

Tributes

Carl Fowler

Lloyd was not only a tireless and remarkably successful advocate for the maintenance and expansion of passenger rail, but also a smart and generous friend. I will never forget his good counsel, and his wonderful ability to see the possibilities for good outcomes even in opponents.

He was always willing to reach out, talk and more often than not to convince former opponents to become supportive friends. And we mustn't forget that for many years he did all this work for passenger rail while also building the farmers markets network in Washington state.

His passing is a profound loss, but also we will never forget what gifts he gave us. His leadership took Washington state from an “everything always for cars” place to a true national leader in rail and multi-modal public transportation. All Aboard to paradise, and well earned, dear friend.

Barry Green, Rail Passengers Association

Lloyd did a lot to promote expanded and improved passenger rail service in the PNW. He also made several trips to Washington, DC meeting with Congressional Offices to advocate for improved long distance passenger rail service. His work will be missed.

Loren Herrigstad, Past President, AAWA

Lloyd went to so many places, met so many politicians, and did so much over the years and decades. He has made a difference for rail, and for the people of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest that he worked so hard for, for so long.



Remembering Lloyd Flem



Lloyd at Olympia-Lacey Station (courtesy Larry Ganders)

Amtrak Cascades

Such sad news for the rail community. Lloyd's leadership and passion will be missed.

Rep. Andrew Barkis

Lloyd was a tireless advocate for passenger rail and a wealth of knowledge. He will be missed!!!!

Dan McFarling and Jon Nuxoll, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

Lloyd Flem also worked with AORTA in our State Capitol, to guide state transportation policy. His active leadership and engagement throughout the region will be missed. “Praise and push” was Lloyd’s mantra in rail advocacy. Lloyd’s mantra often inspired in other circumstances. He was upbeat but also frank, realistic and still optimistic when there were setbacks. Lloyd remained always on the lookout for ways to educate decision-makers. And his faith in rail advocacy was such that he believed it was simply a matter of educating, not arm-twisting nor horse-trading.

Brendan Read, Transport Action Canada

It was an honor to have known and worked with Lloyd over the decades on both sides of the border. That we are able to cross the border on a train and travel through the U.S is a testament to his efforts, leadership, and, yes, persistence and determination in his cool, calm, affable demeanor.

J. Craig Thorpe, Railroad Artist

I was impressed with his ready command of the multiple issues facing rail development in Washington. Lloyd’s interest, vision and sensitivity was foundational. We all recognize the role of Lloyd’s giftedness to the rail programs of Washington state and beyond. He in turn helped countless people bring their gifts to the greater good. Lloyd will be greatly missed.

More tributes at <https://aawa.us/lloyd/>

Donations to AAWA welcome at <https://aawa.us/donate/>

Chuck Mott, Past President, All Aboard Washington

Lloyd was the man! His mission was clear. The “state highway only” culture in Olympia needed to change, but it wouldn’t be easy. The strategy for success was simple and straightforward. It was to be bi-partisan, work equally well with both sides of the aisle and recognize the importance of a “Praise and Push” agenda, a phrase Lloyd coined, that describes his success in working with elected legislators and transportation decision makers.

Lloyd was a key person in the development of the Olympia/Lacey Centennial Station. This extraordinary privately funded grass roots passenger train station building project, all made it happen. In 1993, Lloyd’s efforts resulted in a very special, quite unique and happy reward! Immediately prior to the opening of the Olympia/Lacey Centennial Station, the temporary wooden boards covering the windows were removed, the station’s night lighting was turned on for the first time and the doors were opened, also for first time use, to host Lloyd and Darleen Flem’s wedding!

Perhaps the crowning achievement of Lloyd’s long, industrious and eventful career was his important role in bringing modern passenger trains to the Amtrak Cascades Rail Passenger Train Corridor. On very short notice, Lloyd was able to persuade the chairpersons of both the Senate and House Transportation Committees, then currently meeting in session, to explain the many features and merits this train could bring to Washington intercity passenger service. Subsequently, the State Legislature approved legislation, authorizing the WSDOT to issue a request for a quotation, for the purchase of a new titling passenger trainset.

Lloyd’s achievements have been widely recognized over many years with receipt of numerous awards and accolades. Among them was the national Rail Passenger Association’s prestigious John R. Martin Award, awarded to Lloyd, in national recognition for his stellar work in promoting passenger train travel.