



MARS WINTER MEETING

JANUARY 14-16, 2025

Renaissance Schaumburg

Starting the New Year on Track

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

3:00 PM	Vendor Table Set-up Begins	Utopia Ballroom
4:00 PM	MARS REGISTRATION	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
5:00 - 6:00 PM	MARS First Time Attendee & Young Professional Networking Event	Nirvana Ballroom
6:00 - 8:00 PM	MARS OPENING RECEPTION	

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

6:00 AM	***WORK OUT WITH MARS***	Nirvana Threshold
7:00 AM	MARS REGISTRATION	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
7:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet & Vendor Networking	Utopia Ballroom
8:00 AM	Surface Transportation Board Office Hours	TBD
8:00 AM	WELCOME TO MARS WINTER 2025 Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:10 AM	MARS WINTER 2025 MEETING ORGANIZATION Bryan Vaughan, MARS Sargent at Arms, Modern Rail Capital	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:15 AM	MARS WINTER 2025 -- MORNING KEYNOTE Katie Farmer, President & CEO, BNSF Railway Introduction: Ashley Curry, General Director Sales - Industrial Products, BNSF	Schaumburg Ballroom
9:00 AM	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL Christina Bottomley, VP Business Development & Real Estate, CSX Ryan Higgins, Chief Commercial Officer, OmniTrax Paulina San Millan, Senior Vice President, Business Development Intersect Illinois Moderator: Chuck Baker, President, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association Introduction: 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 SPONSORED BY: <i>American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc</i>	Utopia Ballroom
10:15 AM	CN FIRESIDE CHAT Patrick Lortie, Senior Vice-President and Chief Strategy Officer, CN HOST: Anthony B. Hatch, abh Consulting Introduction: Elie Dakhoul, Senior Manager, Contracts & Compliance, CN	Schaumburg Ballroom
11:00 AM	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
11:15 AM	Railroad 201 - Introduction to the Commercial Side of Railroading John Schmitter, Railstate	Nirvana A
11:15 AM	Upgrade Your Talent Debbie Taylor, Taylor Search Harris Ligon, Founder, Telegraph Sue Marines, VP, Global Talent, GATX Jean Savage, CEO Trinity Industries	Nirvana B
11:15 AM	Vision to Action: Building Your Personal Growth Plan for 2025 Michael Triolo-Sapp, inSync Transformations	Nirvana C
11:15 AM	Eat Well, Perform Better: Meal Strategies for Thriving in Business & Life Gwen Holtan, Beyond the Box Nutrition	Euphoria
12:30 PM	MARS LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY: <i>Carboline</i>	Schaumburg Ballroom
1:00 PM	LUNCHEON KEYNOTE - ECONOMIC UPDATE Thomas Landstreet, Managing Director/Founder, Armada Corporate Intelligence Introduction: Monica Freeman, Director, Rail Transportation, CHS Inc.	



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 (continued)

1:45 PM	Coffee & Networking Break SPONSORED BY: <i>American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc</i>	Utopia Ballroom
2:15 PM	 Brandy D. Christian, CEO, Patriot Rail Introduction: Tom Tisa, Chief Commercial Officer, Patriot Rail	Schaumburg Ballroom
3:00 PM	SHIPPER PERSPECTIVE James Kornas, Executive Vice President - Rail, Ozinga Introduction: Harry Zander, Zander Advisory Group	Schaumburg Ballroom
3:45 PM	Closing Remarks Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
4:00 PM	Railroad 301 - Introduction to Rail Fleet Management John Schmitter, Railstate Moderator: TBD	Nirvana A
5:00 - 7:00 PM	MARS Reception	Utopia Ballroom & Threshold

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

7:00 AM	MARS REGISTRATION	Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer
7:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet & Vendor Networking	Utopia Ballroom
8:00 AM	MARS WINTER 2025 - WELCOME BACK! Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:10 AM	MARS WINTER 2025 MEETING ORGANIZATION Bryan Vaughan, MARS Sargent at Arms, Modern Rail Capital	Schaumburg Ballroom
8:15 AM	UPDATE FROM NORTH AMERICAN RAIL SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION Torri Stuckey, Head of Merchandise Sales & Marketing, CSX	Schaumburg Ballroom



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 (continued)

8:15 AM	MARS SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Jordan Goerger, MARS Scholarship Committee Chairman, Ardent Mills	
8:15 AM	MARS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS UPDATE	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Mike Richardson, MARS Young Professionals Committee Chairman, Kemira	
8:30 AM	UPDATE FROM THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Robert E. Primus, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board	
	Introduction: Justin Broyles, Executive VP, Commercial Affairs, R. J. Corman	
9:15 AM	JOURNEY TO 2035: SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN RAIL	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Jean Savage, CEO, TrinityRail	
	Introduction: Grant Keyser, Director of Sales, Downstream & Chemical, TrinityRail	
10:00 AM	Morning Coffee & Networking Break	Ballroom Foyer
	SPONSORED BY: <i>American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc</i>	
10:15 AM		Schaumburg Ballroom
	Kenny Rocker, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Sales, Union Pacific Railroad	
	Introduction: Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	
10:45 AM	FIRESIDE CHAT WITH STEVEN HART	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Steven Hart, Vice President, Transportation & Logistics Services, Sysco Corporation	
	Introduction: Grant Keyser, Director of Sales, Consumer Products, TrinityRail	
11:15 AM	TO GROW OR NOT TO GROW.....That is the Question	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Larry Gross, President, Gross Transportation Consulting	
	Anthony B. Hatch, abh Consulting	
	Introduction: Harry Zander, Zander Advisory Group	
11:45 AM	MARS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Kathy Bathurst, MARS Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman, CPKC	
11:50 AM	CLOSING REMARKS	Schaumburg Ballroom
	Matt O'Kray, MARS 2024 President, Transtar	
	Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	