

MRC

Midwest
Rail Conference



FINAL Conference Program



VIRTUAL Midwest Rail Conference 2020

“Sustaining Midwest Rail”
August 11-12, 2020

Welcome

A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome participants, speakers and sponsors to the 2nd Midwest Rail Conference (MRC). Although these unusual times have caused us to alter our original plan for the 2nd MRC, thanks to the help of our co-organizers, the Michigan Rail Conference Planning Committee, National University Rail Center (NURail), and the Freight Rail Transportation Committee (AR040) of the Transportation Research Board, we have been able to develop an interesting and timely virtual conference program. We are grateful to them for their help securing an excellent group of speakers. We also want to thank the sponsors for their support of the MRC in these challenging economic times.

When we determined our conference theme, Sustaining Midwest Rail, we did not anticipate how well it would fit the current conditions. Like many other businesses, both within and outside the US, the focus of rail transportation shifted almost overnight from “growth” to “sustaining” in this age of a new normal ... whatever that may be! Our program reflects this disruption and the response of the rail sector to these unprecedented times. It brings together different stakeholders for a conversation about where we go next and how we need to reconsider our strategies for sustaining and developing rail transport in the Midwest, and nationwide. We hope that you will find the discussion informative and fruitful and that our new virtual environment enables effective knowledge transfer among the participants.

Thank you for your interest; we welcome all of you to the Virtual Midwest Rail Conference!!!

~*Pasi Lantala* (TRB AR040), *Chris Barkan* (NURail),
and *Nick Little* (Michigan Rail Conference Planning Committee)

Tues. Keynote



Joe McHugh

Vice President, State-Supported
Services Business Development
Amtrak

Wed. Keynote



Mike McClellan

VP Strategic Planning
Norfolk Southern

Joe McHugh has been with Amtrak since July 1994 and prior to his current position served for 22 years in the Government Affairs group where he was responsible for initiating, developing and communicating Amtrak's legislative and funding need to the U.S. Congress. In January 2017, Mr. McHugh was asked to take over the State Contracts and Business Development Line of Business. In this role, he is responsible for managing the company's relationships with each of the 21 state partners.

McClellan joined Conrail's general marketing and sales organization in 1985. In 1998, he was named assistant vice president performance planning for Norfolk Southern, became vice president intermodal and automotive marketing in 2000, and vice president industrial products in 2013. He holds an MBA from the University of Cincinnati and a degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

Sessions are set up with 50 minutes for presentation and Q&A and then a 10 minute break before the session.

MRC Technical Program | Tuesday, August 11th

8:45 AM Zoom Conferencing Opens

8:50 AM Welcome and Safety Briefing

Nick Little
Director - Railway Education
Michigan State University

Pasi Lautala
Director, Rail Transportation Program
Michigan Tech

Chris Barkan
Executive Director, RailTEC
University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

9:00 - 9:50 AM Plenary Session - Urban, Regional and Intercity Rail
in Era of Social Distancing

Moderator: Pasi Lautala, Michigan Tech

Hilary Konczal
Chief Safety and Environmental Officer
Metra

Jim Mathews
President and CEO
Rail Passengers Association

Narayana Sundaram
Sr. Director, Eng & Commuter Rail Ops
American Public Trans Assoc (APTA)

10:00 - 10:50 AM Breakout Session #1A – Passenger Rail Opportunities
for Growth - Post Covid

Moderator: Larry Krieg, Rail Passengers Association Council

Arun Rao
Passenger Rail Implementation Mgr
Wisconsin DOT

Michael Noland
President/General Manager
Northern Indiana Commuter Rail District

Scott Rogers
Chair
West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

10:00 - 10:50 AM Breakout Session #1B - Precision Scheduled Railroading
- Class I and Shortline Connection

Moderator: David Clarke, TRB ARO40

Tyler Dick
Principal Railway Research Engineer
UIUC/NURail

Daniel Sabin
President
Iowa Northern Railroad

Pete Swan
Assoc Professor Supply Chain Mgmt
Penn State Harrisburg

11:00 - 11:50 PM Breakout Session #2A – Developments in Grade
Crossing and Trespasser Safety

Moderator: Reginald Souleyrette, NURail

Rachel Maleh
Executive Director
OLI

Pasi Lautala
Assoc. Prof & Director, Rail Trans. Prog.
Michigan Tech

Francesco Bedini & Starr Kidda
Human Factors Division
FRA

11:00 - 11:50 PM Breakout Session #2B - LNG Transportation by Rail

Moderator: Chris Barkan, NURail

Mark Maday
Staff Director, Hazmat Team
Federal Railroad Administration

Paul Williams
Regional Mgr Hazardous Materials
Norfolk Southern Railway

Scott Nason
Application Development Mgr
Chart Industries

12:00 - 12:50 PM Keynote Presentation

Moderator: Al Johnson, MDOT

Joe McHugh
Vice President, State-Supported Services Business Development
Amtrak

1:00 PM Wrap-Up and Closing Comments

MRC Technical Program | Wednesday, August 12th

8:45 AM

Zoom Conferencing Opens - Networking

8:50 AM

Welcome and Safety Briefing

Nick Little

Director - Railway Education
Michigan State University

Pasi Lautala

Director, Rail Transportation Program
Michigan Tech

Chris Barkan

Executive Director, RailTEC
University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

9:00 - 9:50 AM

Plenary Session - Rail Industry Policy Issues

Moderator: Libby Ogard, Prime Focus LLC

Ian Jefferies

President & CEO
Assoc of American Railroads

Patrick Fuchs

Board Member
Surface Transportation Board

Chuck Baker

President
American Short Line & Regional
Railroad Assoc

10:00 - 10:50 AM

Breakout Session #1A – Freight Rail Transportation
Complications During COVID-19

Moderator: Nick Little, MSU

David Woodruff

Asst. VP & Head of US Govt Affairs
CN

Brad Peot

Commercial Manager
WATCO/Wisconsin Southern

Fred Schlemmer

& Mike McIntosh
Chief Financial Officer/ VP
SteelPro

10:00 - 10:50 AM

Breakout Session #1B - Passenger Rail Experience
Improvements

Moderator: Ray Lang, Amtrak

Josh Hamilton

Lansing Station Volunteer Coord.

Larry Chestler

VP Long Dist Services Business Dev.
Amtrak

Bob Guy

Chair
Midwest Interstate Pass Rail
Commission

11:00 - 11:50 AM

Breakout Session #2A – Impacts and Opportunities
from USMCA

Moderator: Jon Cool, MRA

Bill Anderson

Director, Cross Border Institute
University of Windsor

Dan Ujcz

Practice Group Chair - Intl & Reg.
Practices
Dickinson-Wright

Andrea Waldock Niethold

Government Affairs, US
CN

11:00 - 11:50 AM

Breakout Session #2B - Climate Impacts
and Infrastructure Resilience

Moderator: Sean Pengelly, Lake State Railroad

Chase Armstrong

VP of Commercial Development
RJ Corman

Tim Grose

Climate and Resiliency Advisory Svcs
WSP

Porie Saikia-Eapen

Dir, Environ Sustainability and
Compliance
MTA

12:00 - 12:50 PM

Keynote Presentation

Moderator: Al Johnson, MDOT

Mike McClellan

VP Strategic Planning
Norfolk Southern

1:00 PM

Wrap-Up and Closing Comments

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Center for Railway
Research and Education
Broad College of Business
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Conference Planning Committee

In addition to the moderators and co-chairs listed above, we'd like to thank: Larry Lloyd - CN Railroad; Shasta Duffey and Mike Hnatiuk – Lake State Railway Company; Michael Gaynor - GoRail; Jon Cool – Michigan Railroads Association; Andreas Hoffrichter, and Sue Lonier – Michigan State University; Amanda (Kerttu) Codere – Michigan Tech; Forrest VanSchwartz- TRB AR040; Tyler Dick - NURail; Adam Robillard - Watco; Bryan Schlake - Penn State University; Craig Foster - Univ of Illinois, Chicago; Derrick James - Amtrak; Bob Pokorski - Copper Harbor

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