

For Immediate Release:

Friends of Coopersville & Marne Railway Historic Disabled Accessible Rail Passenger Car Dedication to be held in Coopersville on November 17, 2022 at 1:30pm.

After thousands of hours of careful modification the historic 1929 Pullman passenger car "La Reine" is set to welcome disabled passengers aboard the Friends of the Coopersville & Marne Railway.

Over the past 34 years, the Coopersville & Marne Railway has hosted nearly 500,000 passengers on its vintage train rides. Due to the historic nature of our rail passenger equipment, it has been difficult for the disabled to access our trains. Although not having all the amenities of a modern ADA rail passenger car, our historic disabled accessible rail passenger car has been carefully modified to provide for the needs of most disabled train riders.

Generous donors throughout west Michigan contributed nearly \$300,000 to complete the project. Major donors include the Meijer Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, Ed Hanenburg Foundation, the Steve Brandsta Family Foundation and many small individual contributions.

Now the disabled will have an opportunity to travel by an historic passenger car through the beautiful farm countryside between Coopersville and Marne along with their families. Disabled train ride service will begin with our Santa Train on November 26.

Please join us in celebration of this major West Michigan civic achievement. Our train is located at 306 Main Street, Coopersville, MI 49404. Call 616-893-0078 for more information. We will have media support material available for news organizations including HD video and still photographs. We will be taking our inaugural disabled passengers on a short train ride. You are welcome to ride along.

Please visit <https://vimeo.com/652622343/5ffd73c810> to watch a brief video on the La Reine project. And here's a link to the car being put back on the tracks <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/765221526>