

MRC

Midwest Rail Conference



Conference Program - DRAFT

20230602



Midwest Rail Conference 2023

“Optimizing Rail Investment”

August 14-16, 2023

Student Union - University of Toledo, OH

Welcome

A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome to Toledo and our third Midwest Rail Conference! With the second MRC having been virtual, we are very excited to host this amazing event in person. This will be our 11th rail conference and we have plenty in store for you. We will hold the traditional Student Scholarship Golf Fundraiser Outing on Monday to kick off the conference with good company and friendly competition. Following that will be small meetings and the Opening Reception on the campus of the University of Toledo. We have a great lineup for Tuesday's educational sessions. With three breakouts having two sessions each, it may be difficult to choose which session you attend. We are very privileged to have Amit Bose, the Administrator for the Federal Railroad Administration, as our Keynote Speaker! Tuesday will wrap up with our closing reception. To change things up a bit, we'll head over to Fifth Third Field for an All-American style baseball game complete with burgers, hot dogs, beverages and a great time watching baseball and networking. "The Roost" is a large banquet room and we'll have our own seating area in the ball field right off the Roost to watch the game. Wednesday's field visits will pique the interest of rail enthusiasts with great information and visits to key rail locations.

Welcome to the conference!

— Nick Little and Tom Burns

Keynote Speaker



Monday, August 14th

AM - TBA Golf Outing

PM - TBA Small Meetings

6pm - 8pm Opening Reception



Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

For information about our speakers, please see the biography brochure.

MRC Technical Program | Tuesday, August 15th

7:15 - 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast

8:00 - 8:15 AM Welcome and Safety Briefing

Tom Burns
Project Development Manager
Ohio Rail Development Commission

Nick Little
Director - Railway Education
Michigan State University

8:15 - 9:15 AM Conference Opening

Moderator: TBA

Ray Lang
VP - State Supported Services
Amtrak

9:15 - 9:45 AM Break

MRC Technical Program Continued | Tuesday, August 15th

9:45 AM

Welcome from Visiting Dignitaries

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Plenary Panel – State DOT's

Moderator: Nick Little, MSU

Peter Anastor

Director - Office of Rail
MDOT

Matt Dietrich

Executive Director
Ohio Rail Development Corp.

Venetta Keefe

Rail Programs Manager
INDOT

Jon Oimen (tent)

Deputy Director of Rail
INDOT

11:15 - 12:30 PM

Breakout Session #1A – Impacts From Funds
Already Spent

Moderator: TBA

Sean Pengelly

Projects & Dev. Engineer
Lake State Railway Co.

James Kornas

VP - Commercial Dev.,
Mergers & Acquisitions
Patriot Rail Company

Louis Agresta

Secretary-Treasurer
West Central Ohio
Port Authority

Troy Strane

General Manager
Indiana Northeastern Railroad

11:15 - 12:30 PM

Breakout Session #1B – Passenger Projects:
Current and Future

Moderator: TBA

Joe Shacter

Director - Program Mgt
Amtrak CHIP

Tony Klaumann

Nebraska/Iowan Freight Rail
Track Section Manager
HDR Engineering Inc

Alex Christmas

Northern Indiana Commuter
Transportation District

12:30 - 2:15 PM

Lunch & Keynote Presentation

Moderator: TBA

Amit Bose

Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Breakout Session #2A – Freight Projects:
Current and Future

Moderator: Peter Shierloh - SW Bridge Engineers

TBA

CSX Intermodal of South
Baltimore

Charles Hunter

Assistant VP - Gov't Affairs
Genesee & Wyoming Railroad

Nikkie Johnson

Passenger & Freight Dev.
Manager - Office of Rail
MDOT

David Johnston (tent)

Plant Manager
Church & Dwight Co., Inc.

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Breakout Session #2B - Midwest State DOT
Passenger Equipment

Moderator: TBA

Rich Kedzior

Passenger Rail Program Manager
WisDOT

Jon Oimen (tent)

Deputy Director of Rail
INDOT

Jeff Martin (tent)

Equipment Program Analyst - Office of Rail
MDOT

3:15 - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Breakout Session #3A - Decarbonization

Moderator: TBA

Andreas Hoffrichter

Principal Consultant
CB E.C.O

Marcin Taraszekiewicz

Rail & Transit Vehicle Technology Lead
HDR Engineering Inc

TBA

Norfolk Southern Corporation

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Breakout Session #3B - Planning Efforts

Moderator: TBA

Derrick James (tent)

Director - Gov't Affairs
Amtrak

TBA

Federal Railroad
Administration

Laura Kliewer

Director
Midwest Intercity Passenger Rail
Commission

5:00 - 5:15 PM

Conference Wrap-Up

6:00PM

Closing Reception - Baseball Game @ Fifth Third Field

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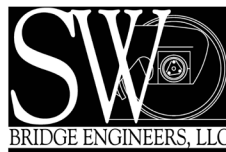
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Conference Planning Committee

Derrick James – Amtrak; Kevin Donahue & Stacey Lyons – CN Railroad; Michael Gaynor – GoRail; Tony Klaumann – HDR Inc; Kelly Kinggo – Kansas City Southern; Shasta Duffey & Mike Hnatiuk – Lake State Railroad Company; Kay Chase – Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers; Nikkie Johnson & Alex Nikoloff – Michigan DOT; Jon Cool – Michigan Railroads Association; Nick Little – Michigan State University; Amanda Codere, Pasi Lautala & David Nelson – Michigan Tech; Robert Pokorski – Michigan Tech RTAB; Tom Burns & Matt Dietrich – Ohio DOT; Robert Goodheart – Pathfinder Engineering; Libby Ogard – Prime Focus LLC; Tim Hoeffner – Quandel Consultants; Peter Shierloh – SW Bridge Engineers