

Candidate Statements for 2020 Maryland Council Representative

Candidate: Harvard W. Morehead

Candidate Residence: Gaithersburg

Candidate Status: Incumbent

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

I have been an RPA Council member for 3 years; during that time I have seen many changes both in RPA and in Amtrak. I would like to continue serving Maryland RPA members in this capacity, to forward the associations goals on the ground.

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

I will be beginning to volunteer in the RPA office; I will be bringing my extensive rail advocacy experience to bear, and, as an officer of the Maryland chapter of RPA, push for more and better trains. For example, I would like to see not only a daily Cardinal, but also two trains a day on the Capital route, and to make sure that the Corridor service is at least maintained at its current level, but expanded.

Also, I have become very alarmed at the condition of the long-distance fleet, particularly the Superliners. As wonderful as they are, they are over 30 years old, and are showing their age. I would like to be involved in the design of their replacements, making sure they are both ADA compliant, as well as efficient as the equipment they replace.

What is your passenger rail advocacy experience?

I have been a rail advocate for over 30 years, starting during the Carter administration. Among my accomplishments, I was an officer in the CA ARP, testified at both the Southern Pacific peninsula commuter train-off hearings (those resulted in the establishment of Caltrain service), as well as the "zero-based" examination of the Amtrak system. Since moving to Maryland in the 90's, I have been an RPA member, as well as a member of the Action Committee for Transit (ACT), which has long pushed for the Purple line. I am a founding officer of the MD RPA chapter, and, as I noted above, have been a Council member for 3 years, attending all meetings.