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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contacts:

Rudy Garbely, Vice President  
The Conrail Historical Society  
rudy.garbely@thecrhs.org | 973-800-9251 (c)

Carolyn Younce, Director of Individual & Corporate Giving  
B&O Railroad Museum  
carolyn@borail.org | 410-752-2462 x227

The Conrail Historical Society and the B&O Railroad Museum  
Announce Joint Restoration of Operating Conrail Locomotive No. 8905

The Conrail Historical Society (The CRHS) and the B&O Railroad Museum (B&O Museum) have announced a partnership to restore one of the Museum's operating diesel-electric locomotives to its historic Conrail paint scheme.

The locomotive is SW7 No. 8905, built in 1950 by the Electro-Motive Division (EMD) of General Motors (GM). End-cab diesel-electric switchers such as the No. 8905 were ubiquitous on railroads throughout the United States. Conrail (officially the "Consolidated Rail Corporation") was formed in 1976 by an act of Congress to preserve and consolidate rail service on several bankrupt railroads in the Northeast, and the new railroad inherited over 500 of these switcher locomotives from its defunct predecessors. Locomotives of this type saw service across the Conrail system, and several were regularly assigned to Conrail's operations around Baltimore.

The B&O Museum purchased No. 8905 in 2004 for use on its popular excursion trains. At the time, it was repainted into a special, one-of-a-kind, red paint scheme designed by the Museum and it became No. 1200. The 14-year-old paint is now in need of restoration, and the Museum has solicited the assistance of The CRHS in returning the locomotive to its authentic Conrail paint scheme and number to pay homage to Conrail's operational history in Baltimore. With an extensive archive of Conrail documents and materials, The CRHS has provided photos, paint diagrams, and drawings to aid the restoration.

The locomotive will be repainted to its mid-1980s Conrail appearance by B&O Museum volunteers and staff.

The CRHS and the B&O Museum have launched a joint fundraising campaign to raise \$6,000 which will cover the extensive surface preparation and all of the paint materials for the restoration. Any additional funds raised will be placed into an account dedicated solely to the maintenance and upkeep of No. 8905 which will remain as the regular power for the Museum's excursions.

According to Ben Snyder, President of The Conrail Historical Society, "This partnership between the B&O Railroad Museum and The Conrail Historical Society perfectly illustrates two organizations working together towards a common goal. The B&O Railroad Museum is one of the most visible and recognized railroad museums in the eastern United States, and the ability of The CRHS to partner with them on this project enhances our ability to teach future generations about Conrail."

Rudy Garbely, Vice President of The Conrail Historical Society, said "This is a fantastic opportunity for The CRHS to make Conrail's history more visible to the public in an authentic railroad environment. Working with the B&O Railroad Museum to accomplish this restoration effectively supports the core missions of both organizations, and we're excited about the groundwork that our partnership will provide for other similar preservation efforts."

To learn more about the locomotive, view photos of No. 8905 throughout its career, or donate to the restoration project, please visit [www.TheCRHS.org/8905](http://www.TheCRHS.org/8905).

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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, including 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](http://www.borail.org).

The Conrail Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that preserves the history of the Consolidated Rail Corporation through education and publication, recognizing the creation of Conrail as one of the most significant developments in the American railroad industry. The Society's fully restored and

operational Conrail caboose is complimented by a robust membership magazine and extensive archival and artifact collections. Support and consultation regarding Conrail operations and equipment is provided to railroad museums, model manufacturers, and researchers. For further information on The Conrail Historical Society, or to join, please visit [www.thecrhs.org](http://www.thecrhs.org).