

RailPlan INTERNATIONAL



Contact: **ANGELA M. STARR**
Mobile: **213-300-3418**
AS Starr@RailPlan.com
RailPlan.com
[@RailPlanIntl](https://twitter.com/RailPlanIntl)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RailPlan International Delivers Fully-Designed and Retrofitted Bike Cars to MARC for Public Debut

Baltimore, Maryland, January 12, 2015 – Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) debuted a full-size Bike Car last December, designed, fabricated and installed by the award-winning team at RailPlan International. The MARC Bike Car is the first in a pilot program by MTA Maryland, and enhances weekend train service in the active cycling community. RailPlan completed the one-of-a-kind Bike Car in just six short months.

As MARC's new bi-level rail cars come into service, it is the agency's plan to convert older, single-level fleet into bike cars with amenities such as easily accessible bike racks, luggage towers, beverage tables and special hand holds. Adding to the challenge and innovation of RailPlan's design, MARC requested various combinations of these amenities be potentially converted back to all-passenger seating depending on the needs of the community, rendering its bike car completely adaptable.

In May of 2014, RailPlan's Vehicle Products Division was asked to submit a proposal to design and build the components of a bike car according to MARC's specifications, the likes of which had yet to appear anywhere in commuter service. Requesting delivery of the first bike car by Thanksgiving 2014, MARC gave RailPlan just six short months to complete the project from design to installation. After reviewing safety considerations, passenger ease of use, the needs of the commuter service and protecting public investment, RailPlan engaged its Industrial and Mechanical Design group to design a bike car that would meet all of MARC's criteria.

RailPlan International Delivers Fully-Designed and Retrofitted Bike Cars to MARC for Public Debut
CONTINUED

In the beginning stages, RailPlan provided concept models, soft mock-ups and federally mandated safety calculations showing the added components would meet crash worthiness standards. After approval by MARC, all parts were fabricated at RailPlan's plant in Baltimore, MD. Component highlights include:

- **Bike Rack** - The bike rack was designed so the cyclist can easily roll a bike in with no lifting required. The bike locks in place with no straps or mechanical latches, allowing quick and safe train access for the next rider to load his or her bike into the next available rack. The final design includes a maximum bike rack configuration that provides spaces for 26 full-size bikes.
- **Luggage Tower** - The luggage tower was designed using newly coined "Crime Prevention through Ergonomic Design" (CPTED). This security design provides better visibility in the railcar from end to end and the area from ceiling to floor is not blocked by solid or opaque surfaces. The luggage towers feature translucent sides and shelves that allow contents to be visible, ensuring nothing is left on the car that doesn't belong there. The final design includes two towers per car.
- **Beverage Tables** - The beverage tables are at standing height, containing cup holders and hooks that allow a bag or riding helmet to be hung under the table. MARC's final design includes one table per car.
- **Refurbished Seating** – Existing seats were removed and rebuilt to align with MARC's goals to provide many more years of comfortable service. Repainting, cushion fabric cleaning and frame inspection were completed; and 27 double-passenger seats were installed in the final design.

While the Vehicle Products Division was designing the interior components, RailPlan's Mechanical Services group was hard at work preparing the car for its conversion. The renovation consisted of removing old passenger seats and floor coverings, and

RailPlan International Delivers Fully-Designed and Retrofitted Bike Cars to MARC for Public Debut
CONTINUED

Installing new anti-slip floor tile, new lighting and refinishing the vestibule with graffiti-resistant covering. The team finalized the process with a powerful cleaning from top to bottom, which prepared the car for the newly refurbished seats and RailPlan-designed bike car components.

About RailPlan International

With over 28 years of worldwide railroad expertise spanning **Consulting, Engineering, Manufacturing, Industrial Design and Mechanical Services**, RailPlan International has the talent and capabilities to take a project from concept through production and beyond. RPI services include:

- Consulting services ranging from procurement support, inspection and testing to complete new rail vehicle design and overhaul including technical publications
- Engineering and industrial design experts providing innovative product engineering and end-use system integration
- Manufacturing expertise including building innovative locally-produced modular systems such as ADA Toilets, Bedrooms, and complete railcar interiors including Cabs, Galleys, Dining Cars and Snack bars, and custom specialty products
- Mechanical expertise encompassing car and locomotive maintenance, management of rolling stock, training and certification, procurement, warehouse and facilities management, and testing and inspection ensuring full Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) compliance

Experience Matters. See how at www.RailPlan.com

###

