

STATE OF MICHIGAN

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

In Recognition of The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers 50th Anniversary

LET IT BE KNOWN, That it is with great pleasure that we recognize, honor, and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP). In light of the continued efforts of MARP over the last five decades, it is only fitting and proper to commemorate this important milestone and their many accomplishments.

The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers was founded in Detroit by John DeLora and other passenger rail supporters in 1973. The mission of MARP is to:

- Press for the improvement and expansion of Amtrak and other passenger rail service
- Establish a Metropolitan Detroit regional (commuter) rail system
- Improve and expand intercity bus services
- Preserve and protect historic passenger stations
- Educate the public and Michigan lawmakers about the benefits of modern rail passenger service

Members have included train enthusiasts, professional planners, railroad officials, attorneys, engineers, municipal and state officials, historians, model railroaders, educators, and other persons. Meetings have always been held at various locations around the state to encourage participation by members and other interested persons.

In 1973 MARP began publishing *The Wolverine Passenger*, a monthly newsletter containing rail passenger news and updates. Known today as *The Michigan Passenger*, the newsletter is printed quarterly and distributed by mail to members and other parties and to passengers at Michigan train stations. Beginning in 2010, a monthly electronic newsletter, *On Track*, was published for distribution to members and others via the internet. After Amtrak discontinued printing timetables, MARP began to print timetables for Michigan trains for distribution to passengers at train stations.

MARP participated in advocacy efforts which resulted in the addition of passenger rail service from both Port Huron and Grand Rapids to Chicago. In the 1980s, MARP managed the Passenger Service Aide Program for MDOT, in which uniformed aides rode the trains to assist passengers with onboard matters and provide information about schedules, reservations, connections, and opportunities at destination cities. MARP was also invited by the Canadian Senate Committee on Transport to present a model VIA Rail Canada Act, which was drafted in consultation with Transport 2000 Canada.

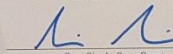
Over the years MARP has provided verbal comments at numerous public meetings and supplied written commentary concerning rail passenger matters. This input has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan State Legislature, Amtrak, railroad companies, municipalities, and other interest groups.

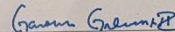
IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, to congratulate the members on this happy occasion, and to wish them many more years of continued success.


Brian BeGole, State Representative
The Seventy-First District


Veronica Kiland, State Senator
The Eleventh District


Julie Brixie, State Representative
The Seventy-Third District


Sam Singh, State Senator
The Twenty-Eighth District


Garlin Gilchrist II
Lieutenant Governor


Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

The One Hundred and Second Legislature
At Lansing
Saturday, October 14th, 2023

