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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **It's Back: Hampton's Streetcar 390 Project -Tracing the Tracks Bus Tours**

*Saturday, March 18 & Saturday, April 18th, 1-4 p.m.*

**Hampton, VA** – Back by popular demand, spend an afternoon tracing the main streetcars routes in Hampton between 1880s and 1946. The streetcar was a change agent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that helped physically shape the City of Hampton, impacted the growth of its workforce and was a part of the many dramatic changes in our shared history and culture during the first 50 years of the 20th century.

### **Tour Dates:**

Saturday, March 14 and Saturday, April 18

### **Departure & Return Location:**

Hampton History Museum, 120 Old Hampton Lane  
The bus will depart promptly at 1 p.m.

### **Cost:**

Tickets are free with a donation to the 390 Project.

### **Reserved Seating:**

Reserve your seat(s) by calling the Hampton History Museum at (757) 727-1102. This event will be limited to 18 people per tour.

Using stories and photographs, we will explore Hampton's rich history of growth and change during the latter part of the 19th and 20th century. Local historian Greg Siegel, the Chair of the 390 Streetcar Project. The tour includes Downtown Hampton, Buckroe, Phoebus, and Fort Monroe and a visit to car 390 for a close-up look at the restoration progress. The tour will also trace many of the streetcar routes.

### **A Brief History of Hampton's Streetcar 390**

Streetcar 390, built in 1917, served Hampton until 1946 before being sold to John and Mary Anderson for \$100. They converted it into their Grafton home, residing there until

1976. In 1977, a member of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum discovered the unique semi-convertible model, which was then donated to the museum that November.

Despite periodic restoration efforts by the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, the 390 was offered back to Hampton in 2013. It returned with a ceremony on August 2, 2017, and restoration officially began in 2018. The project is a collaborative effort, led by Hampton's Streetcar 390 project, with support from the Hampton History Museum and the City of Hampton.

The Fort Monroe Authority provides the restoration facility. Restoration work will be done by Keith Bray, who has restored a number of streetcars for organizations around the country, with support from a group of volunteers.

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**Images attached:**

- [Streetcar photos- restorations, returns, and more!](#)

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.