Wednesday, January 6, 2027

Time	Event	Location
8:00am – 4:00pm	Exhibitor Move-In	
8:00am – 7:30pm	Registration	
11:30am – 4:00pm	**NEW** Professional Development Hours *Registration required*	
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Professional Headshots for Conference Registrants	
4:30pm – 7:30pm	NRC-REMSA Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall Sponsored by:	

Wi-Fi in General Session and Exhibit Hall

SSID:
password:

Sponsored by:

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Thursday, January 7, 2026

Time	Event	Location
6:30am – 7:30pm	Registration	
7:45am – 7:55am	Conference Welcome General Session Refreshments Sponsored by:	
7:55am – 8:15am	**NS Engineering: ONE TEAM-ONE MISSION-ONE GOAL** Ed Boyle, VP of Engineering (confirmed) Sponsored by:	
8:15am – 8:35am	**Watco's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Amie Proudfit, VP of Procurement (invited) Sponsored by:	
8:35am – 8:45am	**NRC Safety Awards** Presented by Ashley Wieland President, NRC *See page xx for more details* Sponsored by: *Commercial Insurance Associates (CIA)*	
8:45am – 10:15am	**NRC-REMSA Breakfast in Exhibit Hall** Sponsored by:	
10:15am – 10:35am	**CSX's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** James Schwichtenbuerg, Vice President and Chief Safety Officer at CSX Corporation, CSX (invited) Sponsored by:	
10:35am – 10:55am	**FAMES RMM Focus Update** Cory Johnson, Railroad Safety Specialist – 243/228 Signal, Train Control & Crossing Div. (confirmed)	
10:55am – 11:15am	**Chicago Metra's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Janice R. Thomas, Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs (confirmed) Sponsored by	

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Thursday, January 7, 2027 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
11:15am– 11:35am	**MxV Rail Update** Kari Gonzales, President & CEO, MxV Rail (confirmed) Sponsored by: *Michael Baker International*	
11:35am – 12:15pm (40 min)	NRC Keynote Session **Fireside Chat featuring:** **Craig Moorehouse, EVP & COO, BNSF Railway (confirmed)** Moderated By: NRC Chair Curtis Bilow, EVP, Ames Construction and NRC Vice Chair, Lisa Robert, Chief Growth Officer, Omaha Track Sponsored by:	
12:15pm – 1:45pm	**NRC-REMSA Lunch in Exhibit Hall** Sponsored by:	
2:00pm – 2:30pm	NRC Safety Award Winners Convene for Photo Op and Plaque Presentation	
5:00pm – 7:00pm	**NRC-REMSA Reception in Exhibit Hall** Sponsored by:	

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Thursday, January 7, 2026 (cont.)
Breakout Sessions

Time	Event	Location
2:00pm – 5:00pm	**FRA Update: Part 243 Regulation Overview, Part 243 Portal Submission, Part 243 Records and Part 214 & 243 Partnership** Presenters: Lance Hawks- Human Performance Railroad Specialists, FRA; Tim Presser- Human Performance Railroad Specialists, FRA; Ron Simpson - Human Performance Railroad Specialists, FRA; Ron Simpson- Human Performance Railroad Specialists, FRA	
2:00pm – 3:30pm	**The Components of a Resilient Safety Culture** Safety culture exists whether an organization proactively manages it or not. Over the past 50 years, Caterpillar Safety Services has worked with hundreds of organizations striving to build the strongest safety culture possible to keep their people safe. What we've learned is that the key to success and sustainability is resilience. In this presentation you will learn about the four interdependent components that are necessary to achieve a resilient safety culture: a system with appropriate controls and clear expectations, a shared mindset that meets challenges with care and curiosity, consistent leadership behaviors that positively influence others, and a fully engaged organization focused on continuous improvement to build ownership. Presented by: Shae Birkey, MS, CSP Safety Leadership Adviser/Industry Account Manager, Caterpillar	
2:00pm – 3:30pm	**League of Railway Women –** Breakout topic TBD	
2:00pm - 3:00pm	**NRC Veterans Committee** Moderated by industry leaders and featuring insights from hiring managers, the session will explore how the committee serves the NRC membership, outline clear steps to establishing and leveraging apprenticeships to hire veterans, highlight recent milestones, and preview what's ahead. Attendees will gain practical takeaways on recruiting, training, and supporting veteran talent, with opportunities for discussion and direct engagement with committee members.	

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Thursday, January 7, 2027 (cont.)
Breakout Sessions – Speed Networking

Sign up for a dedicated, 10-minute time slot to meet and network with a railroad engineering and purchasing team. This event is first-come, first-served. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Locations will be provided via email to registered attendees of this event

Event
G&W/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
Norfolk Southern/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
Union Pacific/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
Watco/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
Canadian National/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
*NEW*BNSF/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD
*NEW*Patriot Rail/Contractor “Speed Networking” Participants: TBD

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Friday, January 8, 2027

Time	Event	Location
7:00am – 12:00pm	Registration	
7:30am – 12:00pm	Exhibitor Tear-Down	
7:00am	Continental Breakfast in General Session	
7:30am – 7:40am	**AREMA President Update** David C. Clark, PE, President, American Railway Engineering & Maintenance of Way Association (confirmed)	
7:40am – 8:00am	**Union Pacific's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Russell Rohlfs, VP of Engineering, Union Pacific Rail (confirmed) Sponsored by:	
8:00am – 8:40am	**Rail Sustainability Panel** Moderator: Brett Urquhart, President, Martinus North America Panelists: Francois Belanger, Senior Director Sustainability,CN; Andrea Deichert Oswald, General Director – Strategic Sourcing Supply Chain, Union Pacific; Rebecca Hensley, Senior Manager Sustainability, CSX; Laura McNichol, SVP, Chief Sustainability Officer, Watco; Corey Plunket, Senior Director, Purchasing, NS; David Smat, General Director - Environmental Operations, Engineering, Permitting, and Sustainability, BNSF Sponsored by: *Hamilton Construction Co.*	
8:40am – 9:00am	**G&W's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Kristine Storm, Vice President, Grant & Program Management (invited) Sponsored by:	

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Friday, January 8, 2027 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
9:00am – 9:40am	**Railroad Signals & Communication Panel** Moderator Carl Walker Panelists Jerad Fritz, AVP Signals, BNSF; Tom Hilliard, Chief S&C, CN; Jared Hopewell, AVP C&S, NS; Chad Rose, AVP Signal and Telecom, UP; Steven Vant, Chief Engineer – S&C, Conrail Sponsored by:	
9:40am – 10:00am	**Canadian National's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Matthew Hammond, VP Engineering (confirmed) Sponsored by:	
10:00am – 10:20am	**ONE RAILROAD CONNECTED - CPKC's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Tom Bourgonje, VP of Engineering (invited) Sponsored by:	

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Friday, January 8, 2027 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
1:00pm Shotgun start *Pre-registration required*	**NRC Golf Tournament** The Tournament format is a four-person scramble. Golf registration fee includes carts, green fees, lunch buffet and drinks, access to driving range and putting greens. Golf Beverage Stations Sponsored by: Golf Lunch Sponsored by: Tournament Golf Balls Sponsored by: Hole-In-One Sponsored by:	*Wildfire Golf Course (on-site)*
1:00pm start *Bus pick-up: TBD* *Pre-registration required*	**Trap Shooting Event** Sponsored by: ***Progressive Railroading Magazine***	*Bus pick-up: TBD*

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Saturday, January 9, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00am – 1:00pm	Registration	
8:00am	Continental Breakfast in General Session	
8:30am – 8:50am	**BNSF's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors** Craig Rasmussen, AVP Engineering Services & Structures (confirmed) Sponsored by:	
8:50am – 9:10am	**Metrolink's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors** Justin Fornelli, P.E., Chief, Program Delivery (confirmed) Sponsored by:	
9:10am – 9:30am	**LA Metro** Michael Cano, Executive Officer, Multimodal Systems & Corridors (invited) Sponsored by:	
9:30am – 9:40am	**OmniTRAX's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Zac Vallos, VP Engineering (invited) Sponsored by:	
9:40am – 9:50am	**Patriot Rail's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Scott Bannwart, VP Engineering (confirmed) Sponsored by:	

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Saturday, January 9, 2026 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
9:50am – 10:30am	**NRC Special Awards Presentation** **and** **LRW's Woman of the Year Award Presentation** *See pages xx-xx for more details* Sponsored by:	
10:30am – 11:10am	**Railroad Government Affairs Panel:** **Transportation Legislation and Policy Priorities** Moderator Matt Ginsberg, President, TGA Association Management Solutions (NRC's lobbying firm) Panelists Andrew Brady, VP of External Relations, UP; Melissa Connolly, AVP Government Affairs, Association of American Railroads; Arielle Giordano, Vice President, Government and Industry Affairs, GWRR; Tom Livingston, CSX; Larry Lloyd, AVP US Government Affairs, CPKC; Wes Lujan, GATX; Michael R. Smythers, VP Government Affairs, BNSF Sponsored by: *TGA AMS, LLC*	
11:10am – 11:20am	**NRC Safety Committee update:** **Safety Video Update and Learning Management System Implementation for NRC Safety Video Library and other training resources** Presented by: NRC Safety Committee Chair Erika Brunhke, Chief Sales & Growth Officer, RailPros	
11:20am – 11:40am	**Rail Mergers - Dead or Alive?** Tony Hatch, Senior Transportation Analyst, ABH Consulting Sponsored by:	

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Saturday, January 9, 2026 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
11:40am – 12:10pm	**Industrial Development Panel** Moderated by: Reggie Herman, Senior Vice President, Global Goods Movement Director, GBL Transportation, AECOM Panelists: Class 1 representative TBD Short Line representative TBD T. Craig Morgan, Vice President, Freight Rail & Industrial Development, Ames Construction Sponsored by:	
12:10pm – 12:30pm	**ConRail's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Rodney Gorton, Head of Operations (invited) Sponsored by:	
12:30pm – 12:50pm	**Port of Long Beach's Capital Program and Opportunities for Contractors and Suppliers** Theresa Dau-Ngo, Director of Port Planning (invited) Sponsored by:	
12:50pm – 1:00pm	Concluding comments by Curtis Bilow, NRC Chairman	

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Saturday, January 9, 2026 (cont.)

Time	Event	Location
5:00pm – 7:00pm	**Finale Reception** Enjoy an evening of food, drinks, cigars, and networking. Take your photo in the AI interactive photo booth to commemorate your time at the conference. And don't forget to try a specialty martini! Reception Sponsored by: *RailWorks* *SEMA Construction* *Track Tech* Specialty Martini Bar Sponsored by *Railroad Construction Company* Cigar Rolling Station Sponsored by *Omaha Track*	
7:00pm – 10:00pm	**L.B. Foster NFL Party** Grab a drink and some tailgate fare while watching a great lineup of football games as we conclude the NRC Conference!	

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