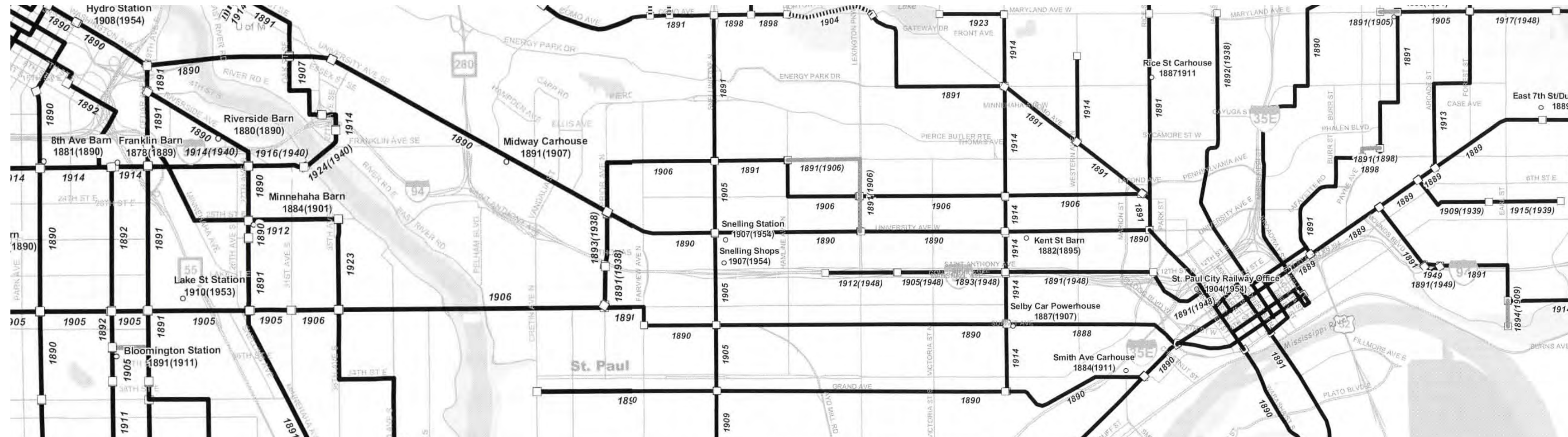




1920s TCRT promotional poster

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Transit development in St. Paul began with the growth of residential suburbs outside of the city's downtown center in the late 19th century. In the era before the automobile, the Twin Cities Rapid Transit Company was formed to provide transportation for the residents of these suburbs. Though the streetcar was eventually phased out by the bus, and the tracks paved over, the framework it provided for the building of St. Paul remains to this day, supporting the city into the future. This thesis aims to bring that framework back to greater prominence by restoring the automobile-free lifestyle that the streetcar provided to St. Paul. By shaping the lifestyles of the residents of Hamline-Midway and all of St. Paul around the light rail rather than the automobile, public transit in the Twin Cities can transcend its role as a utility and become a symbol of the cities it serves. It is time for a return to a close association between a city and the way it is experienced.



Major TCRT facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul during the electric streetcar period of 1890 to 1954. The streetcar lines appear on a modern base map, which includes freeways, in order to highlight how certain parts of the city have changed.