

MA and PA 84 Update



Work continues steadily on historic Locomotive No. 84 as we move closer to our goal of returning her to service and blue-carding her for operation in 2026.

Over the past several months, more mechanical progress has been made. All four drop-truck hoses have been replaced, improving the reliability of the air brake system, and a main trainline air hose has been renewed—an important step toward a fully compliant air system. On the safety and cosmetic front, one of the three broken rear cab windows has been replaced, beginning the restoration of the cab to a safe, functional, and presentable condition for crews and future guests.

A major focus of recent work has been the locomotive's fuel system. Six stuck injectors have prevented the prime mover from operating properly, but steady progress is being made to free them. Volunteer and supporter Jack Sanford made two trips to assist with this effort and played a key role in advancing the project. Sadly, Jack fell ill with pneumonia shortly afterward. He is now recovering, and we extend our heartfelt wishes for a full and speedy recovery. His dedication underscores how deeply this restoration depends on the time, skill, and passion of our volunteers and supporters.

The existing batteries are no longer serviceable, and without replacement, the locomotive cannot be started or tested. We have received a donation of a used set of functional locomotive batteries, and in the spring we will remove the old batteries, clean out the battery boxes and install the “new” ones.

However, there are still a number of items needed to make 84 fully operable. They include:

- 3 new windows
- Initial partial tank of diesel fuel
- New oil, fuel and air filters
- Recalibration of gages in cab
- Water treatment
- Windshield wiper blades
- Possible new injectors
- Packing cups and cylinder gaskets
- Journal oil

Our immediate funding need totals approximately \$7,000. This is where we need your help.

To return Ma & Pa 84 to service in 2026, we are seeking donations to close this funding gap. Once restored, Locomotive 84 will play an exciting and community-focused role in our operations, including:

- Hands-on-the-throttle experiences for rail enthusiasts who have always dreamed of running a locomotive
- Special operating days in cooperation with partner railroads to showcase No. 84 and celebrate regional rail history. 84 will be used on specially designated days to pull trains on the Northern Central Railroad.
- A special charter event near the end of 2026 to mark her official return to service, planned in conjunction with the national conference of the Heritage Rail Alliance.

Every contribution brings us closer to seeing No. 84 come back to life and feeling her move under her own power once again. If you would like to support the 84 Restoration Fund, please send your donation to:

Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.

Memo: 84 Restoration Fund

PO Box 456

Stewartstown, PA 17363

Thank you for helping us preserve and operate this important piece of Ma & Pa and Stewartstown Railroad history.