



AGENDA

Day 1

Tuesday
06.23.2026
Courtyard by Marriott - Lincoln, NE

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast	Location: Scarlet Ballroom
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Welcome	Khalil Jaber NE DOT, Chief Operating Officer
9:10 AM - 9:30 AM	American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association Update	Mike Ogborn ASLRRA
9:30 AM - 9:50 AM	AASHTO Update	Daniel Wanke Program Manager for Freight, AASHTO
9:50 AM - 10:10 AM	Federal Highway Administration Update	Rusty Simerl Safety & Traffic Operations, NE Div. FHWA
10:10 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Operation Lifesaver Updates	Rachel Maleh, Executive Director, Matt Vogt (KS), Tim Hull (MO) Rich Kotan (NE), Francis Edeker (IA), Cecilia Hansen (IL), Richard Hansen (MN), Gary Koerner (WI)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch	Location: Scarlet Ballroom
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	American Railway Engineering & Maintenance-of-Way Association Update	Patrick Halsted AREMA VP, Track Functional Group
1:30 PM - 1:50 PM	Union Pacific Railroad Update	Andrew Arnold Union Pacific Industry & Public Projects
1:50 PM - 2:10 PM	FHWA MUTCD	Abe Anshasi & Alison Koch, Safety & Traffic Operations, NE Division FHWA
2:10 PM - 2:30 PM	RTSD – City of Lincoln, 33rd and Cornhusker Project	Roger Figard RTSD Director
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 PM - 3:15 PM	Panel Discussion I – Various State Involvement w/Preemption Reviews	Kris Klop (IA), Shawn Hennes (KS), Kris Sommers (WI), Frank Frey & Jim Dahlem (FRA) NDOT Moderator – Jodi Gibson
3:15 PM - 3:35 PM	Example Section 130 Project – Partnering with Key Stakeholders	Kris Klop, Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Programs, Modal Trans. Bureau
3:35 PM - 4:05 PM	Federal Railroad Administration	Frank Frey & James Dahlem, General Engineer, FRA Office of Railroad Safety
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Evening Social & Hors d'oeuvres	Location: Courtyard



AGENDA

Day 2

Wednesday
06.24.2026

Courtyard by Marriott - Lincoln, NE

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast	Location: Scarlet Ballroom
8:00 AM - 8:20 AM	Industry / Legislative Update	Ashley Shelton Railway Supply Institute
8:20 AM - 8:40 AM	BNSF Railway Update	Richard Scott French Thompson (backup) BNSF
8:40 AM - 9:00 AM	Omaha to Lincoln Rail Crossing Study	Jessica Hekter HDR
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	State DOT Updates	Shawn Hennes(KS), Alex Schroeder (MO), Travis Haberman (NE), Kristopher Klop (IA), William Pearsall (IL), Shahin Khazrajafari (MN), Kris Sommers (WI)
10:30 AM - 10:50 AM	Break	
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM	Nebraska Central Railroad (NCRC) Update	Taylor Kelley Track Maintenance, NCRC
11:00 AM - 11:20 AM	Panel Discussion II – Modern Tools for Rail Safety: AI, Technology, & Data Driven Decisions	Frank Frey & Jim Dahlem, FRA; Aaron Brown, UPRR/Benesch Sr. Mgr. Geometry Engineering Richard Scott, BNSF
11:20 AM - 11:40 AM	CPKC Railroad Updates	Ryan Nonnemaker CPKC Railroad
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Panel Discussion III – Pedestrian Safety & Mitigation	Bill Pearsall (IL DOT), Kris Klop (IA DOT), Brian Brunmeier (WisDOT), Jacob Rzewnicki (BNSF), Frank Frey & Jim Dahlem (FRA)
12:00 PM - 12:20 PM	Open Forum and Wrap Up	Moderator – Jodi Gibson



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