



Preliminary Agenda
2025 WisDOT Annual
Railroad Conference
Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Marriott Conference Center
1313 John Q Hammons Dr, Middleton, WI 53562



7:30 - 8:15	<u>Registration and Networking</u>
8:15 - 8:20	<u>Safety Briefing</u>
8:20 - 8:35	<u>Welcome</u> <i>Kristina Boardman, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)</i>
8:35 - 8:50	<u>WisDOT Railroads and Harbors Updates</u> <i>Lisa Stern, Chief of Railroads and Harbors, WisDOT</i>
8:50 - 9:20	<u>Office of Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) Updates</u> <i>Don Vruwink, Commissioner of Railroads, OCR</i> <i>Heather Graves, Legislative and Public Policy Analyst Supervisor, OCR</i>
9:20 - 9:40	<u>Railroad Roundtable Updates</u> <i>Facilitated by Greg Baer, Track and Structures Engineer, WisDOT</i> <i>BNSF, CN, CPKC, EL&S, Tomahawk, UP, Watco (FLVS & WSOR), WGN, WN</i>
9:40 - 10:10	<u>Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Report</u> <i>Tom Domres, Grade Crossing Inspector, FRA</i> <i>Cecilia Diaz, Grade Crossing Inspector, FRA</i>
10:10 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 10:50	<u>Funding Infrastructure Projects Around BNSF</u> <i>Jake Rzewnicki, Public Projects Manager, BNSF</i> <i>Kritika Jetly, BNSF</i>
10:50 - 11:10	<u>Local Roadway Bridges Owned by Railroads</u> <i>Merrill Mechler-Hickson, Chief Local Programs, WisDOT</i> <i>Isabella Schultze, Program Manager, WisDOT</i>

11:10 - 11:35	<u>Union Pacific (UP) Business Trends and UP-NS Merger Update</u> <i>Elise Gosch, Vice President - Loup Logistics, UP</i>
11:35 - 11:55	<u>Roundabouts near Grade Crossings</u> <i>Joanna Bush, Senior Traffic Engineer, Mead & Hunt</i>
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 - 1:25	<u>Passenger Rail Update</u> <i>Rich Kedzior, Passenger Rail Program Manager, WisDOT</i>
1:25 - 1:45	<u>WisDOT Railroad Safety Initiatives</u> <i>Kris Sommers, Engineering & Safety Supervisor, WisDOT</i>
1:45 - 1:55	<u>Operation Lifesaver Updates</u> <i>TBD</i>
1:55 - 2:15	<u>Shipper's Perspective: UP-NS Merger</u> <i>Brian Buchanan, The Killer Bee, LLC</i>
2:15 - 2:30	BREAK
2:30 - 3:20	<u>State Freight Plan - Freight Rail Panel</u> <i>Facilitator: TBD</i> <i>Peter Kammer, Wisconsin Railroads Association</i> <i>Ken Lucht & TBD, Watco</i> <i>Shipper/Manufacturer - TBD</i>
3:20 - 3:50	<u>State Freight Plan - Roundtable Discussion</u> <i>Facilitator: TBD</i>
3:50 - 4:00	<u>Closing Remarks</u> <i>Lisa Stern, Chief of Railroads and Harbors, WisDOT</i>