

MIR  **RC** 2018



Conference Program



Michigan Rail Conference 2018

"End to End Journeys: Integrating Partners"

August 7-9, 2018

SVSU Conference Center, Saginaw, MI

Welcome



A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

We would like to welcome everyone to the Michigan Rail Conference (MRC) 2018 in Saginaw, Michigan. This fifth such conference will focus on freight and passenger rail transportation in the state of Michigan. Once again, we bring together talent and expertise to share understanding and explore tremendous opportunities! We thank our planning committee for putting together a great lineup of speakers and activities, Dave Nelson and his team from Michigan Tech for the great logistic support, the staff at the Conference Center at SVSU, and the team involved in organizing the field visits. Lastly, we also need to thank our amazing sponsors whose generous support allows us to keep the conference costs low and make attendance feasible to a vast variety of participants.

As conference co-chairs, we believe that our theme, *Improving End to End Journeys: Integrating Partners*, reflects current business realities and potential economic impacts. Partnering rail transportation with its customers and other modes of transportation enables rail to cover the first and last mile of the journey, and everything between. Our speakers draw from experiences locally, statewide and nationwide to give you very broad perspectives. We hope that you will find the information and networking useful that will help you advance and improve every aspect of rail transportation.

Welcome to the conference! — **Nikkie Johnson and Nick Little**

Keynote Speaker: Jo Strang, ASLRRA

Ms. Strang has been a railroad industry leader for over 20 years. She currently holds the position of Senior Vice President Safety and Regulatory Policy with the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. In this position Ms. Strang advises and represents the short line industry nationally in safety and regulatory matters. Prior to joining the Association in 2013, Ms. Strang held the highest career office with the Federal Railroad Administration serving as the Association Administrator for Railroad Safety/ Chief Safety Officer. In that capacity, for which she was the longest serving in the agency history, she was responsible for railroad safety in the United States. She has testified before the Congress many times on both safety and security issues. She is a Presidential rank award holder along with numerous other awards. Prior to joining the Office of Safety, she held the position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Railroad Policy and Development where she oversaw the Research and Development Office and the financial assistance programs. She also was the Chief of the Railroad Accident Division of NTSB and the Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 4 for the FRA. She holds a Master of Science in Applied Economics from Marquette University.



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

MRC Technical Program | August 8th

7:15 - 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast Seminar Hallway & Banquet A

8:15 - 8:30 AM Welcome and Safety Briefing Seminar DEFG

Nikkie Johnson
Project Manager - Economic Development & Freight
Operations, Michigan DOT

Nick Little
Director - Railway Education
Michigan State University

8:30 - 9:45 AM Plenary Session – Improving End to End Journeys:
Integrating Partners Seminar DEFG

Moderator: **Nick Little, MSU**

Larry Schwenk
NA Rail Logistics Director
DOW Chemical Company

Ray Lang
Senior Director - National State
Relations, Amtrak

Brian Buchanan
Manager - Network Strategies
CN

MRC Technical Program Continued | August 8th

9:45 – 10:15 AM	Break	Seminar Hallway
10:15 - 11:15 AM	Plenary Panel – Michigan Update	Seminar DEFG
<p>Moderator: Nikkie Johnson, Michigan DOT</p> <p>Doug Conway Vice President - Commercial Watco</p> <p>Peter Anastor Director - Agriculture Development MDARD</p> <p>Carly Shapiro Senior Planner HNTB</p>		
11:15 - 12:15 PM	Lunch	Banquet A
12:15 - 1:00 PM	Keynote and ASLRRA Award Presentation	Banquet A
<p>Jo Strang Sr. VP - Safety & Regulatory Policy ASLRRA</p> <p>John Rickoff President & CEO LSRC</p>		
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Breakout Session #1A – Shippers	Seminar DE
<p>Moderator: Libby Ogard, Prime focus, LLC</p> <p>Paul Strpko Sales Manager Fisher Companies</p> <p>John Belger Logistics Manager ARAUCO</p> <p>James Maltese LSLA Director Stella-Jones</p>		
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Breakout Session #1B - Safety	Seminar FG
<p>Moderator: Tammy Wagner, FRA</p> <p>Kris Foondle & Sean Pengelly Manager - Local Crossing Project Michigan DOT “Rifkin Rail Relocation Project”</p> <p>Robert Rohauer Manager Northern Region Community Affairs and Safety - CSX “CSX/Ford Defensive Driving”</p> <p>Patrick Sherry Executive Director - NCIT University of Denver “Tresspassing”</p>		
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Break	Seminar Hallway
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Breakout Session #2A – Passenger Rail	Seminar DE
<p>Moderator: Al Johnson, Michigan DOT</p> <p>Adam Krom Director - Transportation Connection Amtrak “Amtrak Partnership”</p> <p>Edgar Benning General Manager MTA “Local Transit Connections to Rail - Flint”</p> <p>Barry Murray Economic and Community Development Director, City of Dearborn “Dearborn Station Connection to Downtown”</p>		
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Breakout Session #2B - Shortlines	Seminar FG
<p>Moderator: Jon Cool, MRA</p> <p>Jodi Heath Short Line Development Manager NS “Short Line Partnerships”</p> <p>Chris Bagwell President GLC “Freight Challenges in a Peninsula State”</p> <p>Rob Bingham Sales Marketing Manager - Midwest Region, G&W “Partnering to Create Opportunity”</p>		
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Breakout Session #3A - PTC	Seminar DE
<p>Moderator: Larry Lloyd, Gorail</p> <p>Mike Burlaga Manager - Rail Operations Red River Valley & Western “Shortline Perspective”</p> <p>Melody Sheahan Assistant vice President Engineering AAR “Class I Perspective”</p> <p>Bruce Marcheschi Chief Engineering Officer Metra “Passenger Perspective”</p>		
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Breakout Session #3B - Autonomous Vehicles: Challenges and Opportunities to the Rail Community - Interactive Session	Seminar FG
<p>Moderator: Nick Little, MSU</p> <p>Ernest Latham Maintenance Manager Detroit People Mover</p> <p>Andreas Hoffrichter Professor MSU</p> <p>Libby Ogard President Prime Focus, LLC</p>		
5:15 - 5:30 PM	Conference Wrap-Up	
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Closing Reception	Seminar Hallway

Pre-Conference Activities | Tuesday, August 7th

Student Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser

Saginaw Valley Golf Course

8:30 am	Team Check-in
9:00 am	Shot-gun start
Lunch	Hotdog/drink/chips

Welcome Reception

LSRC Offices

5:00 - 7:00 pm	Opening Reception at the Lake State Railway Co. Offices 750 N. Washington Ave Saginaw, MI 48607
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Post-Conference | Thursday, August 9th

Field Visits

Various Locations

7:30 am	Meet at pick-up location
8:00 am	Buses leave to begin field visits Morning Stops to Include: Saginaw Bay Fertilizer Terminal Port Fisher Terminal Bit Mat, Brink Farms, GE
11:00 am	Morning Tour Ends (those who wish to end the field visits early may take the bus back to the pick-up location, everyone else will continue on)
12:30 pm	Afternoon Stops to Include: Camp Grayling Rail Load Out Facilities Arauco Plant Loadout ~4 hour Train Ride from Grayling
5:00 pm	Field visits end

Other Conference Information

Dress Code

Tuesday	Casual
Wednesday	Business Casual
Thursday	Casual PPE Required (vest - provided, no open toe shoes)

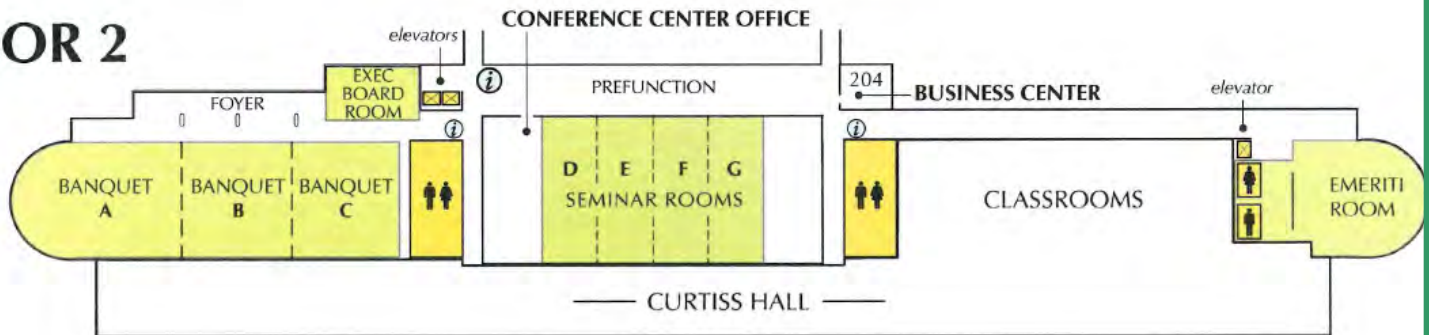
SVSU Conference Center Parking and Facilities Information

SVSU Conference Center & Parking
7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710



Curtiss Hall 201 • (989) 964-4348 • events@svsu.edu

FLOOR 2



FLOOR 1

ENTRANCE

← PARKING LOTS

WEST ENTRANCE →

elevators to Banquet, Seminar Rooms

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

GROENING COMMONS

← EAST ENTRANCE

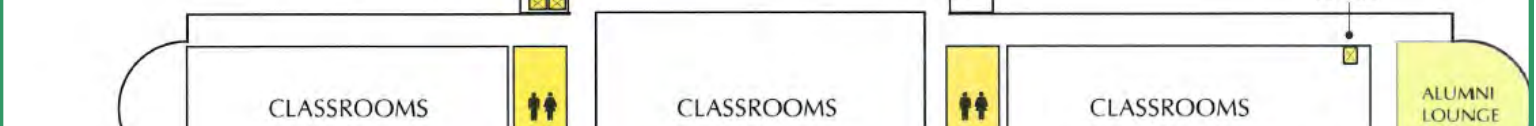
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Conference Planning Committee

Ron DeCook - DeCook Governmental Policy & Strategies; Tammy Wagner – FRA; Rob Bingham - Genessee & Wyoming Railroad; Larry Lloyd - GoRail; Shasta Duffey – Lake State Railway Company; Nikkie Johnson – Michigan DOT; Jon Cool – Michigan Railroads Association; Andreas Hoffrichter, Nick Little, and Sue Lonier – Michigan State University; Amanda Kerttu, Pasi Lautala, and David Nelson – Michigan Tech; Libby Ogard – Prime Focus; Kay Chase - Western Michigan University