



**175 Years of Chicago
Railroad History**

For immediate release

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Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot Proclaims October as Chicago Railroad History Month

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has signed an official Proclamation declaring October to be “Chicago Railroad History Month”. This Proclamation, the second in the past two years, is the result of the advocacy work of the Blackhawk Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society to bring greater public recognition of the history of railroads in the city. The railroads have been an integral part of the city’s economic and social life since the first inaugural train pulled out of the city in October of 1848. The dignitaries who rode the first train believed that the railroad would bring prosperity and growth to the city. Little could they imagine how quickly that would happen, and how Chicago would become the rail capitol of the nation.

The goal of Chicago Railroad History Month is to celebrate both the past of railroading and to highlight the continued importance the railroads play in the city’s modern economic life. We hope to bring the story of railroads, and the men and women who worked on them, to as wide an audience as possible. The plan for 2019 is to continue our outreach efforts to various community groups, museums, historical societies and the City of Chicago to help promote the idea. Our eventual goal is for this to become a sustaining effort that will lead to exhibits and programs in 2023 to celebrate that anniversary.

Our effort is spearheaded by a group of historians, writers and railroad enthusiasts who serve on our advisory board. Planning work continues on various ideas for exhibits and programs, and we will be providing a speaker to interested community groups and local historical societies to promote the idea. Learn more on our website at www.crrhm.com.