



FINAL Conference Program



Michigan Rail Conference 2019

“Think Global, Act Local”

August 7-9, 2019
Henry Center at MSU, East Lansing, MI

Welcome

A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

We would like to welcome everyone to the Michigan Rail Conference (MRC) 2019 back in Lansing, Michigan where it all started. Our sixth conference will focus on freight and passenger rail transportation in the state of Michigan. 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, to the staff at the Henry Center at MSU, and to 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, Think Global, Act Local, reflects current business realities and potential economic impacts. Rail transportation, both freight and passenger is a complex network and extends far beyond the state of Michigan, yet within the state, we seek to grow our economy and improve mobility with leading-edge rail facilities and services. Our expert speakers draw from experiences locally, statewide and nationwide. We hope that you will find the information and networking useful and help you advance and improve every aspect of rail transportation.

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

Keynote Speaker

Conference Opening



Honorable Ronald Batory
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration



Phillip Tassin
General Manager - Michigan Div.
CN Railroad

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

MRC Technical Program | Thursday, August 8th

7:15 - 8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	Heritage Room
8:00 - 8:15 AM	Welcome and Safety Briefing	Heritage Room
Nikkie Johnson Project Manager - Economic Development & Freight Operations, Michigan DOT	Nick Little Director - Railway Education Michigan State University	
8:15 - 9:15 AM	Conference Opening	Heritage Room
Moderator: Nick Little, MSU Phillip Tassin General Manager - Michigan Division CN Railroad	Charley Ballard Professor of Economics - Michigan State University Director - State of the State Survey	
9:15 - 9:45 AM	Break	

MRC Technical Program Continued | Thursday, August 8th

9:45 AM	Welcome from Visiting Dignitaries		Heritage Room
9:45 - 11:00 AM	Plenary Panel – Michigan Updates		Heritage Room
Moderator: Nikkie Johnson, Michigan DOT			
Tim Hoeffner Director - Office of Rail MDOT	Joe McHugh VP, State-Supported Service Amtrak	Jodi Heath Short Line Development Manager Norfolk Southern Railroad	Joe Gurskis WSP
11:15 - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session #1A – New Technology in Rail		Room A169
Moderator: Michael Gaynor			
Andreas Hoffrichter Executive Director Michigan State University “Alternative Motive Power Propulsion”	Mike Tamilia SR Manager, Customs & Transborder Operations CN Railroad “Live Lift Inspections – Leveraging Automation”	Jeffery Moller AVP Trans Systems & Practices AAR “AAR Tech Perspective”	Libby Ogard President Prime Focus, LLC “Rail Technology - Opportunities to Improve Supply Chain Partnerships”
11:15 - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session #1B - Crossing Safety		Room A170
Moderator: Tina Hissong, Michigan DOT			
Dr. Ian Savage Professor of Econ/Transportation Northwestern University “TRB Crossing & Trespass Committee”	Jason Field Crossing Safety Program Manager Moffatt & Nichol “Short-Storage space Crossings”	Kris Foondle Local Crossing Specialist MDOT “Harrison Road Crossing Challenges & Solutions”	Erick Vega & David Nelson Michigan Tech “Crossing & Trespass Safety Research”
12:30 - 2:15 PM	Lunch & Keynote Presentation		Heritage Room
Moderator: Jocelyn Hill, Conrail			
Honorable Ronald Batory Administrator Federal Rail Administration			
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Breakout Session #2A – Railway Suppliers		Room A169
Moderator: Pasi Lautala, Michigan Tech			
Kurt Ulbick Sales Manager Peaker Services “Locomotive Rebuild in MI”	Jim Maltese Michigan Procurement Manager Stella Jones “Local Ties – Global Footprint”	Brian Hawkins Director of Business Development Siemens Mobility, Inc. “Think Global - Act Local”	
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Breakout Session #2B - Passenger System		Room A170
Moderator: Andreas Hoffrichter, MSU			
Matt Oudsema Director - Planning & Development Capitol Area Transportation Authority “CATA Connections to Amtrak”	Peter Savolainen MSU Foundation Professor Michigan State University “SocioMobility Research at MSU”	Matt Webb CFO - Southeast MI Regional Transit Authority “Toledo to Detroit Metro Airport”	
3:15 - 3:45 PM	Break		
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Breakout Session #3A - International Connections		Room A169
Moderator: Elisha Wulff, Michigan DOT			
Sara Moore Intl Border Crossing Specialist MDOT “Michigan - International Connections”	Dan Lynch Associate Professor Dalhousie University “Gordie Howe International Bridge Project: Opportunities & Challenges”	Joe McHugh VP, State-Supported Service Amtrak “Amtrak Cross-Border Service: Today and Tomorrow”	
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Breakout Session #3B - Local Opportunities & Impacts		Room A170
Moderator: Shasta Duffey, LSRC			
Paul Childs CEO M-1 Rail “Q-Line in Detroit”	Rob Bingham General Manager Sargent Docks	Pasi Lautala Director, Rail Transportation Program Michigan Tech “Upper Midwest Log/Forest Study”	
5:00 - 5:15 PM	Conference Wrap-Up		
5:15 - 6:30 PM	Closing Reception		

Pre-Conference Activities | Wednesday, August 7th

Student Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser

Forest Akers West Golf Course

10:30 am

Team Check-in

11:00 am

Start

Welcome Reception

Henry Center @ MSU

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Opening Reception at Henry Center
3535 Forest Road
Lansing, MI 48910



Post-Conference | Friday, August 9th

Field Visits

Various Locations

7:30 am

Meet at pick-up location

8:00 am

Buses leave to begin field visits

TBA

Buses return to pick-up location

Other Conference Information

Dress Code

Wednesday

Casual

Thursday

Business Casual

Friday

Casual

PPE Required (vest - provided, no open toe shoes)

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Conference Planning Committee

Larry Lloyd - CN Railroad; Shasta Duffey – Lake State Railway Company; Michael Gaynor - GoRail; 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