B&O Railroad Museum Announces the Transfer of C&O Locomotive No. 1309 to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for Restoration to Operating Condition

WHAT: The B&O Railroad Museum and the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad announced today an historic agreement to transfer ownership of Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Locomotive No. 1309 from the Museum’s collection to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad where the locomotive will be restored to operating condition for use for the scenic railroad’s passenger operations.

The historic locomotive was built in 1949 and was the last domestic steam locomotive manufactured by the once-mighty Baldwin Locomotive Works. This powerful locomotive is known as a “Mallet,” after Swiss engineer Anatole Mallet. Mallet’s design combined an articulated frame with “compound” steam to provide a flexible and powerful locomotive. Articulation of the frame allowed the 217-ton locomotive to navigate curves and the compound steam used the engine’s steam twice; first for the rear set of high pressure cylinders, and second for the low pressure front cylinders. No. 1309 worked out of the C&O’s Peach Creek Terminal in Logan, West Virginia hauling coal. It was retired in 1956 and remained in storage until it became a part of the B&O Railroad Museum’s Collection and was moved to Baltimore in 1972.

The Collections Committee of the Board of Directors of the B&O Railroad Museum considered this transfer over many months by assessing the value for both parties, the Museum's mission, and its collections policy. They consider this to be a one-of-a-kind opportunity for both non-profits, which will benefit the citizens of Maryland and others in the railroad heritage community nationwide.
Courtney B. Wilson, Director of the B&O Railroad Museum said “This historic agreement is a win-win for railroad preservation. It ensures the long-term preservation and restoration of an important steam locomotive which is central to our mission.

Mark Farris, President of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Board of Directors said “With the full support of the Board of Directors, the continued efforts of the executive directors, staff and employees of the WMSR have allowed for the growth and prosperity of our wonderful tourist attraction in Western Maryland. These efforts have provided the resources to give the WMSR the opportunity to acquire locomotive 1309, restore it, and place it back into service in a wonderful mountainous setting where thousands of people can enjoy the sights and sounds of a bygone era.”

The locomotive has been moved to the B&O Railroad Museum’s restoration facility in preparation for shipment to the Western Maryland’s shops. Once this is complete, the locomotive will travel by rail on specialized flat cars pulled by CSX. Restoration to operating condition is expected to take several years.

WHEN: May, 2014

WHERE: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum
901 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21223
410-752-2490
FREE PARKING

NOTES: The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.borail.org.

The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSR) is dedicated to preserving local transportation heritage and promoting tourism in Allegany County while striving to provide a safe, unique and educational experience for members of our community as well as tourists from outside the area. The WMSR has successfully operated a steam locomotive on a 33 mile round trip for the past 20 years on the ex-Western Maryland Railway and Cumberland and Pennsylvania (C&P) track. For more information of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad and the WMSR Foundation please call 301-759-4400 Ext 130 or visit www.movingfullsteamahead.com.