railway crossing (State HWY 22)</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Glenwood, Minn.</td>
<td>CPKC station, 20-15th Street NE</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Alexandria, Minn.</td>
<td>8th Avenue E railway crossing adjacent to Hubbard Feed Mill at 8th and Nokomis</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes, Minn.</td>
<td>Holmes Street railway crossing near Holmes Community Center (826 Summit)</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td>4:20 p.m.</td>
<td>4:20 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Mahnomen, Minn.</td>
<td>West of U.S. 59 and South of E Washington Avenue</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Plummer, Minn.</td>
<td>Main railway crossing on Central Avenue</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>7:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Thief River Falls, Minn.</td>
<td>North of City Hall, 405 3rd Street East</td>
<td>Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter</td>
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2024
MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bylaws changes approved by the membership in 2023 have altered the procedures for seats on the Board of Directors. The board election committee is currently seeking new board members and have included a nomination application at the back of the Semaphore. The current board of directors will select the applicants for seats on the board at the March board meeting.

The Nominating Committee will seek out and solicit candidates from inside and outside the corporation, “who bring special capability, knowledge or resources to the Board”.

Who may nominate?

- MTM members, in good standing, may nominate a candidate, subject to board approval, to the MTM Board of Directors.

- Any member may nominate a person to the Board, including themselves.

Who may be nominated?

- A candidate does not need to be a member of MTM to be nominated.

- We are looking for individuals with skills in management, fundraising, policies and communications and a passion for the organization.

- Candidates do not need to be Minnesota residents.

- Terms are for three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

How do I nominate?

Enclosed in this Semaphore is a nomination form. Complete the nomination form and either email the form to Wayne Merchant:

wayne@trainride.org

or mail the paperwork to:

Minnesota Transportation Museum
Attn: Wayne Merchant
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55130-4319

Applicants may submit nominations at any time during the calendar year. The preference is to seat new board members in March to line up with the previous board members terms.

If you know of someone that you feel would be a great fit for the MTM Board of Directors, please share this application.
Coming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>4/3</td>
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<td>JSR Industrial Archeology 50a</td>
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<td>JSR $5 on the 5th</td>
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<td>OSCV MLT 56 Box Lunch</td>
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<td>8/1/2024 OSCV Milbank SD 56 coach</td>
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<td>10/10/24 OSCVR MLT 54 box lunch</td>
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<td>12/24</td>
<td>0900</td>
<td>JSRTR newbie training</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
<td>0900</td>
<td>JSRTR newbie training</td>
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<td>JSR TR $5 on the 5th</td>
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<td>3/27</td>
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<td>JSR T’nT</td>
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Santa’s Train Shop 12/2 – 12/17/23

12/1 1000 JSR Jack & Jill 15k, 3a gr 1-3
12/2 1030 JSR Boerum b’day
12/9 1030 JSR Wells b’day
1330 JSR Harrison b’day

Santa’s Train Shop 12/6 – 12/22/23

1/3 1030 JSR T’nT
1/17 1030 JSR T’nT
1/20 0900 JSRTR instructor training
1/27 0900 JSRTR crew recert
1330 JSR Lasecke b’day
1/31 JSR $5 on the 5th

2/3 0900 JSRTR newbie training
2/7 1030 JSR T’nT
2/21 1030 JSR T’nT
2/24 0900 JSRTR newbie training

3/6 1030 JSR T’nT
3/27 1030 JSR T’nT

Vol 10 No 12 December 2023
NOMINATION APPLICATION
MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM (MTM)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name____________________________________________________________________
Home Address__________________________________________________________________
Telephone: Home_________________________Work________________________________
Cell________________________ E-Mail____________________________________________
Occupation____________________________________________________________________

Please indicate what volunteer experiences and leadership roles you have had in community,
business, and non-profit organizations:
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Please provide a summary statement of up to 350 words on your vision of serving on the MTM
Board of Directors:
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What else would you like us to know?
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_____________________________________________________________________________
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References:
Name:________________________________________ Phone:__________________________
Name:________________________________________ Phone:__________________________
Name:________________________________________ Phone:__________________________
Name:________________________________________ Phone:__________________________
For the MTM Office: Contact
Board Chairman - Wayne Merchant
wayne@trainride.org

193 Pennsylvania Avenue East
St Paul, MN 55130-4319
Wayne Cell: 612-799-9494

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY USPS MAIL OR EMAIL TO:

MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
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