

Burlington Northern Scale Test Car 979001



Sometimes good fortune just ‘happens.’ In 2014 ex-member Bruce Siebold made us aware that an ex-Burlington Northern scale test car, 97001, in Denver was slated for scrapping, but that it was probably worth our while to ask for it as a donation to the museum. We wrote a letter requesting the donation, and after going through several channels at the BNSF, the car was officially donated on January 27, 2021. It was delivered by the BNSF local that serves our neighbor, Elementis (<https://www.elementis.com/>), at some unrecorded date. The car is sound, but the existing paint is a far cry from the pristine condition of 979006 shown above.



This is the scale test car in 2022. History sort of repeats itself. The car is on the same siding that held the helium car for years. The museum has a difficult problem. We can receive donations of prototype rolling stock but can't get it onto our rails because a plan to have the BNSF or a private company install a turnout cannot be formulated. Sticking points are the cost to have the turnout installed and if the BNSF will switch car for us. We have a great relationship with our neighbor, Elementis, and they have a Trackmobile® they would use to move donations, so there is hope.