

# Oregon Electric Locomotive #21 returns home after 71 years

*For Immediate Release*

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**Brooks, Oregon:** The Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society (OERHS) is proud to announce the homecoming of the historic former Oregon Electric Railway (OE) locomotive #21. It is scheduled to arrive at the Oregon Electric Railway Museum, at Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks, Oregon, on the morning of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The locomotive was built in 1912 for the OE to move freight up and down the Willamette Valley between Portland and Eugene. The OE was the original I-5 in terms of moving people and freight and created many small towns along the way. The OE retired locomotive #21 at the end of electric service. The locomotive was sold to the British Columbia Electric Railway in Vancouver, BC where it continued to operate as #961 until 1980. From there it was sold to the Edmonton Transit System in Alberta. It was used there to help build the light rail tunnel extension as #2001. Edmonton retired it in 1998 where it was moved to a local trolley museum, the Edmonton Radial Railway Society. The locomotive proved too heavy for them to operate at Fort Edmonton Park. In 2014, the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway, in Cloverdale, BC, acquired the locomotive for its BC heritage. However, it did not fit their goals and they needed space for their growing collection of BC passenger interurbans, so they offered it for sale.

The OERHS contacted the Fraser Valley group and offered to purchase this important piece of Oregon's railway history. The offer was accepted. The OERHS started a fundraising campaign in Sept. 2016. As of today, 98% of the needed funds have been raised. The Oregon Electric Railway Museum is located just a couple hundred yards away from the former OE mainline, so is it truly coming home!

The exact time of the locomotive's arrival on March 1<sup>st</sup> will not be known until Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **About the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society**

The OERHS is an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation, founded in 1957. The society's mission is the study, procurement and preservation of historic electric railway equipment. The OERHS owns and operates the Oregon Electric Railway Museum on the grounds of Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks, Oregon (just off I-5 at exit # 263). At the museum we display and operate an assortment of international trolleys and other electric railway equipment from Oregon, California, Australia, England, Belgium and more. The OERHS also operates the Willamette Shore Trolley in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

### **Contact:**

Mark Kavanagh, OERHS Secretary: [mark@oregonrolley.com](mailto:mark@oregonrolley.com); Cell: 480-334-2352

OERHS

3995 Brooklake Road

Brooks, OR 97303

Website: <http://oregonrolley.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonElectricRailwayMuseum/>