

Streetcar Glossary

Articulated Bus - A bus, usually 55 feet or more in length, with two connected passenger compartments that bend at the connecting point when the bus turns a corner

Cantilever - A component of the overhead catenary system (OCS) - the arm that extends from the pole to hold the wire in place

Car Barn - Building used for housing and maintenance of streetcars

Catenary - An overhead contact wire system that supplies power from a central power source to an electric vehicle

Design-Build - Project delivery method in which project design and construction are completed by a single contractor, known as the design-builder

Fare - Payment in the form of coins, bills, tickets, passes, tokens and smart cards, required of passengers to board transit

Farebox - A device that accepts the coins, bills, tickets, passes, tokens and/or smart cards from passengers as payment for rides

Headway - Time between streetcars operating on single route

Level Boarding - The height of the stop or station is at the same level as the passenger floor of a transit vehicle, allowing for fast, convenient and accessible boarding and alighting without the need for wheelchair lifts, ramps or high platforms.

Overhead Catenary System (OCS) - System of wires supplying power from central power source to an electric vehicle

Pantograph - A device that maintains electrical contact with the catenary wire and transfers power from the wire to the traction unit of a trolley bus, light rail vehicle or streetcar, mounted on the roof of the vehicle

Span Wire - A component of the overhead catenary system (OCS) where wire connects directly to the pole as opposed to connecting to a cantilever. Used for achieving correct turning radius

Substation - Power station used to distribute electricity to OCS

Turnaround - Area where streetcar reverses direction by traveling a loop or using a Y track

Right Of Way (ROW) - A strip of land that is granted through an easement or other mechanism for transportation purposes. ROW is reserved for purposes of maintenance or expansion of existing services