



# MARS WINTER MEETING

JANUARY 14-16, 2025

Renaissance Schaumburg

*Starting the New Year on Track*

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>MARS First Time Attendee &amp; Young Professional Networking Event</b>	
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Vendor Table Set-up Begins</b>	Utopia Ballroom
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>MARS REGISTRATION</b>	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
<b>6:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>MARS OPENING RECEPTION</b>	

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

<b>6:00 AM</b>	<b>***WORK OUT WITH MARS****</b>	Nirvana
<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>MARS REGISTRATION</b>	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast Buffet &amp; Vendor Networking</b>	Utopia Ballroom
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Surface Transportation Board Office Hours</b>	TBD
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>WELCOME TO MARS WINTER 2025</b> Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
<b>8:10 AM</b>	<b>MARS WINTER 2025 MEETING ORGANIZATION</b> Bryan Vaughan, MARS Sargent at Arms, Modern Rail Capital	Schaumburg Ballroom
<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>MARS WINTER 2025 -- MORNING KEYNOTE</b> Katie Farmer, President & CEO, BNSF <b>Introduction:</b> Ashley Curry, General Director Sales - Industrial Products, BNSF	Schaumburg Ballroom
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL</b> Christina Bottomley, VP Business Development & Real Estate, CSX Ryan Higgins, Chief Commercial Officer, OmniTrax Paulina San Millan, Senior Vice President, Business Development Intersect Illinois <b>Moderator:</b> Chuck Baker, President, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association <b>Introduction:</b> Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom



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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 (continued)

9:45 AM	Morning Coffee & Networking Break	Utopia Ballroom
10:15 AM	<b>CN FIRESIDE CHAT</b>	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Patrick Lortie, Senior Vice-President and Chief Strategy Officer	
	<b>HOST:</b> Anthony B. Hatch, abh Consulting	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
11:00 AM	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
11:15 AM	<b>Railroad 201 - TBD</b>	Nirvana A
	John Schmitter, Railstate	
11:15 AM	<b>Searching for Talent is a Constant Recruiting Process</b>	Nirvana B
	Debbie Taylor, Taylor Search	
11:15 AM	<b>Goal Setting for 2025</b>	Nirvana C
	Michael Triolo-Sapp, inSync Transformations	
11:15 AM	<b>Healthy Travel Choices for 2025</b>	Euphoria
	Gwen Holtan. Beyond the Box Nutrition	
12:30 PM	<b>MARS LUNCHEON</b>	Schaumburg Ballroom
1:00 PM	<b>LUNCHEON KEYNOTE - TRENDS &amp; FORECASTS FOR THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY</b>	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Dr. Chris Kuehl, Managing Director/Founder, Armada Corporate Intelligence	
	<b>Introduction:</b> Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	
1:45 PM	Coffee & Networking Break	Utopia Ballroom



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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 (continued)

<b>2:15 PM</b>	<b>[Redacted]</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Brandy D. Christian, CEO, Patriot Rail	
	<b>Introduction:</b> Harry Zander, Patriot Rail	
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>TO BE ANNOUNCED</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>3:45 PM</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	
	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>DEEPER DIVE ON THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY</b>	<b>Nirvana A</b>
	Dr. Chris Kuehl, Managing Director/Founder, Armada Corporate Intelligence	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>5:00 - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>MARS Reception</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer</b>

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>MARS REGISTRATION</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer</b>
<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast Buffet &amp; Vendor Networking</b>	<b>Utopia Ballroom</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>MARS WINTER 2025 - WELCOME BACK!</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	
<b>8:10 AM</b>	<b>MARS WINTER 2025 MEETING ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Bryan Vaughan, MARS Sargent at Arms, Modern Rail Capital	
<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>UPDATE FROM NORTH AMERICAN RAIL SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	TBD	
<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>MARS SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Jordan Goerger, MARS Scholarship Committee Chairman, Ardent Mills	



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<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>MARS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS UPDATE</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Mike Richardson, MARS Young Professionals Committee Chairman, Kemira	
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>UPDATE FROM THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Robert E. Primus, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>9:15 AM</b>		<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Jean Savage, CEO, Trinity Rail	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Morning Coffee &amp; Networking Break</b>	<b>Utopia Ballroom</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>		<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Kenny Rocker, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Sales, Union Pacific Railroad	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>TO GROW OR NOT TO GROW.....That is the Question</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Larry Gross, President, Gross Transportation Consulting	
	Anthony B. Hatch, abh Consulting	
	<b>Introduction:</b> TBD	
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>MARS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Kathy Bathurst, MARS Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman, CPKC	
<b>11:40 AM</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS &amp; STAY TO THE END RAFFLES</b>	<b>Schaumburg Ballroom</b>
	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	
	Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	