The other major project that your generous donations have supported over the past several years is the restoration of single-truck streetcar, Winona No. 10. This project has taken longer than we had thought or hoped. This was primarily because of the very deteriorated condition of the single-truck car's underframe and the fact that a couple of other high priority projects took precedence. Over the last year, our restoration crew at Excelsior has rebuilt the underframe and re-attached it to the body of the car. This required welding as well as hot-riveting of the underframe pieces. Hot riveting is a process that many museums shy away from because of its complex nature. Our shop crew dove right in and accomplished the task with great success.

The photos below show the work accomplished and the progress made over the last several months. Many thanks to the volunteers who have persevered over the last few months, and in some instances, for the last 5-6 years in making progress in restoring this rare streetcar. (All photos are by Jim Vaitkunas unless otherwise noted)

(Top Left) Winona No. 10’s underframe is shown naked! Here we see Ken Albrecht discussing the underframe work with master welder, Howie Melco. The old underframe was not in good shape and much new steel was used to refurbish it. (Photo by Bob Wetherall)

(Above Right) Here’s Howie Melco welding on the underframe. Some of the pieces were hot riveted but some of it was welded together to increase the strength of the joint in question. (Photo by Bob Wetherall)

(Bottom Two Photos) When your photographer visited the Excelsior car barn on Tuesday, November 2nd, five new volunteers were present and working on various aspects of Winona No. 10’s restoration. In the left photo you see (L to R) Jim Peschong, Scott Ingram and Tom McGruder. In the photo on the right, you see Dick Zawacki and Mark Brothen. It’s great to have these new guys join the MSM family and help with this very important and significant restoration.
Many of Winona 10’s roof board were good, but some others were in need of replacement. Here we see Jim Peschong (left) and Steve Mages checking the fit of one of the replacement wood roof pieces.

New volunteer Tom McGruder is handing up to Steve Mages a piece of wood roof board. On the right is Marsh Ginthner and Marv Krafve discuss some aspect of Winona 10’s restoration.

Dick Zawacki is seen here sand-blasting some metal parts for Winona No. 10.

(L to R) Marv Krafve, Ken Albrecht (in the maroon shirt), Marsh Ginthner and Scott Ingram are seen here discussing some aspect of the project. Camaraderie and teamwork is what makes the project fun.

(Left) Here’s Ken Albrecht (left) talking about the wood pieces of Winona No. 10’s sub-structure with new volunteer Scott Ingram. Pieces of the wood can be seen in the lower left corner of the photo.

(Below) Winona No. 10 looked like this in the early 1930s. Basic body color was orange with the white hourglass “flash.”
THE "STUFF" FROM CLEVELAND HAS ARRIVED

Back in late 2009, the Museum successfully bid on several items that were being dispersed from the Lake Shore Electric collection of streetcar parts. Eleven months later our materials finally were delivered to the Museum’s Excelsior car barn. The major item in the delivery was the Dupont No. 35 truck that is destined to go under and power Winona No. 10. We’d like to thank Phil Epstein who graciously arranged for use of the Minnesota Transportation Museum’s boom truck which was most helpful during the unloading the items from the delivering flatbed truck. Below are some photos of the delivery of these much needed items. (All photos by Ken Albrecht)

The boom on MTM’s flatbed truck came in real handy.

The boom on MTM’s flatbed truck is about to lift off a heavy-duty drill press. Phil Epstein is next to the drill press in the green sweatshirt.

These three photos show the rusty Dupont No. 35 truck, the item we’ve been waiting for the last year. This single truck might look bad now but after we’re done it’ll be totally rebuilt and under the body of Winona No. 10. The two GE-800 600-volt electric motors are already on their way to the motor shop. This winter our restoration crew will begin rebuilding the truck and stretch the wheelbase to 8 feet.

(Above Left) This photos shows Steve Mages, Jim Willmore (light blue coat) Karl Jones and Marsh Ginthner. Marsh has an ancient trolley base and pole in his hands.

(Above Right) Steve Mages and Karl Jones unload more “stuff” from the trailer. The thing leaning against the trailer is a first generation trolley pole. This photo has a better view of the Dupont truck.

(Left) One more photo of the trailer-load of goodies from the Cleveland haul. That’s Marv Krafve on the ground giving Steve and Karl some helpful advice.

We offer sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the unloading of the Cleveland parts including those not shown in these photos: Mark Brothen and Ken Albrecht.