Streetcars were electrified in the Twin Cities in 1888, in Duluth in 1890, in Winona and St. Cloud in 1892, and in Brainerd in 1893.

Electric streetcars made city dwellers more mobile and allowed people to live farther from their workplaces. Suburbs populated by commuters, including Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and White Bear Lake, began to spring up around the Twin Cities. Because the streetcars were relatively empty on weekends and holidays, the Twin City Rapid Transit Company built two amusement parks, Wildwood Park on White Bear Lake and Big Island on Lake Minnetonka, to give people a reason to travel.

By the 1950s, the rise of the automobile, service cuts, and the conversion to buses led to the streetcar’s demise. But in recent years, a revival in street railway systems has taken place in Minnesota and elsewhere.

"To the end of the line."
"The Trolley Song," from the movie Meet Me in St. Louis, 1944