

MRC

Midwest Rail Conference



Conference Program - FINAL



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



Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

Monday, August 14th

8:00am Golf Outing @ Bedford Hills Golf Club

PM Committee/Agency Meetings @ Student Union

6pm - 8pm Opening Reception @ Student Union - Ingman

Wednesday, August 16th

8am - 1pm Field Visits

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

MRC Educational Sessions | Tuesday, August 15th

7:15 - 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast Auditorium

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

Tom Burns
Project Development Manager
Ohio Rail Development Commission

Nick Little
Director - Railway Education
Michigan State University

8:15 - 9:15 AM Conference Opening Auditorium

Moderator: Tom Burns & Nick Little
Anthony Hatch
Analyst/Consultant
ABH Consulting

Henry Posner III
Chairman
Railroad Development Corp.

9:15 - 9:30 AM Welcome from Visiting Dignitaries Auditorium

Educational Sessions Cont'd | Tuesday, August 15th

9:30 - 10:00 AM Break Auditorium

10:00 - 11:00 AM Plenary Panel – State DOT's Auditorium

Moderator: Nick Little, Michigan State University
Peter Anastor Director - Office of Rail MDOT
Matt Dietrich Executive Director Ohio Rail Dev. Commission
Venetta Keefe Rail Programs Manager INDOT
Elliot Ramos Bureau Chief of Passenger Rail Corridor Management IDOT

11:15 - 12:30 PM Breakout Session #1A – Impacts From Funds Already Spent Ingman

Moderator: Peter Schierloh, SW Bridge Engineers
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
Andrew Hershman Marketing & Sales Indiana Northeastern Railroad

11:15 - 12:30 PM Breakout Session #1B – Passenger Projects: Current and Future 2582/2584

Moderator: Tim Hoeffner, Quandt Consultants
Joe Shacter Director - Program Mgt Amtrak CHIP
Tony Klaumann Nebraska/Iowa Freight Rail Track Section Manager HDR, Inc
Alex Christmas Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

12:30 - 2:15 PM Lunch & Keynote Presentation Auditorium

Moderator: Matthew Dietrich, Ohio Rail Development Commission
Amit Bose Administrator Federal Railroad Administration

2:15 - 3:15 PM Breakout Session #2A – Freight Projects: Current and Future Ingman

Moderator: Tom Burns, Ohio Rail Development Commission
Rusty Orben Director - State Relations (Ohio & Michigan) CSX
Charles Hunter Assistant VP - Gov't Affairs Genesee & Wyoming Railroad
Nikkie Johnson Passenger & Freight Dev. Manager - Office of Rail MDOT
David Johnston Plant Manager Church & Dwight Co., Inc.

2:15 - 3:15 PM Breakout Session #2B - Midwest State DOT Passenger Equipment 2582/2584

Moderator: Jeff Martin, Michigan DOT
Rich Kedzior Passenger Rail Program Manager WisDOT
Larry Salci Principal Salci Consult
Joe Shacter Director - Program Mgt Amtrak CHIP
Sam Mrofcza Senior Consultant - Rail & Transit Atkins North America

3:15 - 3:45 PM Break Auditorium

3:45 - 4:45 PM Breakout Session #3A - Decarbonization Ingman

Moderator: Nick Little, Michigan State University
Andreas Hoffrichter Principal Consultant Deutsche Bahn E.C.O
Marcin Taraszewicz Rail & Transit Vehicle Technology Lead HDR, Inc
Jamie Helmer Director - Fuel Efficiency Norfolk Southern Corporation
Melissa Shurland Program Manager Federal Railroad Administration

3:45 - 4:45 PM Breakout Session #3B - Planning Efforts 2582/2584

Moderator: Pasi Lautala, Michigan Technological University
Arun Rao Director - Network Development Amtrak
Lyle Leitelt Community Planner Lead Federal Railroad Administration
Laura Kliever Director Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission

5:00 - 5:15 PM Conference Wrap-Up Auditorium

6:00 PM Closing Reception - Baseball Game @ Fifth Third Field

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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 Rail Development Commission; Robert Goodheart – Pathfinder Engineering; Libby Ogard – Prime Focus LLC; Tim Hoeffner – Quandel Consultants; Peter Schierloh – SW Bridge Engineers

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