



eyville seeks to balance today's rebirth of urban rail transit with great modeling news and techniques. We

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CURRENT EVENTS.....

Urban Commuter / Light Rail / Modern Streetcar News!

LOS ANGELES, CA -

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have named Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) Chief Executive Officer Phil Washington as the transportation transition team leader for the Biden-Harris administration. Washington has been CEO of LA Metro since 2015. He manages a \$7 billion budget, is responsible for overseeing \$18 billion to \$20 billion in capital projects and provides oversight of an agency with 11,000 employees that, in a typical year, transports 1.2 million boarding passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 buses and six rail lines.



The team will be responsible for evaluating the U.S. Department of Transportation's operations so that the administration is prepared when Biden and Harris take office on Jan. 20, 2021. In addition, the team will review the National Transportation Safety Board, Amtrak and the Federal Maritime Commission, Biden-Harris team officials said in a press release.

Prior to joining LA Metro, Washington was CEO of the Regional Transportation District of Denver (RTD) from 2009 to 2015. Before that, he served as the agency's assistant general manager for 10 years.

MARYLAND - Progressive Ralroading reported on November 26th that the state of Maryland will pay \$250,000,000 to settle a legal dispute with the private Purple Line Transit Partners, the consortium of contractor firms hired to build the delayed Purple Line, a 16-mile light-rail route that would extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County.

The agreement between the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the partners — Meridiam, Star America and Fluor — settles all outstanding financial claims and terminates the current litigation between the parties regarding the project. As part of the agreement, the Purple Line Transit Partners will proceed with just Meridiam and Star America as public-private developers and equity partners. A formal settlement agreement will go before the state's Board of Public Works (BPW) next month for review and approval, state officials said in a press release issued by Gov. Larry Hogan's office.

"This agreement is a major step toward completing the Purple Line, a transformative project for our state and the region," said Hogan. The settlement ends the state's and the companies' litigation against each other and resolves what the firms said were \$800 million in cost overruns on the project, as reported by the Washington Post.

If approved by the BPW, Meridiam and Star America would initiate a solicitation for a new design-build contractor in coordination with MDOT and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). In the interim, MDOT and MTA will retain oversight of hundreds of contracts and purchase orders to keep the project going.



Purple Line work now underway includes light-rail car manufacturing, bridge work, stormwater drainage, paving, utility and pump station construction.

MDOT and MTA will continue work while also focusing on reducing risks in the upcoming solicitation by completing design, acquiring permits and advancing utility work along the Purple Line corridor, state officials said.

MDOT did not reveal details of the settlement, including how the state will pay for it.

PHILADELPHIA, PA - On November 15th, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) replaced its overnight weekend rail service on the Market-Frankford (below left) and Broad Street (Below right) lines with bus service to enable staff time to thoroughly clean rail stations.

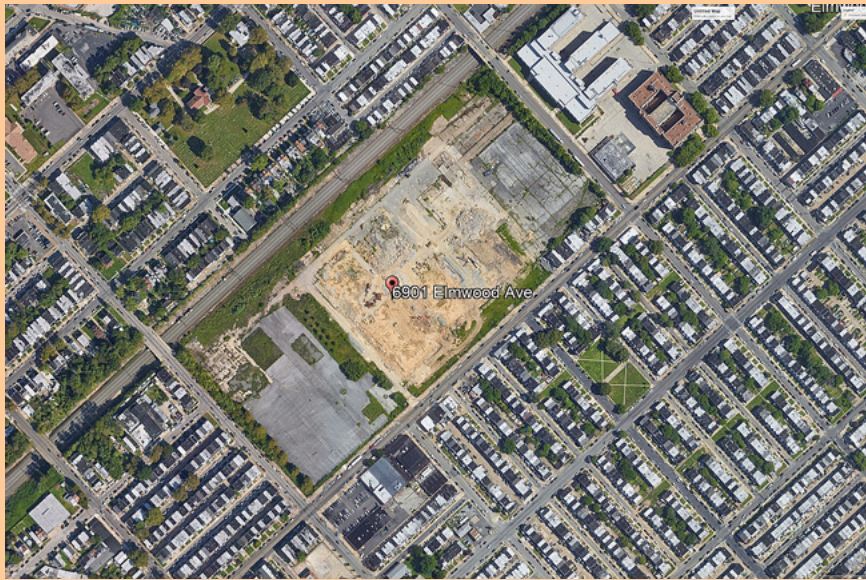


During the switch from rail to buses, full weekend overnight service will still be provided. SEPTA also increased the frequency of its bus routes and make stops at all stations along both rail lines.

With the lines shut down during overnight hours, SEPTA crews will be able to perform concentrated station cleanings, similar to what has been put into place on weekdays during the COVID-19 pandemic, agency officials said in a press release.

Meanwhile, SEPTA will enhance midday local service on the Broad Street Line so that trains run at least every seven minutes.

Tramways & Urban Transit (T&UT) magazine reported in their December 2020 issue that SEPTA is planning a new rail depot at the site of a former GE Plant (*Elmwood Avenue between 67th and 69th Streets, just a few blocks east of the current Elmwood facility*) to replace the Elmwood yard and workshop.



This parcel of land appears to be about 4 times the size of the present Elmwood facility. The current Woodland Heavy Rail Maintenance facility turntable cannot handle a car over 70 feet long. Since there were many dimensional similarities between the 1980s era Toronto CLRV and the Philadelphia Kawasaki cars, both purchased to replace PCC cars, it is not unreasonable to assume that the new Philadelphia cars could be similar to the cars purchased for Toronto. The Toronto Bombardier-built five-section "Flexities", shown below, are over 91 feet long so that facility may need attention or replacement also.



This would make provisions for the possible low-floor articulated cars that could replace the current 112-car fleet of 1981-era Kawasaki cars in about five years, assuming that the current facilities at Elmwood and Callowhill could not be economically converted to support the newer cars.

OTHER TRACTION ITEMS:

Where to get those Fabulous 3D Printed Models from Volkmar Meier!

Since we started telling our readers about the great models from Volkmar Meier, we have had inquiries on how to get those same models:

Currently, there are three places to buy INTERURBAN MODELS!

1. The INTERURBAN MODELS **Facebook Shop** <https://www.facebook.com/InterurbanModels>

Note: You don't need to have a Facebook account to access!

2. The INTERURBAN MODELS section on **Shapeways** <https://www.shapeways.com/shops/interurban>

3. The INTERURBAN MODELS section on **iMaterialise** <https://i.materialise.com/en/shop/designer/interurban>

Why this? Eight years ago, we started our production with two prominent 3D-Providers, iMaterialise and Shapeways. Both have their ups and downs, and the production was split on the two stores. Most of the early production, the CSLRail Sedan and the big wooden Combines, are located at the **iMaterialise Shop**.

The later products are on **Shapeways**. Understandably, 3D providers only sell products that are made in their own factories, and no 3rd party items. Both providers ship worldwide and the shipping price is calculated when checking out.

Two years ago, we started printing with our own machines, and selling also laser cut products. These items are on the **Facebook Shop**. We ship worldwide also, and as today ALL postings have arrived well, even if it took sometimes a week more than usual due to COVID-19 issues. The shipping price is calculated when checking out, before payment. Clients are protected by the PayPal Buyer protection.

We acknowledge that this can be confusing: the HO scale CSL Rail Sedan is available at **iMaterialise**, the N scale car body in the **Interurban Models Facebook Shop**.

We will try to simplify this inherited structure in the future. All new items are produced in-house, and therefore will show up in the Facebook Shop, and some older ones will be changed to in-house printing and move the Facebook Shop also. Next weeks, we will establish a **PDF catalogue** that will list all models and the location where to buy.

For any request, you can contact us by mail at volkmar.meier@wanadoo.fr, orders can be established by mail.

Sincerely,

Volkmar Meier
Interurban Models

Custom Traxx Working another Volkmar Meier LRV model!

Two years ago, Volkmar sent Custom Traxx the first of his Brookville Liberty models. This was a model of one of the seven Oklahoma City (OKC) streetcars. He painted it in the red scheme and Custom Traxx developed some decals for the car. For the record, OKC has new Brookville "Liberty" cars in red, blue and green schemes and Brookville provided the Pantone colors for each one of them. And they are the only LRVs with six digit fleet numbers.



Redbud - 201801, 201802, 201807



Clear Sky Blue - 201803, 201804



Bermuda Green - 201805, 201806

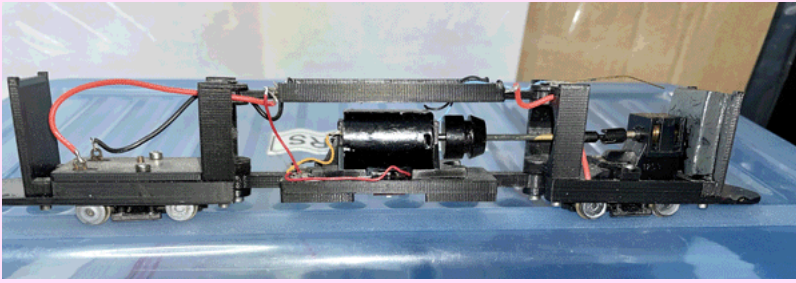
The following Pantone numbers were given to use by Brookville Equipment Corp, who built and painted the cars.

	Front	Middle	Rear
Redbud	232	214	221
Clear Sky Blue	298	7689	301
Bermuda Green	389	375	361

The first model has the motor mounted in the A (cab) unit, which worked but we were concerned with the lack of weight in the B (cab) and C (mid) sections. The second model mounted the motor in the C unit but reversed the power truck to use existing known Bowser components.

The final power arrangement also had the Motor/Flywheel combination mounted in the C unit but permitted the use of Bowser components made to allow the use of a 2mm metal bar between them as shown in the next photo.

We are fortunate enough to have some dynamically-balanced motor-flywheels combinations from scrapped Bowser R-T-R (AFFA-built) PCC cars to use for these LRV prototypes. So we tested the new combination on one of their test chassis shown in the next photo prior to installation in our Dallas car.



We have yet to add the windows but otherwise, our Dallas car is ready to join our Oklahoma City and Detroit Brookville Liberty models for the December Model Train Shows.....*if there were such things!*



Another source of 3D Printed traction shells!

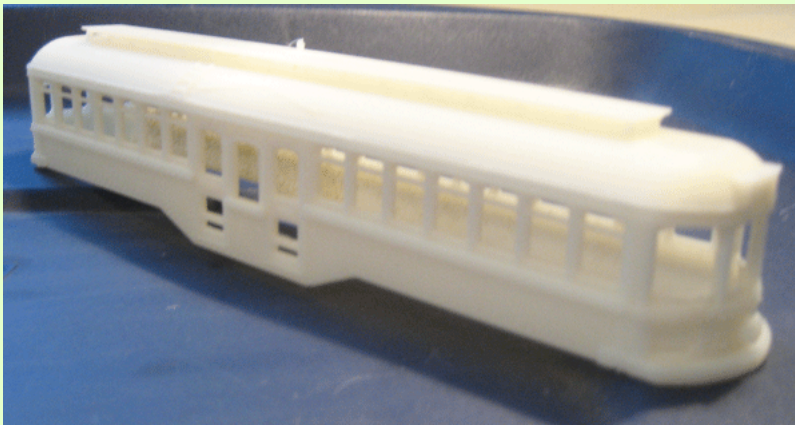
The Times learned of yet another source of 3D printed traction shells just before this issue was published. The shells are available in both O and HO scale at \$155.00 and \$80.00 each respectively. Shipping and handling costs vary with customer location.

The next photo shows the following shells in order:

1. Michigan Railway 61 ft steel combine,
2. Michigan Railway 67 ft 6" combine/solarium observation parlor car,
3. Northern Ohio Traction & Light steel parlor car,
4. Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light,
5. Cincinnati Street Railway,



6. Shaker Heights Center Door Car,



7. Cincinnati & Lake Erie, ex Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton.



For more information, contact Brian Wiseman directly at:

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