



*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 2020-2022

John Guidinger	Chair
Steve Vagnozzi	Vice-Chair
Jeanie Merckel	Treasurer
Open	Secretary
Steve Vagnozzi	Gov't/Public Affairs Coordinator
Warren Fritz	Membership Coordinator
Kay Chase	Communications Coordinator
Chuck Merckel	Meetings Coordinator
Robert Patterson	Detroit/Metro Region Chair
Open	Northern Region Chair
Open	West Region Chair
Open	East/Central Region Chair

Webmaster, Larry Sobczak  
ON TRACK Editor, Kay Chase

### 2021 MEETINGS

**28 January** – Member Meeting  
Virginia High Speed Rail

**18 March** – Member Meeting  
Amtrak has Plans for Ohio  
Zoom at 5:00 PM

**15 April** – Member Meeting  
Toledo Passenger Rail Committee  
Zoom at 5:00 PM

**13 May** – Join HSRail.org to hear  
Derrick James Amtrak's Vision 2035

**10 June** – Member Meeting  
Empire State Passengers  
Zoom at 5:00 PM

**15 July** – Invitation to attend  
VHSR Town Hall on-line

**16 September** – Member Meeting  
Traverse City Rail Proposal  
Zoom at 5:00 PM

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
October 9

Visit [www.marp.org](http://www.marp.org)  
Email [marprail@yahoo.com](mailto:marprail@yahoo.com)

## Next Steps for A2TC Train

Carolyn Ulstad, who joined the staff of Traverse City's **Groundwork Center** in January of this year as Transportation Program Manager, ZOOM-ed in on September 16 to update 38 MARP members and friends on plans to move forward with the **Ann Arbor to Traverse City Passenger Rail Project**.

Dubbed A2TC, the project began with the State Rail Plan in 2011 and was given a boost with publication in 2018 of a **feasibility and cost estimate study**. The study found strong and growing numbers of visitors to the region—currently 3.5 million visitors annually and projected to grow at 4% a year. A significant portion of potential ridership originates in Southeast Michigan. Ms. Ulstad pointed out that the train would also benefit residents of the mid- and northern portions of the Lower Peninsula by providing safe and economical access to the extensive educational, medical, sports and cultural resources of southeastern Michigan. Significantly, the line would facilitate movement for 90,000 university and college students along the line who could use the train to get to and from home and college activities.

The A2TC possesses some unique characteristics that make it a particularly attractive project: the tracks are still in place and in reasonably good condition; state ownership of the track is a huge plus; and, the project has great public support with little opposition. A \$2 million upgrade of tracks south of Traverse City was completed in 2019 and another \$500,000 in work is currently underway to the east of the City.

In partnership with the Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority, the Groundwork Center is applying for federal grants to begin required environmental work, as well as to advance a more detailed and extensive feasibility study to more accurately predict how various train speeds and associated ticket costs would affect rider numbers. It is hoped to complete a Service Development Plan in about a year's time.

Plans are to run some excursion/event trains in 2022. Ultimately, the vision is for scheduled daily service in both directions.

You may read more details in the **Train Study Summary found [here](#)**.

## MARP's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**At First Congregational Church in Jackson**

**REGISTER NOW!**

See Page 3 for Details



**Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc.**  
33373 Hampshire Road · Livonia, MI 48154-2952

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## Proposed Changes to By-Laws Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers

September 11, 2021

The MARP Executive Committee is proposing changes to the by-laws that would remove the Regional Chapter Chairs from automatically being members of the MARP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would remain at a maximum of 12 members, with four officers and eight other members.

### Reason for Change

For many years we have not been able to recruit Regional Chapter Chairs. When Regional Chairs have been recruited they are often inactive and do not contribute to the functioning of MARP. The reason for this problem is not clearly known, but it likely has to do with the lack of interest in forming new Regional Chapters. Other problems probably include an unclear definition of duties of the Regional Chair, a reluctance of a prospective Regional Chair to take on these duties, poorly defined regional boundaries, and a lack of knowledge of which MARP members live in the region. Other than in western Michigan, no functioning regional chapter has been formed or has lasted more than a few years. The single regional chapter that has operated, the Western Michigan Chapter, has not functioned for some time and had a history of interfering with the overall operation of the MARP Executive Committee.

The proposed change would only remove the Regional Chapter Chairs from automatically being members of the MARP Executive Committee. The change would not abolish the Regional Chapters or preclude any Regional Chapter Chair from being invited to be a member of the Executive Committee.

As it is now, the four positions on the Executive Committee reserved for the Regional Chairs:

- 1) Are usually vacant or filled by inactive ghosts causing Executive Committee weakness
- 2) Deny other qualified persons from Executive Committee membership if no at-large positions are available even though vacancies exist on the positions reserved for the Regional Chairs
- 3) Deny other persons Executive Committee membership who live in the same region with a Regional Chair on the committee if no at-large positions are available
- 4) Discourage the recruitment of senior experts in the railroad industry to the board because of having to task them with mundane Regional Chair tasks

### The Proposed Changes

The proposed changes are shown on the next page. The changes are very minor. Words to be removed are crossed out and words to be inserted are shown in *italics*. The definition on Page 3 under "4.2 Executive Committee" is adjusted so that the words "Regional Chapter Chairs" and "four at large" members are removed and replaced with "eight elected members." Other minor word changes are made on this page and on pages 4 and 6.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Guidinger".

John Guidinger

Chair, Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers



**ALL ABOARD  
MICHIGAN!**

## MARP 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

First Congregational Church • 120 N Jackson St • Jackson MI 49201

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Derrick James**

Director, Government Affairs, AMTRAK

We are looking forward to our first in-person meeting in some time. However, due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, we do ask that those planning to attend be fully vaccinated.

**PRINT THIS PAGE • CLIP THE FORM • MAIL**

If you plan to attend, please RETURN THIS FORM TODAY in an envelope along with a personal check made out to MARP, Inc. and mail it to

MARP, Inc. | c/o Jean Merckel | 33373 Hampshire Road | Livonia MI 48154-2952

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

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed (\$25 per person)

ONLINE REGISTRATION is available at [marp.org/?p=7205](http://marp.org/?p=7205) using Pay Pal, a major credit card or debit card

**ACT NOW! Must be postmarked by September 29 or submitted online by October 1.**

Questions? Email [marprail@yahoo.com](mailto:marprail@yahoo.com) or phone Chuck Merckel at 734-330-0281

### HERE ARE THE PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The complete By-Laws are posted on the MARP website at [marp.org/?p=6416](http://marp.org/?p=6416)

#### ARTICLE IV: QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ~~AT-LARGE~~ ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

##### 4.1 OFFICERS

The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

##### 4.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Corporation, ~~the Regional Chapter Chairs, and Four (4) At-Large~~ **Eight (8)** Elected Members.

##### 4.3 SELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ~~AT-LARGE~~ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and ~~At-Large~~ Executive Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation held in even numbered years to hold office for a two (2) year term beginning at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they have been elected. The Regional Chapter Chairs shall be elected as specified in Article 4.5C.

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Chair with the concurrence of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer is not subject to limitations on term of office.

##### 4.4 QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers and Executive Committee members must be members in good standing of the Association and at least 18 years of age. (**By-Laws continues on next page**)

(By-Laws continued from previous page)

#### 4.5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4.5A The officers shall be elected at the general membership meeting in 1996 and thereafter at the annual membership meeting in even numbered years. Terms shall run for two years, commencing and terminating upon the date of the Annual Meeting.

4.5B Candidates for Officers, Regional Chapter Officers (Section 6.2.), and **At-Large** Executive Committee Members (Section 7.2) shall be nominated by the membership by the end of June of an election year. Nominations shall be made to the Chair or the Executive Director. Ballots shall be mailed via first class mail to all paid members in good standing by the end of August. In the event there is only one candidate for each office, the Chair may, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, dispense with the mailing of ballots. Ballots shall be counted and results announced at the annual membership meeting.

#### ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND **AT-LARGE** ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

##### 5.1 CHAIR

The Chair shall be the chief officer and spokesperson for the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation including the Annual Meeting, Executive Committee Meetings and General Membership Meetings. The Chair shall present a report of the work accomplished by the Corporation during the preceding year at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Specifically, the Chair shall be responsible for the work of the Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall perform other duties pertaining to the office.

The Chair may authorize others to speak on behalf of the Corporation in his/her absence.

##### 5.2 VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair is authorized to function as the Chair in the absence, incapacity or death of the Chair. In the event of the Chair's resignation or death, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair until a successor is appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Vice Chair shall keep abreast of the work of the Regional Chapter Chairs (See Article VI) and the **four (4) At-Large eight (8)** Executive Committee Coordinators (See Resolutions 4 & 5) as directed by the Chair.

In the absence of the Secretary, the Vice Chair shall assure that full and complete minutes of a meeting are taken and properly recorded.

#### ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### 7.1 PURPOSE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee functions as the budgetary, planning and policy-recommending agency of the Corporation. Policies developed by the Executive Committee shall be subject to membership approval by majority vote of members at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting. It shall also function as the policy-making body at those times when delay to convene a general membership meeting would cause material harm to the Corporation or its Purpose. The Executive Committee shall be deemed to be the Board of Directors within the meaning of the Michigan General Corporations Act. Upon it being constituted under Article IV of these Bylaws, it shall relieve any authority, attributed to the Board of Directors constituted under the Articles of Incorporation.

##### 7.2 COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, **Four (4) and Eight (8) At-Large** Elected Members. ~~, and each Chair of a Regional Chapter, or his/her designee.~~



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