



Conference Program



Michigan Rail Conference 2024

"Pivot to the Future"

August 14-16, 2024

Vistatech Center, Schoolcraft College - Livonia, MI

Welcome

A Special Greeting from the Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome to Livonia and our 12th rail conference, this time in conjunction with NURail Center of Excellence. We have plenty in store for you. We will hold the traditional Student Scholarship Golf Fundraiser Outing on Wednesday 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 Schoolcraft College. We have a great lineup for Thursday's educational sessions. We've tried to make it easier for you to select which breakout sessions you wish to attend in the afternoon. We are very privileged to have Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board member, as our Keynote Speaker! Thursday will wrap up with our closing reception on site at Schoolcraft College. Friday's field visits will visit key rail locations in Greater Detroit with transit, passenger, freight and historical interests. We hope you enjoy the event and welcome your ideas for the future.

Welcome to the conference! — Nick Little and Chris Barkan

Opening Keynote



Patrick Fuchs
Member
Surface Transportation Board

Lunch Presentation



Mark Patterson
Associate Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

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

MRC Technical Program | Thursday, August 15th

7:15 - 8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	VT500 -Diponio
8:00 - 8:15 AM	Welcome and Safety Briefing	VT500 -Diponio
	Bradley Wieferich Michigan DOT	Nick Little Michigan State University
8:15 - 9:00 AM	Conference Opening	VT500 -Diponio
	Moderator: Nick Little - Michigan State University Patrick Fuchs Member Surface Transportation Board	
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Break	VT500 -Diponio

MRC Technical Program Cont'd | Thursday, August 15th

9:30 - 10:15 AM **Opening Plenary – Railway Education in Michigan and Beyond** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: Xinhao Liu - UIUC/NURail CoE

Nick Little
Michigan State University

Pasi Lautala
Michigan Tech/NURail CoE

Chris Barkan
UIUC/NURail CoE

10:20 - 11:20 AM **Plenary Panel– Rail Improving Quality of Life, Social Well-Being & Air Quality in Michigan** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: P.S. Sriraj - UIC/NURail CoE

Herbert Smith
Norfolk Southern

Matthew Payne
U.S. EPA

Peter Anastor
Michigan DOT

11:30 - 1:15 PM **Lunch & Keynote** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: Pasi Lautala - Michigan Tech/NURail CoE

Mark Patterson
Associate Administrator for Research, Data and Innovation
Federal Railroad Administration

1:15 - 2:15 PM **Breakout 1A - Passenger Studies and Grant Programs** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: Nick Little - Michigan State University

Carolyn Ulstad
Groundwork

Joe Shacter
Amtrak

Nik Berzkalns
Quandel Consultants

1:15 - 2:15 PM **Breakout 1B - Shortline Industry Discussion** **VT425 - Remolds**

Moderator: Bradon Smith - Fletcher & Sippel LLC

Sean Pengelly
LSRC

Curtis Sloan
Watco

Julie Eddy
Genesee & Wyoming

Chris Bagwell
Adrian & Blissfield Railroad

2:15 - 2:45 PM **Break** **VT500 -Diponio**

2:45 - 3:45 PM **Breakout 2A – Capacity Building for Passenger Rail** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: Dan Shulte - Quandel Consultants

Kevin Keller
HDR

Todd Schultz
MARP

Tyler Dick
University of Texas/NURail CoE

2:45 - 3:45 PM **Breakout 2B - Intermodal Opportunities for Michigan** **VT425 - Remolds**

Moderator: Anas Taeb - Michigan Tech

Kuilin Zhang
Michigan Tech/NURail CoE

Kory Johnson
Conrail

Girish Nair
CN

3:45 - 4:00 PM **Break** **VT500 -Diponio**

4:00 - 5:00 PM **Breakout 3A - Rail Transit and Multimodal Planning** **VT500 -Diponio**

Moderator: Andy Powers - Michigan DOT

Jenya Abramovich
SEMCOG

P.S. Sriraj
UIC/NURail CoE

Peter Anastor
Michigan DOT

4:00 - 5:00 PM **Breakout 3B - NURail CoE to Advance the Future of Rail Transportation** **VT425 - Remolds**

Moderator: Tim Hoeffner - Quandel Consultants
National University Rail Center of Excellence Partners

5:00 - 6:00 PM **Closing Reception** **VT500 -Diponio**

Pre-Conference Activities | Wednesday, August 14th

Student Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser

Fox Creek Golf Course

8:30am

Team Check-in

3600 Seven Mile Rd

9:00am

Start (tee times with scramble format)

Livonia, MI 48152

Small Meetings & Welcome Reception

Vistatech Center @ Schoolcraft College

2pm - 6pm

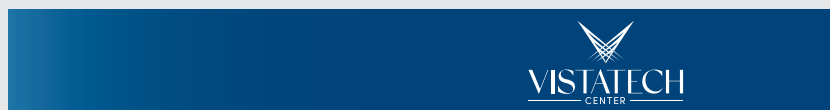
Small Meetings

18600 Haggerty Rd

6pm - 8pm

Opening Reception

Livonia, MI 48152



VISTATECH CENTER
@SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
(North Parking Lot)
5 Chippewa Drive
Livonia, MI 48152

-  PARKING
-  ENTRANCE
-  REGISTRATION/INFO
-  MAIN ROOM
-  SESSION B BREAKOUTS

Post-Conference | Friday, August 16th

Field Visits

Various Locations

7:15 am

Meet at West End of North Parking Lot @Schoolcraft College

7:30 am

Bus leaves to begin field visits

1:00pm

Bus returns to Schoolcraft College

Other Conference Information

Dress Code

Wednesday

Casual

Thursday

Business Casual

Friday

Casual

PPE Required (vest provided, no open toe shoes)

Diamond Sponsors



Platinum Sponsors



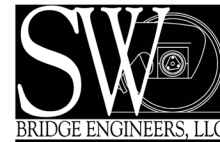
Center for Railway
Research and Education
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Gold Sponsors



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Conference Planning Committee

Chris Bagwell - Adrian & Blissfield Railroad, Carolyn Ulstad - Groundwork Center, Nikkie Johnson & Alex Nikoloff - Michigan DOT, Jon Cool - Michigan Railroads Association, Nick Little - Michigan State University, Amanda Codere, Pasi Lautala, & David Nelson - Michigan Technological University, Tim Hoeffner - Quandel Consultants, Ian Thompson - SEMCOG, Marcus Dersch - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign