



New Highliners being ordered for Electric line

Metra has great news for riders of our Metra Electric line: new Highliner cars – half of them with bathrooms – are being ordered.

At its August meeting, the Board of Directors voted to buy 160 new cars from Sumitomo Corporation of America for \$560 million. If all goes well, the first car should be delivered in about 24 months.

Half of the new cars will have bathrooms, while the remaining half will not. When you include the 26 newer cars with bathrooms that are already in service, that means more than half of the Metra Electric fleet will have bathrooms when the purchase is completed, a ratio that will be comparable to our diesel lines.

The new Highliners will be made out of stainless steel, just like the bi-level gallery cars on our diesel lines. They will use alternating current propulsion, which will supply more power and require significantly less maintenance than the DC cars they are replacing.

There will be one exit door in the middle of the car. We can no longer build cars with exits on the ends because the ends must be stronger to meet the latest safety standards.

The cars without bathrooms will seat 146 riders, while the cars with bathrooms will seat 131 riders.



Metra Safety Poster and Safety Essay Contest winners pose with Metra Board Members.

Winners make the right choice

Metra honored the winners of its 2009-2010 Safety Poster and Safety Essay contests at the August meeting of its Board of Directors. In only its fourth year, the award-winning contest has continued to grow with nearly 4,500 students participating.

For the past four years, the Metra Safety Poster Contest has invited students in grades K-12 throughout the six-county region we serve to submit poster designs displaying important railroad safety messages. This year's poster contest theme was "Make the Right Choice: Look, Listen and Live."

The Safety Essay Contest was added during the 2008-2009 school year to engage an even larger number of students in railroad safety education. Safety essay contest participants were asked to express in 300 words or less how they "Make the Right Choice" to be safe near trains and railroad tracks and how others can do the same. Participation in the essay contest doubled from the previous year, while

poster contest participation has increased by an average of 40 percent each year.

In an effort to engage even more of the public in railroad safety education, Metra introduced a traveling poster display this June. More than 100 student poster entries with important safety messages were displayed at each of Metra's downtown commuter stations. Commuters and others passing through the



stations were asked to vote for their favorite for the contest's "People's Choice Award." Nearly 600 people participated and cast their vote.

"At Metra, safety is and always will be our number one priority," said Metra Chairman Carole Doris. "We are proud of each initiative within the safety

campaign and thrilled that each year the campaign continues to grow and raise even more awareness about important railroad safety practices, not only among students but also parents, teachers, commuters and the public at-large."

The first-place poster designs will be featured as next year's safety posters and distributed to more than 2,000 schools in northeastern Illinois. The posters will also be featured in station displays, in Metra's 2010 safety calendar, on monthly tickets and on Metra's contest website and Facebook page. Winning safety essays will also be featured in the safety calendar, the Metra contest website and Facebook page and in additional safety materials.

First-, second- and third-place winners were chosen from each grade level for the Metra Safety Poster Contest. One winner from each grade group – elementary school, middle school and high school – was chosen for the Safety Essay Contest. First-

(Continued on Page 2)



On the Bi-Level

Published by Metra's Media Relations Department. Send letters, questions or feedback to On the Bi-Level, Metra, 547 W. Jackson, Chicago IL, 60661-5717. Or e-mail onthebilevel@metrarr.com.

We can't guarantee all letters will be printed or answered. Please keep letters to less than 200 words and include your first name, hometown and what line you ride. (Names are not required but strongly encouraged.) We reserve the right to edit letter for length and grammar.

Board of Directors

Carole R. Doris
Chairman
DuPage County

Larry A. Huggins
Vice Chairman
Chicago

Jack Schaffer
Treasurer
McHenry County

Arlene J. Mulder
Secretary
Suburban Cook County

James V. Dodge
Director
Suburban Cook County

James C. LaBelle
Director
Lake County

Edward W. Paesel
Director
Suburban Cook County

Jack E. Partelow
Director
Will County

Willis E. Pennington Jr.
Director
Cook County

Caryl J. Van Overmeiren
Director
Kane County

William A. Widmer III
Director
Suburban Cook County

Safety contest

(Continued from Page 1)

place poster contest winners and essay contest winners received a laptop computer, while second- and third-place poster contest winners received \$250 and \$100 gift cards, respectively. The "People's Choice Award" winner received a \$250 gift card. Metra also recognized the school with the most entries in the contest and the top participating school received a desktop computer.

This year's prizes were secured through the sponsorship of the Bonneville Chicago Radio

Group - including Chicago's Rewind 100.3 FM, 101.9 FM The Mix and 97.1 FM The Drive - and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

In addition, a portion of the posters contest outreach activities are being paid for with a grant from the Illinois Commerce Commission's Public Education and Enforcement Research Study (PEERS). Some of the costs of the downtown station displays, the contest website and the production of the safety calendars are covered by this grant.

A judging panel made up of

local government officials, representatives from safety advocacy groups, business and community leaders, members of the media and Metra representatives chose the winning entries.

Metra is currently planning for the 2010-2011 safety campaign and corresponding activities, including the Fifth Annual Safety Poster Contest and the Third Annual Safety Essay Contest. The theme will be "Safety First: Look, Listen and Live." More information about the 2010-2011 contest will be available at www.metrcontest.com.

List of Safety Poster and Essay Contest winners

The following students were chosen as the Safety Poster Contest's first-place winners:

Jenille Morales - Kindergarten, Pulaski Fine Arts Academy, Chicago
Rachael Yoo - First Grade, Frank C. Whiteley School, Hoffman Estates
Cheyanne Burgher - Second Grade, Central Park School, Midlothian
Emma Soltis - Third Grade, Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort
Giovanny Alexis Rodriguez - Fourth Grade, Westchester Intermediate School, Westchester
Anna Lipkind - Fifth Grade, The Art School in Glenview, Glenview
Emily Bielski - Sixth Grade, McClure Junior High School, Western Springs
Matthew Zdun - Seventh Grade, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School, Orland Hills
Reynaldo Rodriguez - Eighth Grade, Westchester Middle School, Westchester
Dominique Bloink - Ninth Grade, Northbrook
Savina Caniglia - Tenth Grade, Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake
Kelsey Graef - Eleventh Grade, Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake
Nini Kao - Twelfth Grade, Niles North High School, Skokie

The following students were chosen as the Safety Poster Contest's second-place winners:

Aayush Desai - Kindergarten, White Eagle Elementary School, Naperville
Michael Mlynarczyk - First Grade, Norman Bridge Elementary School, Chicago
Patricia Banasik - Second Grade, Norman Bridge Elementary School, Chicago
Jorge Casas-Melchor - Third Grade, Richard E. Byrd School, Burbank
Patrick Bogusz - Fourth Grade, Norman Bridge Elementary School, Chicago
Michaela Mitchell - Fifth Grade, Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort
Jennifer Barrera - Sixth Grade, Currier Elementary School, West Chicago
Rachel Stalter - Seventh Grade, Central Park School, Midlothian
Emerald Dee - Eighth Grade, Central Park School, Midlothian
Jacob Pollack - Ninth Grade, Batavia High School, Batavia

Caroline Sdregas - Tenth Grade, Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake
Allie Boudreau - Eleventh Grade, Deerfield High School, Deerfield
Mattea Carter - Twelfth Grade, Gallery 37 Advanced Arts Education Program, Chicago

The following students were chosen as the Safety Poster Contest's third-place winners:

Natalie Hernandez - Kindergarten, Pulaski Fine Arts Academy, Chicago
Anna Gogola - First Grade, Rosa G. Maddock Elementary School, Burbank
Margarita Ruiz - Second Grade, Stevenson School, Lombard
Linia Kiryk - Third Grade, Norman Bridge Elementary School, Chicago
Amanda Leon - Fourth Grade, Maercker School, Westmont
Maggie Caplice - Fifth Grade, Field Park Elementary School, Western Springs
Jennifer Castillo - Sixth Grade, Carlos Fuentes Charter School, Chicago
Kevin Rezek - Seventh Grade, Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard
Monica Martinez - Eighth Grade, Pulaski Fine Arts Academy, Chicago
Emilio Tenuta - Ninth Grade, Batavia High School, Batavia
Leslie Michaelchuck - Tenth Grade, Cary-Grove High School, Cary
Patricia Humphrey - Eleventh Grade, Gallery 37 Advanced Arts Education Program, Chicago
Kyle Smith - Twelfth Grade, Oak Lawn Community High School, Oak Lawn

The following student was chosen as the Safety Poster Contest's "People's Choice Award" winner:

Reynaldo Rodriguez - Eighth Grade, Westchester Middle School, Westchester

The following school submitted the most entries in the Safety Poster Contest:

Grand Prairie Elementary School, Frankfort

The following students were chosen as the Safety Essay Contest's first-place winners:

Jayla Reed - Third Grade, Johnnie Coleman Academy, Chicago
Kate Miklosz - Fifth Grade, John Laidlaw Elementary School, Western Springs
Katie Finlon - Twelfth Grade, Cary-Grove High School, Cary

SOUND OFF

“...the snarky, snotty observations by Metra’s customers about fellow commuters ... offer some of the best free entertainment around.” - SouthtownStar, March 13, 2009

Close the doors

For those of you who choose to ride in the vestibule: you know it’s going to either be hot or cold depending on the season when you make the decision to ride out there. Those of us who choose to ride sitting down in the car to be able to have what little a/c is available to us do not appreciate your constant attempts to hold the doors open. There are seats in the car. If you do not want to be hot or cold, then come in the car and sit down. I and my fellow sit-down riders pay way too much money monthly for our tickets to (1) stand and (2) either sweat or freeze on our way to work. It’s bad enough that the a/c and/or heat doesn’t work properly to begin with. Your holding the doors open depletes what little a/c or heat there is and the masses shouldn’t be forced to acclimate for the few of you.

As for the conductors who seem to think this is a joke, it’s not! And I do not buy into the “my boss and I had this conversation and we can’t tell people to sit down” line I was given. It was not suggested that they be told to sit down, but to make the suggestion that there were seats available inside the car.

Michele

If you’re gonna ride in the vestibule, then you’ve gotta deal with the air there without bothering your seated fellow riders.

Close your mouth

This is a note to the passenger on my UP West train who is always yawning loudly. You may think that it is funny, but it is not. It is very annoying. You are no better than the next person who plays their music loud or lets their phone keep ringing and/



Are we keeping you up?

or talks loud when they answer it. You once told a guy who was saving a seat for his friend to take his feet off the seat. You should do the same with your mouth!

Will

Maybe we can’t control the occurrence or frequency of our yawning, but we can at least control the volume. Turn it down.

Not even close

While taking the last train home on Tuesday night, I managed to fall asleep and completely miss my stop in Elmhurst. I ended up in Elburn at about 2 in the morning and did not have many options getting back home. I met up with some very helpful workers who were walking back to the break room. They sat with me and gave me some water and

some food and helped me figure out how to get home. I was able to snag a ride with a manager heading back into the city and he got me back to Elmhurst. I can’t express enough how grateful I am towards all of the employees that helped me out that night.

Bobby

So you caught some ZZZs but missed your stop? We’re glad you made it home OK. May we suggest an alarm clock?

Close encounter

I would like to thank the nice gentleman who while getting up to deboard at Union Station (before the train had stopped) dropped his backpack loaded with his laptop, a few books and what felt like a few bricks on my foot. As I screamed in pain all I

got was “Oh sorry” and away he went on his merry way.

To the passengers who expressed their concern and helped me off the train - THANK YOU for your KINDNESS and CONCERN!

To the nice gentleman, thank you for my new accessory, a soft walking cast on my fractured foot. My boss thanks you for allowing me to miss three hours of work, my insurance company thanks you for the claim filed and I am sure my future sister in law will be thanking you for messing up her wedding day tomorrow.

If I run into you again, there may be some CHOICE WORDS along with, oh, I don’t know, a slip of my crutch! But don’t worry I won’t forget to say “Oh sorry”!

Hop A Long

Maybe it was a bowling ball? We’re sorry that happened, but please resist the urge to retaliate.

Closing comment

This is to Brian, the shlub that complained about travelers bringing luggage on the train during rush hour. I’ve been riding the train during rush hour for the past 12 years. Whenever I see a traveler with luggage, I smile and wonder where they are going. I think it’s wonderful that they are able to get to their destinations on the train. I think poor Brian is jealous. Perhaps you should spend your time applying for new job, one where you won’t be overworked and underpaid. Maybe then you’ll be able to afford a vacation. I’m sure you won’t be able to afford a cab, so feel free to bring your luggage on the train. We won’t mind.

Jan

That’s pretty much how we feel, too.

Fall Travel Notes

redbox coming to Metra stations

Metra and redbox (that's how they spell it!) have partnered to install redbox DVD rental kiosks at several stations. The pilot program allows redbox to test locations outside of traditional retail and gives Metra another way to generate revenue outside our farebox. The stations with redbox kiosks are Matteson and 211th on the Electric, New Lenox and 111th on the Rock Island, and Lake Cook Road on the Milwaukee North.

Pledge to be car-free on Sept. 22

For the 2010 Chicagoland Car-Free Day on Sept. 22, the Active Transportation Alliance is partnering with CTA, Metra, Pace, RTA and local communities to shine a spotlight on ways of getting around without driving. By taking the car-free pledge, you'll be eligible to receive discounts from businesses like Sports Authority, Argo Tea and I-GO Car Sharing. Visit www.activetrans.org/carfree to take the pledge, see event ideas and learn about the special offers.

Beer served with fries at MetraMarket

Frietkoten is now serving up seasonal, well-balanced Belgian beers to complement its fries. Beers are served on tap or by the bottle. Follow Chicago French Market and Frietkoten on Twitter for changes and specials in beer selections. Draughts are served in 8 oz. glasses. Please enjoy Frietkoten's beers and drink responsibly. See more at www.ChicagoFrenchMarket.com



Quad Cities!

Plan Your Fall Getaway Today!

Just 2 1/2 hours from Chicago there is a beautiful and relaxing Mississippi River destination filled with attractions, festivals, river cruises, and colorful fall adventures. Discover the Quad Cities and special lodging packages at www.visitquadcities.com.

Special Events

- Sept. 18 • **WQPT Brew Ha Ha Beer Fest**
- Sept. 18 • **Celtic Highland Games & Festival**
- Sept. 18-19 • **Riverssance Festival Fine Art Fair**
- Sept. 24-26 • **QC Hot Air Balloon Fest**
- Sept. 26 • **Quad Cities Marathon**
- Oct. 8-9 • **Village Fall Frolic**
- Oct. 9-10 • **Four Kingdoms Renaissance & Pirate Fest**

View a complete calendar of events and our online Visitors Guide at www.visitquadcities.com

IOWA
life | changing

 ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.



Invest in your career and your future with a business degree from NLU.

Stay competitive in your field by developing the skills necessary to tackle the issues of today's challenging economy and job market. At National-Louis University, we understand that your livelihood is essential to you and your family. And we know how busy you are juggling all of your responsibilities. That's why we've made it convenient for you to get your business degree online or on-campus.

Classes start in October on the Chicago campus and online. Call us or apply online today.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Undergraduate programs | Graduate programs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Behavioral Sciences • Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBA • Human Resources |



National-Louis University
888.419.3789
www.nl.edu/fall