



# Final Conference Program



## Michigan Rail Conference 2022

*“Pivot for Growth:  
Supply Chain and Mobility”*

August 1-3, 2022  
Bay College Escanaba, MI

# Welcome

## Welcome from the Conference Chairs

It is our pleasure and privilege to invite you all to the 2022 Michigan Rail Conference (MRC). We consider this year's conference special for several reasons. First, we celebrate a full decade of conferences, demonstrating the longevity, support, and need for the event in our State. Second, after two years of virtual conferences, we are able to once again enjoy conversations with our colleagues in a live environment. Finally, we return to the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan, thanks to our hosts at Bay College, Escanaba.

As always, we want thank all individuals and organizations essential to continuing our tradition of MRC. We applaud our Conference Planning Committee who has yet again been able to bring a fascinating slate of nationwide speakers for us. They've also been instrumental in securing sponsors whose generous contributions allow us to keep MRC fees affordable. Last, but not the least, we're greatly indebted to our diverse group of speakers, who have not only committed to speak, but to take time in their busy schedules for a visit in Escanaba, Michigan. We cannot imagine a more suitable theme to our conference than *Pivot for Growth: Supply Chain and Mobility*. While it seems that we're finally shaking off the major disruptions caused by the pandemic, the supply chain woes (as

well as rail transportation challenges) have only increased and general mobility is facing new challenges, as people return to offices, fuel prices increase, etc. Rail transportation will continue to play a major part in these developments, but how it responds to the changing economic, political, and societal landscape remains to be seen. We hope that the combination of our speaker presentations, panel discussions, and conversations among our colleagues will allow all of us to leave Escanaba with a bit more understanding on today's rail transportation issues and how we ensure that the industry is ready for the challenge in Michigan and beyond.

We look forward to you joining us at the tenth anniversary event this August and appreciate your past support. Let's make this year's event even better than the ones that have gone before!!!

Welcome to the conference!

— Nick Little & Pasi Lautala

## Keynote Speaker



**Jennifer Mitchell**

Deputy Administrator  
Federal Rail Administration

## MRC Technical Program | Tuesday, August 2nd

7:15 – 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast Besse Theatre North Gallery

8:00 – 8:15 AM Welcome and Safety Briefing Besse Auditorium

**Pasi Lautala**  
Director - Rail Trans. Program  
Michigan Tech

**Nick Little**  
Director - Railway Education  
Michigan State University

8:15 – 9:30 AM Conference Opening Besse Auditorium

Moderator: Pasi Lautala, Michigan Tech

**Kirk Stuedle**  
SR Vice President  
Econolite

**Peter Schwartz**  
Chief - Project Engineering and Trans. Planning  
FRA

9:30 – 10:00 AM Break Besse Theatre North Gallery

# MRC Technical Program Continued | Tuesday, August 2nd

10:00 – 1130 AM

Plenary Panel – Michigan Updates

Besse Auditorium

Moderator: Nikkie Johnson, Michigan DOT

**Peter Anastor**  
Director - Office of Rail  
Michigan DOT

**Rick Harnish**  
Executive Director  
High Speed Rail Alliance

**Brian Buchanan**  
Sales Manager  
Watco

11:30 – 1:00 PM

Lunch & Keynote Presentation

Cafeteria & Besse Auditorium

**Jennifer Mitchell**

Deputy Administrator, FRA

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Breakout Session #1A –  
Performance Standards for Shared Use Corridors

Besse Auditorium

Moderator: Libby Ogard, Prime Focus LLC

**Thomas Fryer**  
Chief Engineer  
Alberta Regional Rail Inc

**Dan Schulte**  
Senior Director - Engineering  
Quandel Consultants

**Lizabeth Brubeck**  
Director - Host Railroads  
Amtrak

**Herb Smith**  
Regional VP - Gov't Relations  
Norfolk Southern

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Breakout Session #1B –  
Round Table: Lessons Learned from PTC

Conference Room

Moderator: Bob Goodheart, Pathfinder

**John Rickoff**  
President & CEO  
Lake State Railway Co.

**Chris Jagodzinski**  
Assistant VP - Operations  
Amtrak

**Bob Whitlock**  
Director - Information Technology  
The Belt Railway

2:15 – 2:45 PM

Break

Besse Theatre North Gallery

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Breakout Session #2A –  
Supply Chains: Why Rail is Critical

Besse Auditorium

Moderator: Nick Little, Michigan State University

**Stacey Lyons**  
US Manager - Government  
and Public Affairs  
CN

**Jim Pang**  
VP - Service Expansion  
Trinity Industries

**Ward Forquer**  
Vice President - Markets &  
Logistics  
Michigan Potash & Salt Co.

**Peter Wolff**  
Director Market Development  
TTX Company

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Breakout Session #2B - Funding Opportunities

Conference Room

Moderator: Sean Pengelly, Lake State Railway Company

**Nikkie Johnson**  
Passenger & Freight  
Development Manager  
Michigan DOT

**Mike Hnatiuk**  
Western Michigan Railroad

**Pasi Lautala**  
Director - Rail Trans. Program  
Michigan Tech

**Tim Hoeffner**  
Senior Consultant Rail  
Quandel Consultants

4:00 – 4:30 PM

Conference Wrap-Up

Besse Auditorium

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Closing Reception

Besse Theatre North Gallery

THANK YOU - Michigan Potash & Salt Co. for sponsoring the program

# Pre-Conference Activities | Monday, August 1st

Student Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser

Terrace Bluff Golf Club

10:30am

Team Check-in

11:00am

Start (tee times with scramble format, lunch on the turn)

Welcome Reception

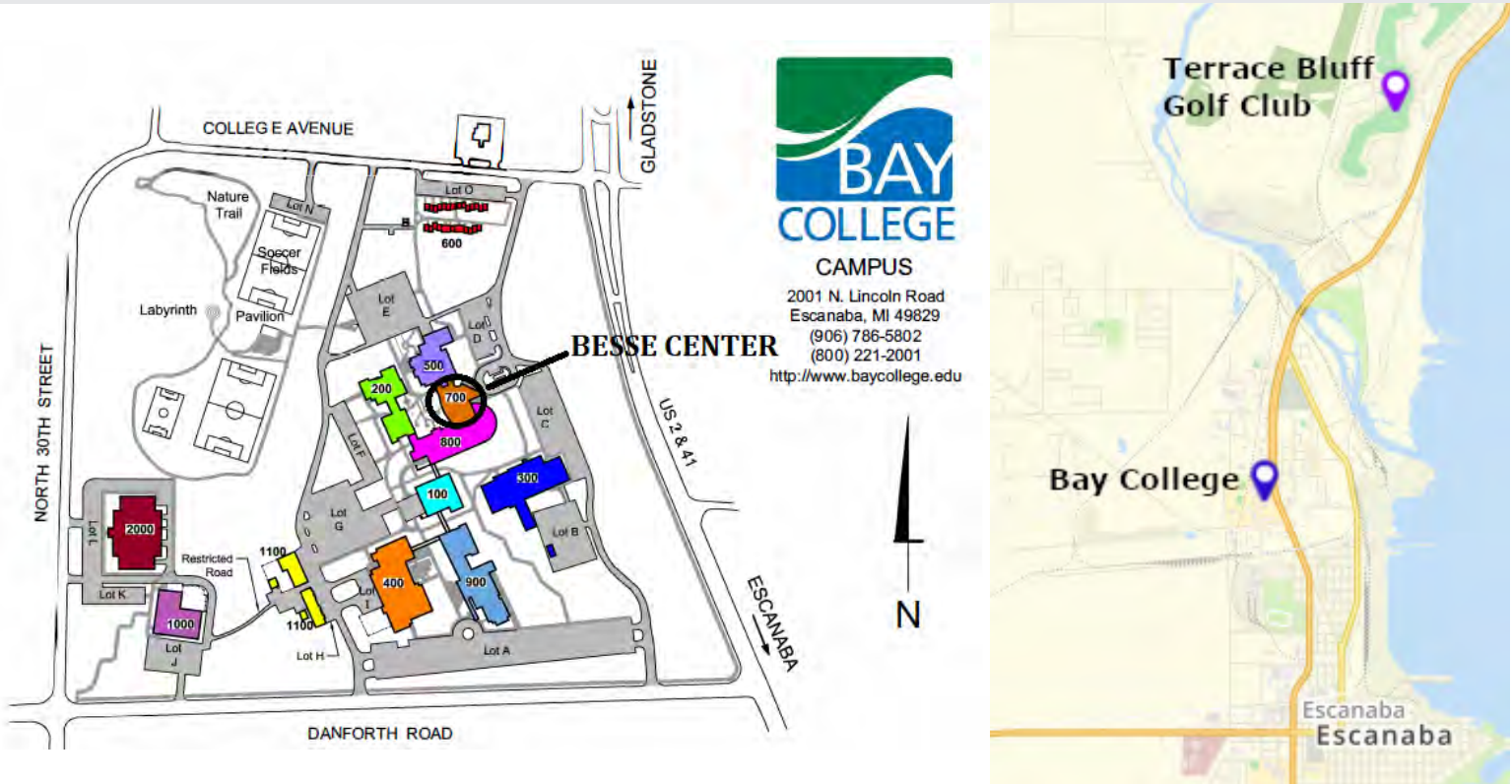
Terrace Bluff Golf Club

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Opening Reception at Terrace Bluff Golf Club

7527 D-61

Gladstone, MI 49837



# Post-Conference | Wednesday, August 3rd

Field Visits

Various Locations

8:45 am

Meet at front entrance to Besse Center, Bay College

9:00 am

Buses leave to begin field visits

Noon (approx)

Buses return to Besse Center, Bay College

# Other Conference Information

Dress Code

Monday

Casual

Tuesday

Business Casual

Wednesday

Casual

PPE Required (vest, hard hat & safety glasses  
- provided, no open toe shoes)

# Diamond Sponsors



# Platinum Sponsors



# Gold Sponsors



# Silver Sponsors



# Conference Planning Committee

Stacey Lyons - CN Railroad; Shasta Duffey & Mike Hnatiuk – Lake State Railway Company; Michael Gaynor - GoRail; Nikkie Johnson – Michigan DOT; Jon Cool – Michigan Railroads Association; Nick Little – Michigan State University; Amanda (Kerttu) Codere, Pasi Lautala, and David Nelson – Michigan Tech; Kay Chase - Michigan Assoc. of Railroad Passengers; Tim Hoeffner – Quandel Consultants; Robert Goodheart – Pathfinder Engineering; Peter Schierloh – SW Bridge Engineers; Ken Westcar – Transport Action Ontario, Mark Miller & Robert Pokorski