

Rails to the Future: 200 Years of Progress, Building What's Next
May 11 – 13, 2026

MSU Management Education Center
811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy, Michigan 48098

Day 1 – Monday, May 11

12:00 - 7:00 pm	Conference Registration	Lobby
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Railway Management Certificate Program Graduates Reunion Event /Private Event/	
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Conference Welcome Reception	Lobby
	State of the Rail Industry Tony Hatch - Rail Analyst & Consultant, ABH Consulting	

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 12

7:00 am - 6:30 pm	Conference Registration	Lobby
7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	Lobby
8:00 - 8:30 am	Welcome to Rails to the Future	Auditorium
	Safety, Innovation, and the Future of Rail Education Marybeth Luczak, Executive Editor, Railway Age Val Kucherenko - Director, Rail Education, MSU Broad College of Business	

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 12 *continued*

8:30 - 9:15 am	<p>Opening Keynote</p> <p>Developing the Next Generation of Rail Leaders David Souder - Dean, MSU Broad College of Business</p>	Auditorium
9:15 - 10:00 am	<p>General Session</p> <p>Update from Association of American Railroads Ian Jefferies - President & CEO, Association of American Railroads (AAR)</p>	Auditorium
10:00 - 10:30 am	<p>Networking Break Sponsored by <i>RailPros</i></p>	Lobby
10:30 - 11:45 am	<p>Short Line and Regional Panel Discussion</p> <p>Speaker & Moderator: Chuck Baker - President, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Stickel - President & CEO, Lake State Railway Company • Peter Gilbertson - President & CEO, Anacostia Rail Holdings Company • Justin Broyles - President & CEO, R. J. Corman Railroad Group 	Auditorium
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch & Networking	Dining Room
1:00 - 2:15 pm	<p>Capital, Ownership, and Investment - Rail Equipment and Leasing - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - Panel Discussion</p> <p>Speaker & Moderator: David Nahass - President, Railroad Financial Corporation</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Kuehn - Vice President, Transportation and Advanced Industrials, Oliver Wyman • Barbara Wilson - Senior Advisor, Railroad Financial Corporation • Patrick Hurst - Senior Vice President, Risk & Investment Portfolio, Trinity Rail 	Auditorium
2:15 - 3:15 pm	<p>General Session</p> <p>Finance - Building What's Next Jason Seidl - Managing Director, TD Cowen (Division of TD Securities)</p>	Auditorium

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 12 *continued*

3:15 - 3:45 pm	Networking Break Sponsored by <i>RailPros</i>	Lobby
3:45 - 5:00 pm	Fireside Chat - Welcome and introduction by Ron Batory Moderators: Rick Paterson - Independent Rail Analyst & Tony Hatch – Rail Analyst & Consultant, ABH Consulting Panelist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Rose - Executive Chairman (Retired), BNSF Railway 	Auditorium
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Networking Reception Sponsored by <i>RailPros</i>	Lobby

Day 3 – Wednesday, May 13

7:00 am - 1:00 pm	Conference Registration	Lobby
7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	Lobby
8:00 - 8:15 am	Welcome Back Marybeth Luczak, Executive Editor, Railway Age Val Kucherenko - Director, Rail Education, MSU Broad College of Business	Auditorium
8:15 - 9:00 am	General Session - introduction by Ron Batory - Executive Director, CRRE FRA Perspective - Building What’s Next David Fink - Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Auditorium
09:00 - 10:15 am	Fireside Chat - introduction by Ron Batory - Executive Director, CRRE Moderators: Rick Paterson - Independent Rail Analyst & D. Lynn Kelley, Senior Vice President (Retired), Union Pacific Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarence Gooden - President (Retired), CSX Charles Moorman - Chairman, President & CEO (Retired), Norfolk Southern Beth Whited - President (Retired), Union Pacific 	Auditorium

Day 3 – Wednesday, May 13 *continued*

10:15 - 10:30 am	Networking Break Sponsored by RailPros	Lobby
10:30 - 11:45 am	General Session - introduction by Ron Batory - Executive Director, CRRE STB Perspective - Building What's Next Patrick Fuchs - Chairman, Surface Transportation Board (STB)	Auditorium
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Closing Keynote & Lunch Rails to the Future Ronald Batory - Edward A. Burkhardt Chair in Railway Management and Executive Director, Center for Railway Research and Education	Dining Room

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Networking Reception



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