

Prospectus

Hoosier Traction Meet 2015

32nd year:

On Friday–Saturday, September 11–12 in quiet western Indianapolis, the **HOOSIER TRACTION MEET** is an annual educational conference recognizing mass transportation, especially electrically powered rail-based systems for urban and regional mobility in the past, present and future. Place-specific presentations typically focus on transit in IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, western NY, OH, ON, PA, WV or WI. Discussion of technologies or trends may draw examples from anywhere in North America or beyond. SUGGESTED ATTIRE: Casual or business casual; ties not necessary.

What is the format? The Meet includes two aspects:

- 1 **Exhibition** of items illustrating principles and nature of mass transportation: photos, books, miniature models, timetables, other collectibles. Free Friday 12 NOON–10 PM, Saturday 8 AM–4 PM EDT.
- 2 **Audio-visual presentations** in the 130-seat auditorium: 12 different subjects during two days and evenings (see opposite panel). Live narration, photos, maps. Media and format may vary.

What is the cost for the auditorium sessions? For as full or as relaxed a schedule as you wish: **\$40** at the door (cash, check or money order) covers your admission to any or all sessions (subject to the theatre occupancy limit).

But don't wait, because *the same privileges now are half price by mail*. Please make check or money order for **\$19.50** payable to **Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.** and mail in ample time to **Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634-2837**.

What are the accommodations? Again our location is the *Clarion Hotel*, a no-smoking convention center at 2930 Waterfront Parkway West Dr., Indianapolis IN 46214. The Clarion offers rooms, if you guarantee your reservation with a major credit card or prepay by **August 10**, at a special rate (single or double) of \$72 per night plus tax. Call (317) 299-8400, 8 AM–5 PM EDT weekdays, ask for Group Sales, and mention the *Hoosier Traction Meet*.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From the west leg of I-465, the expressway belt around Indianapolis, take Exit 16A. At the first traffic signal go west onto U. S. 136, then drive 0.4 miles to the second Waterfront Parkway and turn right. The Clarion is in sight across the fields.

Issued May 2015 by Roy G. Benedict, registration manager
For your use en route, please download or print a copy of this page.

2015 auditorium sessions and speakers

Friday–Saturday, September 11–12

- Adjustments are possible. An updated Schedule of Events will be distributed at the Meet's greeter station in the hotel lobby.
- You can personalize your meal breaks by skipping a "prepeat," a "repeat," or another session.
- Sessions typically last 1 to 1½ hours. "Stretch your legs" breaks (about 20 or 30 minutes) between most sessions.
- Last session ends about 11:30 PM Friday, 10:20 PM Saturday.

EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Fr 9:30 AM only: **Toronto's trackless trolleys.** TED WICKSON relates the rôle of the electric bus in Canada's largest city, 1947–1993, plus an overview of similar post–World War II experience in neighbouring Hamilton and Kitchener. Ted has served as Toronto Transit Commission's staff photographer, employee magazine editor, and archivist.

Fr 11:20 AM prepeat, **Fr 3:00 PM** repeat: **Tom Morrow** discusses **Oakwood Street Railway**, one of six companies independently operating streetcars in Dayton (Ohio) and second to convert to trolley buses. Tom focuses on its 41 years of rail operation with about 35 cars.

Fr 1:10 PM prepeat, **Fr 4:50 PM** repeat: **A nostalgic look: Detroit United Railway.** KEN SCHRAMM guides us between Jackson (Mich.) and Port Huron via Detroit, including some streetcar and vintage bus operation, in illustrations from the RICHARD ANDREWS collection.

Fr 6:40 PM only: **Postwar St. Louis.** MARK GOLDFEDER narrates color footage from both inside and outside streetcars including Manchester, Bellefontaine, rural Creve Coeur, and the final Hodiament line.

Fr 8:40 PM only: **Current transit industry news, pt. 1** } Two different
Fr 10:30 PM only: **Current transit industry news, pt. 2** } sessions by
CHARLES H. BOGART on rail-based public transit: its overall state in the US, and its status in individual cities in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Sa 8:30 AM only: **AC/DC traction.** Alternating current propulsion offers efficiencies that were impossible even a few years ago. DARWIN SIMONAITIS describes developments since his talk at the 2008 Meet.

Sa 10:30 AM prepeat, **Sa 2:30 PM** repeat: 27-year transit mechanic, foreman and superintendent TOM McNAMARA, an author and a founder of Cincinnati Transit Historical Association, tells of **Cincinnati streetcars** with emphasis from World War I to 1951. Inclines! Unusual twin trolley wires! Ohio River floods! Routes, car houses, equipment.

Sa 12:30 PM prepeat, **Sa 4:30 PM** repeat: **Pittsburgh Railways interurbans, 1960–2015.** RICHARD W. AARON shows the metamorphosis from interurban remnants of his college days into today's light rail.

Sa 6:30 PM only: **A centennial tribute to George Krambles (1915–1999).** JAMES H. GRAEBNER capsulizes the experiences of a remarkable transit professional: Indiana Railroad freight handler, Chicago Rapid Transit power supervisor, Chicago Transit Authority executive director, 1999 Hoosier Traction Meet speaker, and more!

Sa 6:50 PM only: **Mapping transit.** DENNIS McCLENDON, the principal of Chicago CartoGraphics, does not "tell you where to go" but in this session he reveals how maps of the past and present have "told" you how to get where you are going by streetcar, subway or bus.

Sa 8:50 PM only: **North Shore Line.** TOM JERVAN escorts us along the 90 miles between Milwaukee and Chicago on the west side of Lake Michigan aboard one of the last heavy-duty interurban railways.

EASY MAIL-IN COUPON • COME, PARTAKE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 2015 HOOSIER TRACTION MEET

Your name in the form you prefer on your badge

Postal address

City, state, ZIP code

Email address, if we may use electronic communication in future (please print clearly)

AUDITORIUM ADMISSION TICKETS
 ← How many persons attending any or all auditorium sessions (subject to occupancy limit) **Now 1/2 price preregistration, \$19.50 per person \$**

Names of the others, if more than one person will attend sessions

TABLES FOR YOUR EXHIBIT
 ← How many tables (maximum 3 tables per exhibitor). Please enclose a description of your product line (up to 25 words including your name). Compliant with Indianapolis–Marion County code, Title IV, Chapter 951, Article III, space is not made available to exhibitors for the sale, exchange, or purchase of used or second hand goods. Table price does not include any auditorium admissions. **\$20 per table \$**

Names of the others, if more than one person will staff tables

Prefer table by

Exhibitors need ADA space Need electricity

TOTAL ENCLOSED Mail your registration now for the half price! → \$

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.**

Mail with this coupon to: **Roy G. Benedict 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave. Chicago IL 60634-2837**

Secure accommodations of your choice.

Arrange travel of your choice.

You may want to bring with you a copy of the accompanying information.

Come and enjoy the Meet! You don't need to bring any ticket.

For registrar's use:
Date received:

Amt. paid:
Form of paym't:

Deposit batch:

T
Compare addr. list
Record on addr. list as prereg.

Badge no. B
Pre-validated
Record on exhib. list

More information about the *Hoosier Traction Meet*

Friday and Saturday, September 11–12, 2015

- ★ Historical programs on classic traction
- ★ Presentations about current events
- ★ Exhibits

What is “traction”?

This historical term for rail transit was used both generically and in the corporate title of numerous cities’ street railways. In the Meet’s name it honors an industry which now has served mankind for 183 years.

Who operates the Meet?

Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc. is an Indiana nonprofit public benefit corporation. Its directors are Roy G. Benedict, Charles H. Bogart, James H. Graebner and Dwight Long. William M. Shapotkin arranges the auditorium sessions. Richard K. Baldwin arranges for the venue and manages the exhibition.

The Meet was founded in 1984 by Howard R. Blackburn, a radiologist. To ensure its perpetuation “Doc,” George K. Bradley and Larry R. Zimmerman incorporated it in 1996. It has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501(c)(3) educational organization.

Travel to the Meet

Indianapolis is accessible by Interstate highways **65 69 70 74** and by ✈️ air. 🚆 Amtrak, 🚌 Greyhound and 🚗 Hoosier Ride all reach the downtown Indianapolis Amtrak station. Taxis from there include *Indianapolis Yellow Cab*, (317) 487-7777. Distance to the Meet is under 9 miles.

🚌 Megabus delivers passengers to a downtown stop for 🚗 IndyGo city bus 8 going west to Indianapolis International Airport every 30 minutes in daytime. Going directly to the airport are 🚗 Star of America from Bloomington, Ind., 🚗 Hoosier Shuttle from Fort Wayne, and 🚗 Lafayette Limo.

Major car rental agencies have airport locations. We are 12 miles from the airport via I-70 east and I-465 north. See the accompanying maps. Or, if you have reserved a room at the Clarion, 🚗 a hotel shuttle is available until Sunday noon, except 6 AM–8 AM each day. Call (317) 299-8400 for pickup at the airport. Arrange at the hotel front desk for delivery to the airport.

Eastern Daylight Time is in effect in Indianapolis and most of Indiana. When it’s 4:00 in Indianapolis, it’s 3:00 in Illinois and it’s 4:00 in Ohio.

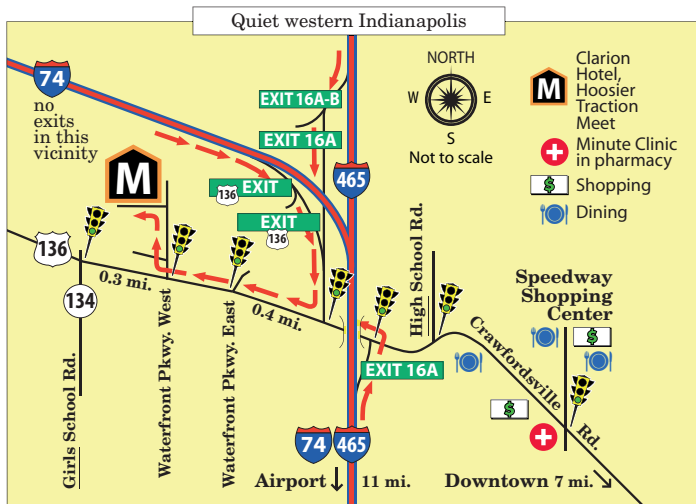


🍴 Dining near the Meet

Join your friends or make new friends and sample restaurants appealing to a variety of palates and wallets. Speedway Shopping Center and its neighbors 1.5 miles from the Meet include an MCL cafeteria (lunch and supper), a 24-hour Denny’s, several other restaurants, supermarkets and pharmacies. See the accompanying map of western Indianapolis.

Within a few miles other dining, shopping and services are plentiful. A full-page map “Near the Meet,” identifying over 50 individual locations, may be included so that you will have it before you arrive in Indianapolis. It also lists several places of transportation interest “not so near.”

The Hoosier Traction Meet welcomes you to Indy!



Thanks to Tom Morrow who hosts this information at trolleybuses.net, and **thank you** for planning to attend this year’s Hoosier Traction Meet!

Register now and your credentials will be ready for you in the Clarion Hotel lobby by 8:30 AM Friday, September 11, or 8 AM Saturday, September 12. If you need a receipt sooner, just say so and we’ll be glad to mail it. The registration manager is: **Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634-2837.**

At the Meet’s greeter station in the hotel lobby

This is where you pick up your admission credentials. A greeter will be present or “on call” 8 AM–10 PM Friday and Saturday. A RED AND YELLOW sign on the table will tell how to contact him if he is not in sight.

We’ll also have printed pages with: (1) “At the Meet,” a diagram of the spaces in the hotel which we usually occupy, and (2) the Meet’s most recent “Schedule of Events” with the times of the auditorium presentations.

And if the expected starting time of individual sessions is rescheduled during the Meet, the greeters will post the information on a table easel.

The “free materials” table near the greeters’ table

Participants often bring printed matter that may interest you. And if you have current or historic mass transportation items surplus to your needs, in any quantity from 1 to 100, feel free to bring them. They may be just what the next person will appreciate! Printed announcements of current or forthcoming relevant events, services or products are welcome.

A few words to exhibitors

- Table availability is limited as we leave wide aisles for visitors to reach your table. Please use the accompanying coupon, first come, first served!
- We provide exhibitors free name badges (not valid for auditorium admission). The hotel drapes the tables. You can pin a name poster to the table skirt.
- Setup begins at 9 AM Friday. Unloading space is directly outside the room.
- First 18 exhibitors: We’ll introduce your products in our guide “At the Meet.” Please enclose a description (up to 25 words including your name).

Electric streetcars in Indianapolis, 1890

Referring to construction of track for mule cars, last year our prospectus noted the 150th anniversary of transit in our host city. This year we recognize another Indianapolis transportation anniversary: On June 18, 1890 the city’s first *electric* streetcars began service on the Illinois Street line, which ran north from Union Station through downtown to 34th Street, then west and north by a zigzag route into the streetcar company’s Fairview Park. During the 125 years since then, mass transit along Illinois Street utilized streetcars for 61 years, briefly trackless trolleys, and today motor buses.

The “small print”

Speakers and subjects have been confirmed. However, Hoosier Traction Meet at its discretion reserves the right to reschedule, substitute or cancel due to circumstances beyond its control. Distributed materials, links, mention of transportation services and nearby enterprises, and contents of exhibits and presentations do not imply endorsement by Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.

For this prospectus in large print

Request it from Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634.

