Agenda

2026 WisDOT Annual Railroad Conference

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

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

7:30 - 8:30	**Registration and Networking**
8:30 - 8:35	**Safety Briefing**
8:35 - 8:45	**Welcome** *Kristina Boardman, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)*
8:45 - 8:55	**WisDOT Railroads and Harbors Updates & Key Terms** *Lisa Stern P.E., Railroads and Harbors Chief, WisDOT* *Melissa Markquart P.E., Railroads and Harbors Supervisor, WisDOT*
8:55 - 9:30	**Office of Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) Updates** *Don Vruwink, Commissoner of Railroads, OCR*
9:30 - 9:55	**Railroad Roundtable Updates** *Facilitated by Greg Baer, Track and Structures Engineer, WisDOT* *Jacob Rzewnicki, BNSF_Michael Bee, CN _ Jacob Anderson, CPKC* *Chris Keckeisen, UP _ Ken Lucht, Watco (FOXY & WSOR)*
9:55 - 10:15	**Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Report** *Cecilia Diaz, Grade Crossing Inspector, FRA*
10:15 - 10:45	**BREAK**
10:45 - 11:25	**State Freight Plan and State Rail Plan** *Dave Schroeder, Freight Program Officer, WisDOT* *Sydney Eberhardy, Urban & Regional Planner-Advanced, WisDOT*
11:25 - 11:45	**WisDOT Rail Bridges-Looking Forward After Two Decades** *Peter Schierloh, P.E., S.E. Steel Wheel Bridges*
11:45 - 12:00	**MARS Updates** *Jake Johnson, Railroad Projects Engineer, WisDOT*

12:00 - 1:00	**LUNCH**
1:00 - 1:20	**Short Line Spotlight: Wisconsin Northern Surviving the Collapse of Frac Sand** *Andy Laurent, Progressive Rail, Inc.*
1:20 - 1:35	**Update on Wisconsin Freight Rail** *Peter Kammer, The Kammer Group, LLC*
1:35 - 1:55	**Passenger Rail Update** *Rich Kedzior, Passenger Rail Program Manager, WisDOT*
1:55 - 2:15	**Operation Lifesaver Updates** *Robert Buettner, OLI Chairman and Safety Manager, City of Appleton*
2:15 - 2:40	**Roundabouts Near Grade Crossings-the Wisconsin Experience** *Joanna Bush, P.E., Mead & Hunt*
2:40 - 3:00	**BREAK**
3:00 - 3:20	**How Do We Evaluate Railroads?** *Brian Buchanan, The Killer Bee, LLC*
3:20 - 3:45	**WisDOT Railroad Safety Initiatives** *Kris Sommers P.E., Engineering & Safety Supervisor, WisDOT*
3:45 - 4:00	**Closing Remarks** *Lisa Stern, Chief of Railroads and Harbors, WisDOT*