Conference Program

Midwest Rail Conference 2017
Midwest Connections: Passenger and Freight Rail Look to the Future
August 15 - 17, 2017
WMU Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo, MI
A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

We would like to welcome everyone to the Midwest Rail Conference (MRC) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This year’s conference is the first time we are bringing several Midwest states together to discuss rail transportation. It’s also the first time for us to join forces with the Summerail event organized by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Freight Rail Committee (AR040) and with the annual meeting of the National University Rail Center (NURail). This conference brings together some of the brightest minds from rail stakeholder groups, and you can look forward to outstanding discussions and presentations!

With the large number of organizations involved, we are greatly in debt to the members of our three conference committees who have made sure everything is ready for the conference, from arranging the spaces, to registrations, to speakers and sponsors. A special thanks goes to Dave Nelson and his team from Michigan Tech for locking all the pieces into a cohesive conference, to the staff at the Fetzer Center, and to Forrest Van Schwartz and his team for organizing the field visits. We also need to thank our sponsors whose generous support allows us to keep the conference costs down, making it available to a wide range of stakeholders.

As conference co-chairs, we believe that our conference theme, *Midwest Connections: Passenger and Freight Rail Look to the Future*, captures the essence of the conference. Rail transportation does not stop at state lines, and regional collaboration is a necessity for successful rail operations. Our speakers today draw from experiences within and outside the region and we hope that you find the information and networking beneficial as you return to your daily activities in advancing rail transportation.

Welcome to the conference!  — Nikkie Johnson and Pasi Lautala

Keynote Speaker: Joseph McHugh

Joseph McHugh is the vice president of State Supported Services – Business Development for Amtrak where he is responsible for managing the company’s relationships with each of the 21 state partners and helping them grow their revenue and ridership. He has been with Amtrak for over two decades 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.

Tuesday’s Activities

Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing
Committee Meetings
Opening Reception at Bell’s Brewery featuring the Norfolk Southern Lawmen Band
See insert for details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 – 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Registration</td>
<td>(Atrium/1035–1055)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and Safety Briefing</td>
<td>(Kirsch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Morning Plenary – Changes Facing the Rail Industry:</strong></td>
<td>(Kirsch)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Threats or Opportunities?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
<td>Nick Little, Michigan State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirk Steudle</td>
<td>Director, Michigan Department of Transportation</td>
<td>“Future Mobility”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb Miller</td>
<td>Member and former Chairman, Surface Transportation Board</td>
<td>“Regulatory Reforms–Threat or Opportunity?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Strafford</td>
<td>Associate General Counsel, Association of American Railroads</td>
<td>“Changes in the Rail Industry”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 9:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>(Atrium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Panel – State DOT Rail Programs Overview</strong></td>
<td>(Kirsch)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
<td>Tim Hoeffner, Michigan Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Dietrich</td>
<td>Executive Director, Ohio Rail Development Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie England</td>
<td>Director–Multimodal Planning &amp; Programs, Indiana Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth McCluskey</td>
<td>Director–Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, Illinois Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Simon</td>
<td>Chief of Railroads and Harbors, Wisconsin Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>(Atrium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM – noon</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Session #1A – Shipper Concerns</strong></td>
<td>(Kirsch)</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
<td>Shasta Duffey, Lake State Railway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Lynch</td>
<td>Director–Centre for International Trade &amp; Transportation, Dalhousie University</td>
<td>“What EDs and Public Agencies should know about the movement of goods”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Thompson</td>
<td>Executive Vice President and COO, Regional Growth Partnership</td>
<td>“Community Shipper Issues”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Howard</td>
<td>Director of Warehouse Operations, Lewis C Howard, Inc</td>
<td>“Rail, Warehousing &amp; Distribution”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM – noon</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Session #1B – High(er) Speed Rail</strong></td>
<td>(Putney)</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
<td>Paul Vilter, Amtrak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth McCluskey</td>
<td>Director–Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, Illinois Department of Transportation</td>
<td>“High(er) Speed Rail Corridor–Chicago/St. Louis”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chen-Yu Lin</td>
<td>Graduate Research Assistant, RailTEC, University of Illinois</td>
<td>“Adjacent Track Accident Risk Analysis”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Nelson</td>
<td>Sr. Principal Technical Specialist, WSP USA</td>
<td>“Partnerships in Passenger Rail Stations–Planning, Design &amp; Construction”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM – noon</td>
<td><strong>Breakout Session #1C – Property Risk and Management</strong></td>
<td>(1040–1050)</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong></td>
<td>Jon Cool, Michigan Railroad Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob VanderClute</td>
<td>President, Firstrail International</td>
<td>“Trespass Prevention through Education”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Barkan</td>
<td>Executive Director, RailTEC, University of Illinois</td>
<td>“Risk Mitigation and Technologies for Rail Applications”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Brooks</td>
<td>Senior Research Scientist, Michigan Technological University</td>
<td>“Drone Use Issues and Advantages”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch and Keynote – What’s Ahead for Amtrak?</td>
<td>(1035–1055)</td>
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Midwest Rail Conference Technical Program | August 16th
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1:30 – 2:30 PM | Breakout Session #2A – Future of Freight  
**Moderator:** Pete Swan,Penn State  
**Brian Buchanan**  
Manager of Network Strategies, CN Railroad  
“Satellite Intermodal Ramps”  
**Ryan Fischer**  
Assistant Vice President–Industrial Development, G&W Railroad  
“Industrial Developments: A Shortline Perspective”  
**Tyler Dick**  
Senior Research Engineer and Director of Education, RailTEC, University of Illinois  
“NURail–Schedule Flexibility and Performance”  
**(Kirsch)** |
| 1:30 – 2:30 PM | Breakout Session #2B – Urban Rail  
**Moderator:** Libby Ogard,Prime Focus  
**Kevin Keller**  
Vice President & National Director of Rail Business Planning, HDR, Inc  
“Developments in North American Passenger Rail and Transit Planning”  
**Paul Childs**  
Chief Operating Officer, QLINE Detroit  
“A National Model for Public Private Partnership in Transit”  
**Barry Murray**  
Director of Economic and Community Development, City of Dearborn, MI  
“Building a Multi-Modal Transportation Future”  
**(Putney)** |
| 1:30 – 2:30 PM | Breakout Session #2C – Grade Crossing Issues  
**Moderator:** Tammy Wagner,Federal Rail Administration  
**John Sharkey**  
Vice President–Signal Systems, CTC, Inc  
“Intersections near RR Grade Crossings”  
**Larry Bowron**  
Transportation Director, City of Battle Creek  
“The Battle Creek Quiet Zone”  
**Reg Souleyrette**  
Department Chair of Civil Engineering, University of Kentucky  
“Grade Crossing Research at NURail Universities”  
**(1040–1050)** |
| 2:30 – 2:45 AM | Break  
**(Atrium)** |
| 2:45 – 3:45 PM | Breakout Session #3A – Short Line Panel  
**Moderator:** Matt Dietrich,Ohio Rail Development Commission  
**Stefan Loeb**  
Executive Vice President–Network Strategies, Watco Companies  
“Short Line Panel”  
**Troy Strane**  
General Manager, Indiana Northeastern Railroad  
“Shortline Operations Issues”  
**Sean Pengelly**  
Engineer–Projects & Development, Lake State Railway  
“Economics & Planning of Short Haul/Short Line Intermodal Rail Service”  
**(Kirsch)** |
| 2:45 – 3:45 PM | Breakout Session #3B – Inter-City Services  
**Moderator:** Kay Chase,Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers  
**Mike Franke**  
Senior Director–State Government Contracts, Amtrak  
“Amtrak 2017 Update”  
**Martin Bloedt**  
Sales and Product Manager–Locomotives, North America, Siemens  
“New Passenger Locomotives for the North American Market”  
**Anna Lynn Smith** & **Peter Schwartz**  
Transportation Consultant and Project Manager, WSP USA  
“FRA’s Midwest Regional Rail Planning Study”  
**(Putney)** |
| 2:45 – 3:45 PM | Breakout Session #3C – Creating a Resilient Railroad  
**Moderator:** Andreas Hoffrichter,Michigan State University  
**Joe Smak**  
Director of Engineering, Amtrak  
“Creating and Maintaining a Resilient Railway”  
**Amanda Martin**  
Freight and Passenger Policy Coordinator, Iowa DOT  
“Iowa Statewide Travel Analysis Model (iTRAM)–Rail Component”  
**Riley Edwards**  
Research Scientist and Senior Lecturer, RailTEC, University of Illinois  
“NURail Research on Resilient Railway Infrastructure”  
**(1040–1050)** |
| 3:45 – 4:00 PM | Break  
**(Atrium)** |
| 4:00 – 4:30 PM | Networking and Student Poster Session  
**(Atrium)** |
| 4:30 – 5:00 PM | 3-Minute Student Thesis Competition  
**(TBD)** |
| 5:00 – 7:00 PM | Closing Reception  
**(Atrium)** |
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM – noon</td>
<td>Cargill Facility &amp; Amtrak ride to Battle Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Those not attending Little River return to Kalamazoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Little River Steam Train Ride</td>
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**Fetzer Center Wifi Code**

55zimmerman

**Tuesday Dress Code**

All Events – Casual

**Wednesday Dress Code**

Conference – Business Casual

**Thursday Dress Code**

Field Trips – Casual (Close-toed shoes required)

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**ORGANIZERS**

[Logos of various organizations]

**In Association With:**
Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers

Conference Planning Committee
Tammy Wagner – FRA; Forrest Van Schwartz – Global Transportation Consultancy; Shasta Duffey – Lake State Railway; Kay Chase – Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP); 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; Matt Dietrich – Ohio DOT; Peter Swan – Penn State; Libby Ogard – Prime Focus; Tyler Dick and L. B. Frye – University of Illinois; Laura McNichol – Watco Companies
Sponsored Events

Opening Reception Sponsor
- Quandel Consultants
- Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers
- GW & PFS
- Mr. John H Guidinger

Breakfast Sponsors
- Little River Steam Train Sponsor
- Summerall

Lunch Sponsors

Refreshment Breaks Sponsors
- Flash Drives and USB Chargers Sponsor
- LCH

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- CSX

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- NRSS

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- Amtrak

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- WSP

Notepads Sponsor
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- Michigan State University

Lanyards Sponsor
- WSP

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- G&W
- Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers