



The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (MARP) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1973 to improve passenger train service, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations.

Monthly meetings are held at locations around the state. Check the website for dates and venues. The public is invited to attend.

MARP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2014-2016

Larry Krieg	Chair
Steve Vagnozzi	Vice-Chair
Stewart Bolinger	Treasurer
Kay Chase	Acting Secretary
John Langdon	Governmental/Public Affairs Coordinator
Dan Platz	Membership Coordinator
Kay Chase	Communications Coordinator
Adam Tauno Williams	Meetings Coordinator
open	Northern Region Chair
Robert Patterson	Detroit/Metro Region Chair
Warren Fritz	West Region Chair
Jim Wallington	East/Central Region Chair

*The Michigan Passenger Editor and Webmaster, Larry Sobczak
ON TRACK Editor, Kay Chase*

2016 MEETINGS

- 16 January** – REO Town Depot (former Grand Trunk Depot), Lansing
- February** – Cancelled
- 12 March** – Howell Public Library
- 16 April** – New Buffalo Library
- 21 May** – Jackson District Library
- 11 June** – Dearborn Amtrak Station
- 9 July** – Executive Committee
- 17,18 August** – Marquette, 4th Annual MI Rail Conference
- 24 September** – Annual Meeting at Durand Union Station
- 8 October** – Dowagiac City Hall
- 12 November** – Lapeer Amtrak Station
- December** – Executive Committee

Visit www.marp.org

Email marprail@yahoo.com

Transport Canada Backs Away from Commitment to Sault Ste. Marie-Hearst Passenger Train

It has been over a year since the Algoma passenger trains stopped running. The Algoma Passenger Train Working Group, including rail advocacy groups, has come up with a proposal to run the service as a not-for-profit venture led by the Missanabie Cree First Nation with a Board of Directors representing the First Nations, municipalities and socio-economic stakeholders. The new **Mask-wa Ootaban (Bear Train)** will be more cost efficient while creating more employment and tax revenue.

The positive economic arguments became evident from a **2014 study undertaken by BDO Canada** that conservatively estimates that the train creates direct and indirect economic activity of \$38-\$48 million a year for the region's severely challenged economy. On top of that, the service supports 170-220 jobs, while generating tax dollars that more than replaced the original yearly subsidy which was cut by the previous government thereby creating the whole problem in the first place.

After considerable community advocacy, the previous Harper government committed to restore the subsidy for three years. However, under the current Liberal government, Transport Canada has suddenly and without public consultation, backed away from this commitment, allegedly because the new proposal requests an on-going subsidy. There is widespread public outrage on this decision. The First Nation is approaching Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, to request that she work inter-ministries to garner the required funding.

*--reprinted from **Transport Action Ontario News**, 13 August 2016*

The **Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains** has led the effort to keep the Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst passenger train running. In response to a request from CAPT co-founder, Linda Savory-Gordon, MARP has submitted a letter of support to Canada's Transport Ministry. CAPT is urging individuals to submit letters to the Transport Minister Garneau at marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca. Visit the **CapTrains** website for more information. This **Petition** accepts signatures of Canadian residents only, but provides useful talking points.



43rd ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 24

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Durand Union Station

200 Railroad Street
Durand, MI 48439

This year's keynote speaker will be John Robert Smith, chairman of Transportation for America. Socialize with fellow MARP members, enjoy a tasty luncheon and hear the latest in Michigan rail news. Online registration is available at marp.org/?p=6192 or use the mail-in form on page 2 below. For more information, email marprail@yahoo.com.

MARP Members Will Vote on Two Amendments to the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting

The Executive Committee, meeting 9 July 2016, voted to recommend 2 amendments to Article VII Section 7.3 of the Bylaws as adopted by the membership 21 November 2015. The Executive Committee recommends these changes in order to reflect actual organizational practice of recent years while retaining the opportunity to appoint an Executive Director at some future date. The membership will vote on these amendments at the Annual Meeting, 24 September 2016, at Durand Union Station.

Recommended Amendment #1

Article VII, Section 7.3B Executive Director

Currently Reads As: *“The Chair shall appoint an Executive Director to be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.”*

Proposed Amendment: *change “shall” to “may”*

Rationale: *Makes appointment of an Executive Director optional rather than mandatory, thus reflecting actual organizational practice of the recent past*

Recommended Amendment #2

Article VII, Section 7.3C Executive Director

Currently Reads As: *“The Executive Director shall serve, without compensation, as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.”*

Proposed Amendment: *strike the phrase “without compensation”*

Rationale: *To leave open the option of compensation should the organization choose to appoint and compensate an Executive Director in the future*

Here is Article VII Section 7.3 in its entirety, with the two recommended changes noted.

7.3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- 7.3A The Executive Director shall manage the daily affairs of the Corporation and shall serve at the will and direction of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director is authorized to speak for the Corporation when the Chair is not available.
- 7.3B The Chair ~~shall~~ **may** appoint an Executive Director to be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- 7.3C The Executive Director shall serve, ~~without compensation,~~ as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.
- 7.3D The Executive Committee may remove the Executive Director with a majority vote.

Nationally Recognized Leader to Keynote MARP Annual Meeting

John Robert Smith, Chairman of Transportation for America, is widely recognized for his energetic and enthusiastic advocacy for trains. During his 16-year tenure as Mayor of Meridian MS, he facilitated public-private partnerships in redeveloping the city’s Union Station as the Southeast’s first multi-modal transportation center. Mr. Smith is working closely with the Southern Rail Commission to restart Gulf Coast train service. He has served on numerous boards, including the US Conference of Mayors and the Amtrak board directors from 1998-2003. A passionate supporter of the arts, he is the recipient of the US Conference of Mayor’s Local Arts Leadership Award. He maintains the homestead his grandfather built in Meridian that has served five generations of his family.



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS 43rd Annual Meeting

Durand Union Station, 200 Railroad Street, Durand MI 48429
24 September 2016 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
John Robert Smith
Chairman, Transportation for America

Make plans now to attend! In other business, MARP will elect officers for the 2016-18 term, vote on a recommendation to revise language in the Bylaws relating to appointment and compensation of an Executive Director (*see above for information*), and hear updates on Michigan rail projects.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person and includes a catered luncheon. The registration deadline is September 14.

Please Register _____ people at \$25 per person. Fee includes a catered lunch.

My Name _____

My guest’s Name _____

\$_____ enclosed (\$25 per person)

PRINT THIS PAGE and send with your personal check payable to MARP, Inc. to:
MARP, Inc. | PO BOX 510842 | LIVONIA MI 48151-6842

ONLINE REGISTRATION is available at marp.org/?p=6192 using Pay Pal, a major credit card or debit card

ACT NOW! The deadline for registration is September 14

Plan Now to Attend MARP Meeting in Dowagiac

Make your plans now to attend the October 8 MARP meeting in Dowagiac. This venue offers the rare opportunity to arrive via train. Those of you living along the route of the *Blue Water* have the most felicitous schedule. The more adventurous among *Wolverine* riders will enjoy your layover on the return trip with a stroll on Kalamazoo's Downtown Mall or a visit to one of the many watering holes near the Amtrak station. (NOTE: If you choose the latter option, you may have to schedule your to/from trips separately, since the Amtrak website seems to offer the return *Wolverine* trip with the transfer in Battle Creek rather than Kalamazoo.)

The start time of the meeting will be adjusted to correspond to the scheduled arrival of #365 in Dowagiac. It will help with planning if you let us know you plan take the train. Send email to marprail@yahoo.com.

Other Upcoming Events

The **21st Century Michigan Infrastructure Commission** will hold the third stop in its statewide "listening tour" on Friday, September 23, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, at the **DNR Outdoor Adventure Center**, 1801 Atwater St, Detroit MI 48207. Attendees should be prepared to discuss their vision for the state's future infrastructure systems and expectations for Michigan's infrastructure across all sectors: transportation, water, communications, and energy. This input will help shape the Commission's final report and set of recommendations, which will be released on November 30, 2016. The event is free, but to guarantee seating it is requested that you **RSVP HERE**.

This is an important opportunity for you to make commissioners aware of the importance of passenger trains to the well-being of our citizens, our economy, and our environment. They may not hear this otherwise.

If you have not had an opportunity to attend one of these sessions, please **Join the online conversation**. See what others are saying and add your own voice.

The **Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance** extends an invitation to join them as they host the Rail Users' Network on October 8, at the newly refurbished "**Big 4**" **Depot** in Lafayette IN. Speakers include: Ed Ellis whose Iowa Pacific Holdings is managing the **Hoosier State train**; INDOT's Will Wingfield on the upcoming 2-year extension of the **Hoosier State** operating agreement; and the mayors of Crawfordsville, Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Rensselaer speaking on how passenger rail has and will continue to enhance economic development for their communities. For more information on the FREE event, see page 7 of the **IPRA Newsletter**.

East Lansing Station Dedication

Formally designated the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway, the new East Lansing station will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Monday, September 26.



The station was opened to intercity bus service provided by Indian Trails, Greyhound, and Megabus last fall. Amtrak's *Blue Water* train began using the new facilities earlier this year. Passengers can also make connections here to *Lakeshore Limited* and *Capitol Limited* trains via Amtrak Thruway bus service. CATA's Route 20 serves the Gateway year-round. Route 39 will provide service during MSU's fall and spring semesters.

Passengers of all services are enjoying the enclosed waiting areas that are open 24/7. In response to numerous complaints about uncomfortable seating, new benches have been installed in the Amtrak waiting room.

The recently completed parking lot has spaces for 150 cars. The new lot is a paid lot in order to discourage people using nearby Michigan State University facilities from taking spots away from station customers. The rates are \$1 for 30 minutes, \$2 an hour, \$10 a day and \$50 a week. Parking revenue will be used to offset the operating costs of the station, which is administered by the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA). The station, located at 1240 S. Harrison Road, is staffed weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Gateway project was funded with a \$6.28 million grant from USDOT and \$566,000 contributed by MDOT. MSU contributed a land lease on behalf of the project.

Call for Volunteers

MARP will have an information table at the September 26 dedication of the East Lansing station. Steve Vagnozzi is looking for volunteers to help out at 11 am. Please contact Steve at svagnozzi@comcast.net or phone 517-349-4889.

U.S. Drivers logged 1.58 trillion miles in the first six months of the year — up 3.3 % from the same period last year.

1.58 trillion miles equals 250 roundtrips Earth - Pluto.

Traffic fatalities rose 9 % in the first six months of the year compared to the same period last year, continuing a trend that could lead to the deadliest U.S. driving year since 2007,

-- information from USDOT, FHWA,
and the National Safety Council

View from elsewhere . . .

“Via Rail is mandated to provide basic transportation service to remote, landlocked communities. For example, its Winnipeg to Churchill line cost about \$26 million in a year, but ran a \$3.7-million shortfall last year.

-- In response to this **Winnipeg Free Press** article lauding VIA Rail promotion of beluga- and polar bear-watching trips to Hudson’s Bay, Harry Gow, founder of Transport Action Canada and advocate for restoration of train services in the sparsely populated areas of Northern Ontario, was moved to ask why some get remote service funding and others do not.

“The opening of this transit center is another step in our plan to make Union Station a true transit hub for the city of Chicago. By making it easier to move from a bus to a train and improving nearby traffic flow, we are making the neighborhood more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses.”

-- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel **announcing the opening** of the new CTA bus boarding center accessible from Chicago Union Station via a passageway beneath Jackson Ave. Routes served are #1 Bronzeville/Union, #28 Stony Island, #121 Union/Streetsville Express, #124 Navy Pier, #151 Sheridan, #156 LaSalle.



Nooooooooo!!!!

Bud @budpegasus tweeted this impassioned plea when he learned of plans to replace the **clackety status board** in Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station, perhaps the last **Solari board** to grace an Amtrak station. This follows **news** that a modified “Solari” in New York’s Penn Station will be replaced with LED displays strategically placed throughout the terminal. Ferroequinologists may have to console themselves with **an ingenious website** that creates the **sights and sounds** of the iconic status board for any Amtrak station in the country.

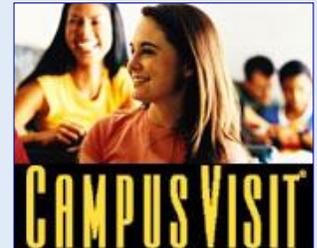


Save 15% on Travel When You Take the Train to The Henry Ford in Dearborn, MI

Expires on November 19, 2016

Buy One, Get One 50% Off with Campus Visit

Exclusive Travel Offer for Families Planning a College Visit
Purchase by December 17, 2016



Contact Your Lawmaker

Congressional Switchboard
202-224-3121

Sen. Debbie Stabenow

Sen. Gary Peters

Find Your Congressperson

Find Your State Senator

Find Your State Representative



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