

South Shore #6



Type: Steel Interurban Car

Built: 1926

Seats: 52

Length – 60' 0"

Width – 10' 1"

Height – 13' 5"

During the early 1900s, there were thousands of miles of electric interurban railroads which sprawled across America, primarily in the upper and central midwest. The Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad operated fast interurbans and commuter runs every day between downtown Chicago at Randolph Street Station to South Bend, Indiana.

The famous "South Shore Line" originally operated with wooden cars bought and used by predecessor lines. By 1926, the electric utilities magnate Samuel Insull had taken over the company and placed an order for new all-steel cars. These cars were faster and more modern, improving the reliability and operational efficiency of the company. One of these cars was numbered 6.

Car 6 and the other "orange cars" were used to transport thousands of workers and commuters everyday to towns and cities across northwestern Indiana. Tourists also used the cars to travel to resort sites, beaches, museums, and football games at Notre Dame.



Car 6 was never lengthened or modernized during World War II, only receiving new interior paint. When the South Shore retired the car in 1983, the National Park Service preserved the car due to its historical significance to the area. However, the NPS ended up donating 6 and four other CSS&SB cars to the East Troy Railroad Museum. ETRM currently has plans to restore the car to operating condition, and funding for the project has already begun.



Right: The current condition of the interior of the car.

Left: The car is brought to the East Troy Railroad Museum