

Dear Governor O'Malley,

The Orioles are on a trajectory in the MLB postseason that have many Marylanders on the edge of their seats. The prospect of the O's reaching the World Series for the first time since 1983 has been a dream of many, and this year such a dream appears to be a real possibility.

We, the MARC Riders Advisory Council (MRAC), write you today in the hopes that you will ask the Maryland MTA, Bombardier and CSX to prepare a plan for special MARC service serving Oriole Park at Camden Yards should the Orioles advance to the 2014 World Series. As you know from your time as Mayor of Baltimore, Camden Yards' own Camden Station is a state of the art commuter facility that can hold up to three MARC trains and can accommodate approximately 3,480 seated passengers boarding or alighting trains at a time (more if you have standees); multiple rounds of this activity are possible as CSX maintains a nearby facility where trains can "park" while other trains arrive to the stadium. Camden Station's high-level platforms permit a fully loaded train to empty onto the platform in about 5 minutes. The MRAC estimates that Camden Station can accommodate approximately 10,000 passengers in an hour's time.

The benefits of having such a service for these games are numerous far-reaching. Highlights include:

- Alleviate parking at the stadium venue and provides free parking (excepting Union Station) for fans in large, easy to access commuter rail parking lots
- Avoid emitting approximately 80 metric tons of CO₂e emissions in the Baltimore-Washington region PER GAME
- Greatly reduce congestion in Baltimore and/or Washington, on primary interstates, and on feeder roads.
- Alleviate hotel congestion in Baltimore and/or Washington (many hotels sit along the train route)
- Reduce the potential number of drunk drivers on the road after the games
- Significantly boost to tourism and hospitality economy in the districts and towns along the Camden Line

The special trains' route follows the MARC Camden Line that is used in regular service for Baltimore-Washington, DC commuters. The MRAC recommends that the trains make stops at Dorsey, Savage, Laurel, Muirkirk, and Washington Union Station to pick up and drop off fans along the way.

Trains are permitted to travel at speeds up to 70 MPH on the Camden Line, and the trip between DC and Baltimore takes about an hour. Combined parking at the MRAC-recommended station stops totals to an impressive 8,003 parking spaces. If one assumes just 3 persons per vehicle, 24,000 people, all of whom can be accommodated in these satellite lots, would not have to drive to and from the stadium.

Baseball game train service to and from Baltimore and Washington, DC is not a new entity for Maryland. CSX and the MTA ran regular baseball trains along the Camden Line to Washington, DC and along the Old Main Line to Frederick, MD as recently as the 1990s using the exact same facility at Camden Station; many of the fine individuals involved in that operation are still employed by and involved in MARC Camden Line operations at both CSX and at the MTA, so the logistics of this endeavor are not a mystery.

What we, the people of the DC-Baltimore region need, is support from our elected leadership to get the ball rolling, so to speak. We ask that you reach out to the MTA and to CSX leadership and encourage them to step up to the plate. If the O's make it to a World Series, the world will be watching, and our state's transportation infrastructure needs to be ready. Normal train service isn't going to cut muster when a World Series comes to town. We have the capability to provide a world-class service, and it's just a matter of putting wheels on the rail.

Respectfully yours,

The MARC Riders Advisory Council

cc:

Sen. Barbara Mikulski
Sen. Benjamin Cardin
Sen. Edward J. Kasemeyer
Sen. James N. Robey
Sen. James E. DeGrange, Sr.
Sen. James C. Rosapepe
Sen. Douglas J. J. Peters
Sen. Paul G. Pinsky
Sen. Victor R. Ramirez

Robert L. Smith, MTA Administrator
Jay Westbrook, CSX Commuter Services
Katherine Read, Bombardier Transportn.

MARC World Series Service Quick Facts

Number of fans/passengers: up to 20,000 per game

Number of cars off roads: up to 8,003

Time from DC to Baltimore: 1 hour

Train Fare: Between \$4 and \$7 depending on distance

Cost of parking: Free at all stops except Union Station

Top speed: 70 MPH

Train Consist: 1 diesel engine and up to 9 double decker cars

Car capacity: each capable of seating between 125 and 130 passengers

Train Amenities: Cushioned seats, heating, and two bathrooms per train

Station Stops:

- Washington Union Station (Metro Red line, Amtrak, and Virginia Railway Express)
- Greenbelt (Metro Green and Yellow Lines)
- Muirkirk
- Laurel
- Savage
- Dorsey
- Camden Yards (connects with Baltimore Light Rail)