

Draft Program, Midwest Rail Conference 2017

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

AM	Golf Outing
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Rooms available for Meetings; contact Dave Nelson or Amanda Kerttu to schedule
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Opening Reception at the Bell's Brewery "Backroom"

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

7:15 – 8:00 AM	Registration		
7:45 – 8:00 AM	Safety Briefing and Welcomes		
8:00 – 9:30 AM	Morning Plenary – Truck Platooning, Autonomous Vehicles, and Their Potential Impact on the Rail Industry		
9:30 – 9:45 AM	Break		
9:45 – 10:45 AM	Plenary Panel – State DOT Perspectives		
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Break		
11:00 AM – noon	Breakout #1 (concurrent sessions)		
	Short Line Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Strategies for Survival and Building Traffic • Shorthaul and Shortline Intermodal Prospects 	High(er) Speed Rail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Speed Rail Corridor, State, Amtrak, and Consultant Perspectives on the Lincoln Service • Adjacent Track Derailment Risk 	Property Risk and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trespass Issues • Drone Operations as they Relate to Rail • Risk Mitigation and Technologies for Rail Applications
Noon – 1:30 PM	Lunch and Keynote		
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Breakout #2 (concurrent sessions)		
	Future of Freight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland Ports • What Makes a Successful Spinoff • Schedule Flexibility and Performance 	Urban Rail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/Private Partnerships • Value Capture for Project Finance/Quantifying Population Connectivity 	Grade Crossing Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signal Pre-emption and Traffic Cueing • Battle Creek Quiet Zone • Four Quadrant Gates • Grade Crossing Research at NURail Universities
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Break		
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Breakout #3 (concurrent sessions)		
	Shipper Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What EDS and Public Agencies Should Know About the Movement of Goods • Rail User Association Model • Local Shipper Perspective 	Inter-City Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amtrak, Brightline, and Via Rail perspectives 	Creating a Resilient Railroad
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Break		
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Networking and Poster Session		
4:30 – 5:00 PM	3-Minute Thesis Competition		
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Closing Reception at the Fetzer Center, WMU		

Thursday, August 17, 2017

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Field Visits Sites to Include: Decatur (Cargill facility), Train ride Amtrak Wolverine to Battle Creek, Little River Steam Train Ride
-------------------	---