

Background

John B. Harlow's first proposal for moving the mail by electrified trolley was first described in the January, 1892 issue of the Street Railway Journal, with actual street car RPO service beginning on December 5, 1892.



Illustration, from the January 1, 1893, "St. Louis Star" newspaper, announcing electric street car mail service in St. Louis.

Exhibit Plan: This exhibit tells the story of the St. Louis Street Car Service, the first in the U.S., from the beginning in 1892 to the end in 1915. The story is chronological as circuits began and ended. I show all approximate routes on a railway map of the period, many Earliest Known Usages (EKU) and Latest Known Usages (LKU), unlisted trip numbers and killers, foreign destinations and unusual rates and usages. Every cancel listed in the St. Louis Monograph is represented. Each different street car marking is illustrated when introduced and the dates of usage are listed from earliest to latest for each marking. **Important items are mounted on a salmon background.**

Outline:

Chapter 1	St. Louis RPO No. 1	Chapter 10	Olive Circuit
Chapter 2	St. Louis & Florissant RPO	Chapter 11	Easton Circuit
Chapter 3	Grand Avenue Circuit	Chapter 12	Northwest Circuit
Chapter 4	St. Louis & Webster Groves	Chapter 13	North Broadway Circuit
Chapter 5	St. Louis & Kirkwood	Chapter 14	Southwest Circuit
Chapter 6	St. Louis Provisional	Chapter 15	South Broadway Circuit
Chapter 7	Clayton Circuit	Chapter 16	Centennial Cancel
Chapter 8	Cass Circuit	Chapter 17	End of an Era
Chapter 9	Chouteau Circuit		