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# National Capital Trolley Museum

## ***For Immediate Release***

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## **NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM BEGINS COUNTDOWN TO OPEN HOUSE**

*Train Station clock marks transition from old to new*

**April 08, 2009 – Colesville, MD** – Hoisted high into the air by a “lift,” National Capital Trolley Museum board members, Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and Maryland National Capital Park & Planning (M-NCPPC) officials unveiled the outdoor clock for the trolley museum’s new visitor’s center. The clock signals the countdown to a public open house for the entire facility set for Sunday, April 26, from noon to 5 p.m.

“We are thrilled to be moving into a beautiful, new and spacious facility,” said director of Development and volunteer trustee Wesley Paulson. “For a long time we have needed to modernize and expand our facilities to meet the requirements for our conservation, education and interpretative programs, but the financial pieces just did not fit.”

“When the final right-of -way of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) was determined in 2006, SHA and the M-NCPPC got involved and things fell into place,” added board President Ken Rucker.

The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959, near the end of abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia. The original museum was located at the Bonifant Road site since 1969, while the M-NCPPC owned the property. When faced with vacating its location, the Trolley Museum was offered a new site by the M-NCPPC, just up the hill from its former home. SHA worked closely with trolley board members on the move and funded \$5.63 million for the new visitor’s center, maintenance barn and relocation costs.

“SHA was sympathetic to the trolley museum’s situation. By the museum moving from its former facility in a timely manner, we were able to financially assist it in relocating and fulfilling its desire for a new facility now, thus allowing for the ICC’s construction,” explained SHA director of Real Estate, Joe Miklochik.

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“The Trolley Museum has made a valuable contribution to the history of the region and we are proud to play a part in helping it continue its mission. We wish it every success,” said ICC Project Director Melinda Peters.

The new 14,000 sq. ft., \$3 million facility, designed by NS Architects of Rockville, MD and built by Gardiner & Gardiner of Crofton, MD, consists of the visitor’s center and a building for storage and streetcar maintenance. Another building, Streetcar Hall, was finished earlier last year as part of Phase I, funded by a combination of private, state, county and federal funds. JoAnne Murray was the architect and Kane Construction was the general contractor for Streetcar Hall. A new railway segment connects these facilities to the end of the present railway at Dodge Loop. Museum programming will expand with dedicated auditorium, classroom, library and archival storage spaces.

“It is incredibly exciting to be able to share with the public new aspects of the historical significance of trolleys. The new facility provides unlimited opportunities and experiences for interaction with visitors that was just not possible in our former home,” stated Mr. Paulson.

The museum temporarily closed in December 2008, in anticipation of its move, and will reopen permanently this summer. For information on the Sunday, April 26, noon to 5 p.m., open house contact the museum at 301- 384-6088, or visit the website at <http://www.dctrolley.org> .

The first seven-mile segment of the ICC is scheduled to be complete late 2010, while the ICC segments east of Georgia Avenue (MD 97) are slated to open late 2011 or early 2012. For information on the ICC, visit its website at <http://www.iccproject.com>.

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