

## **Candidate Statements for 2020 Pennsylvania Council Representative**

**Candidate: Ken Joseph**

**Candidate Residence: Pittsburgh**

**Candidate Status: Incumbent**

### **Why are you interested in serving in a NARP/RPA Leadership Position?**

Over the years, NARP/RPA has been a very effective advocate in preserving our passenger rail network. I believe that the time is now ripe for NARP/RPA to not only encourage the expansion of state supported trains, but to begin the expansion of the national network. I would like to be part of that effort.

### **If elected to a Council position, what are the primary goals you personally would pursue?**

1. Formulating and supporting legislation to replace the expiring FAST Act which will benefit passenger rail at all levels.
2. Increasing NARP/RPA membership and broadening that membership to more accurately reflect rail passenger riders.

### **What is your passenger rail advocacy experience?**

I have been a member of the citizens' advisory boards to the local transit agency and the regional metropolitan planning organization. When it appeared that the transit agency had lost interest in completing Stage II of its light rail transit project, I organized community groups to demand its completion. With respect to intercity passenger rail, I have been a member of NAARP/RPA for decades and a Council member since around 2000. During my time on Council, I have regularly attended and participated in Council meetings, met with local members of Congress in their home offices, and, for the past several years, have organized Day on the Hill for the Pennsylvania delegation. When the Pennsylvania governor announced that the Pennsylvanian would be discontinued, I helped form Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail and worked to save the train through meeting with legislators, helping organize rallies and testifying at legislative hearings. Along with fellow Council member Michael Alexander, I have helped organize the 2013, 2016 and 2019 DE/NJ/PA regional meetings held in Harrisburg.