



OHIO
CONFERENCE
ON FREIGHT
2025

PROGRAM

JULY 29-31 | TOLEDO, OHIO

ohioconferenceonfreight.com

Presented by **TMACOG**



WELCOME!



Welcome to the 2025 Ohio Conference on Freight, returning to Toledo for the first time in a decade! You are joining fellow attendees from across the freight and logistics community: planners, technology developers, network operators and users, and economic development professionals.

This event serves two key purposes. First, to showcase Ohio's freight advantages—our vast and efficient multimodal network for moving products and materials to market, and our strategic location: you are now within 500 miles of 60% of North America's population.

Second, to come together in pursuit of innovation—to strengthen and grow Ohio's freight capacity to meet future opportunities and challenges.

We open with a keynote from one of America's outstanding industrial leaders: Lourenco Goncalves, Chairman, President, and CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs. Vertically integrated and committed to Ohio, Cleveland-Cliffs leverages every mode of our freight network, illustrating the direct link between freight infrastructure and economic growth.

Each day of the conference focuses on different modes of Ohio's freight system.

- Tuesday features the 736-mile Maritime Transportation System, the eighth largest in the U.S. by tonnage.
- Wednesday highlights cross-border trade and innovations in the trucking industry, concluding with a tour of the 167-acre customs area at the soon-to-open Gordie Howe International Bridge.
- Thursday explores the evolving roles of regional airports and wraps up with a look at the power of rail-served sites, including a discussion of how the Louis Dreyfus project transformed Wyandot County.

This event is the result of collaboration by many individuals and organizations. We are especially grateful to the many sponsors we will highlight throughout the week.

Finally, your place in the conversation: When you bring your expertise, your perspective, and your curiosity, you elevate the energy of our presentations and discussions. I encourage you to make the most of this experience by connecting with your fellow attendees, engaging deeply in our sessions, and taking some time to explore the revitalized energy of Toledo.


I'm so glad you are here. Have a great conference!

Sandy Spang

Sandy Spang
TMACOG Executive Director

AGENDA

TUESDAY | JULY 29

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
11:00 A.M.	Registration & Sponsor Exhibits Open	<i>Glass City Center</i>
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.	Ohio Freight Advisory Committee Meeting The Freight Advisory Committee brings together public and private sector leaders to serve in a key advisory role on freight priorities, issues, and projects, including the state's freight plan, Transport Ohio. The committee will discuss the update to ODOT's Truck Parking Study as part of the Transport Ohio 2026 plan refresh. All are welcome to attend!	<i>Summit A</i>
1:00 - 1:15 P.M.	Welcome Address & Conference Overview Sandy Spang Executive Director Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments	<i>Grand Ballroom</i> Wade Kapszukiewicz Mayor City of Toledo
1:15 - 2:00 P.M.	Opening Keynote: Why Ohio? Freight Powering the Future of American Steel	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	 Lourenco Goncalves Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer Cleveland-Cliffs Lourenco Goncalves, Chairman, President & CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs, shares how Ohio's multimodal freight network—connecting the Great Lakes, rail, and roadways—supports Cliffs' vertically integrated steelmaking strategy. Cleveland-Cliffs maintains an extensive operating footprint in Ohio, including two fully integrated steel mills, a specialty steel mill, the Toledo Direct Reduction plant, and numerous steel finishing facilities. Each year, the company moves over 8 million tons of pellets into Ohio and more than 8.5 million tons of finished product from its Ohio steelmaking operations. Goncalves explains why Ohio's freight infrastructure is essential to innovation, efficiency, and the resurgence of U.S. manufacturing.	
2:00 - 2:15 P.M.	Networking Break	

Study Hall

Summit A

Throughout the conference, explore a curated collection of posters that highlight freight-related plans, projects, fact sheets, and research from transportation planners and stakeholders. This exhibit offers insight into current initiatives and strategies focused on enhancing regional freight movement.

AGENDA

TUESDAY | JULY 29

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:15 – 3:00 P.M.	Navigating the Future: Ohio's Maritime Freight Plan	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
Panelists:	 Randy Lane Statewide Planning Manager ODOT Office of Statewide Planning & Research	 David S. Gutheil Interim President & CEO/ Chief Commercial Officer Port of Cleveland
	 Joe Cappel Vice President, Business Development, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority	 Eric Thomas Executive Director Central Ohio River Business Association
Moderator:	 Robyn Bancroft, AICP Strategic Initiatives Manager OKI Regional Council of Governments	

Ohio's maritime transportation system is a vital link in the national freight network, ranking 8th in the U.S. for total tonnage moved. With 736 miles of navigable waterways, eight Lake Erie ports, more than 200 active docks, and nine locks and dams, Ohio's waterborne freight system is both expansive and essential. This session will unveil the newly completed Ohio Maritime Plan, highlight statewide strategies, and share real-world insights.

3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Sponsor Exhibits and Study Hall Open *Glass City Center*

3:30 – 3:45 P.M. Board TARTA Buses *North Summit Street*

Three buses are available for transportation to the National Museum of the Great Lakes. The first two buses will leave promptly at 3:30 PM. The final bus will depart at 3:45 PM. If you miss this departure, you will need to arrange your own transportation.

If you are registered for the Port of Toledo Tour, you must take a 3:30 PM bus.

3:45 – 5:30 P.M. **Maritime Tour Options** *National Museum of the Great Lakes*

During this time, attendees will have the choice of two experiences:

- The Port of Toledo Tour: Set sail to learn about the Port of Toledo's infrastructure while enjoying scenic views of the Maumee River.
- National Museum of the Great Lakes Tour: Explore rich maritime history through self-guided tours of the museum and the Col. James M. Schoonmaker Ship.

Important information about the Port of Toledo Tour, departing promptly at 4:00 P.M.

*Advance sign-up is required due to **limited seating**.*

You can sign up:

- *Using the link provided in your reminder email*
- *At registration on the sign-up sheet*
- *Or, if seats are still available, by getting a ticket upon your arrival at the museum.*

If you pre-registered, you'll receive an anchor sticker 🚢 on your name tag at check-in.

AGENDA

TUESDAY | JULY 29

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
5:30 – 7:30 P.M.	Welcome Reception	<i>National Museum of the Great Lakes</i>



Lisa Sobecki
Commissioner
Board of Lucas County Commissioners

7:45 P.M.	Board TARTA Buses for return to the Hilton Garden Inn Toledo Downtown <i>The last bus departs promptly at 8:00 PM. If you miss this departure, you will need to arrange separate transportation.</i>	<i>Marina Drive West</i>
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Reminders for Wednesday, July 30:

To board the bus for Detroit, you must have the following items:

- Boxed lunch
- Valid identification
- Conference name badge

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 - 8:30 A.M.	Breakfast and Sponsor Exhibits Open	

8:30 - 9:00 A.M.	Exploring the Economics of US-Canada Freight Flow	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Paul Ciannavei
Associate Director
S&P Global

This session explores the economic impact of the longstanding trade partnership between the U.S. and Canada by examining historical and forecasted freight volumes and trade agreements since 1994. Data will assess Ohio's strategic role in cross-border commerce and analyze how the Gordie Howe International Bridge will enhance freight movement, with insights into key commodities, industries, and transportation modes.

9:00 - 9:10 A.M.	Ohio's Competitive Advantage	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Kevin Chambers
Managing Director, Military & Federal, Logistics, Distribution, and Supply Chain
JobsOhio

Learn how JobsOhio drives economic development, business growth, and job creation through strategic investments and partnerships. This session outlines the state's unique approach to empowering industries, fostering long-term growth and resilience, positioning Ohio as a destination for U.S. and international enterprises.

9:10 - 9:55 A.M.	Maximizing Global Advantage: The Strategic Role of Foreign Trade Zones	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Panelists:



D. Paul Zito
VP International Development
Regional Growth Partnership



Randy Campbell
President
Campbell Trade Group Inc.



Chuck Bills
President/CEO
Ohio Logistics

Moderator:



Kevin Chambers
Managing Director,
Military & Federal, Logistics,
Distribution, and Supply Chain
JobsOhio

Discover how Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) can be powerful tools for strengthening competition and navigating today's shifting trade landscape. This session will explain what an FTZ is, how it works, and the key benefits, such as duty deferral, tariff relief, and streamlined customs procedures. Hear from Chuck Bills, who played a leading role in establishing FTZ #151, which has grown to cover seven counties, offering valuable insights into how FTZs can drive regional economic growth and global trade efficiency.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:55 - 10:00 A.M.	Important Announcements on Afternoon Logistics	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>

10:00 - 10:15 A.M.	Networking Break	
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10:15 - 10:40 A.M.	Driving Change: Ohio's Role in Deploying Freight Truck Automation	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Andrew Bremer
Managing Director
of Local Affairs
DriveOhio



Abbi Failla
Executive Vice President
Business Operations
EASE Logistics

Ohio is leading the way in testing and deploying automated freight technologies. This session features DriveOhio and EASE Logistics, highlighting public-private collaboration along the 166-mile I-70 Truck Automation Corridor. Truck platooning and advanced vehicle automation showcase how innovation is reshaping the future of freight.

10:40 - 11:15 A.M.	The Truckers' Crossroads Unveiled: Decoding I-70/I-75 Freight Trends	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Christopher Wichman
Business Development Manager
Altitude by Geotab

This session offers a data-driven dive, with a high-level overview of trucking trends and insights from the I-70/I-75 corridor. Then we zoom into Ohio and take a regional view on freight to analyze congestion points, truck parking needs, and transportation infrastructure, showing how data can enhance resilience and efficiency.

11:15 - 11:30 A.M.	Freight Fraud: The Silent Crisis Undermining the Trucking Industry	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
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Bryan Keller
Chief Executive Officer
Keller Logistics Group

Freight fraud has exploded into a full-scale, organized threat, driven by digital imposters, low prosecution rates, and systemic vulnerabilities. Learn how logistics leaders are shifting from reactive fixes to proactive defense, using layered technology, vigilant processes, and collaborative education to protect freight networks.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
11:30 - 11:45 P.M.	Bridging Compliance and Speed: Best Practices for Cross-Border Customs Readiness	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>



Justin McInturff
International Logistics Manager
Jarrett Logistics

With U.S.-Canada trade on the rise, staying compliant while minimizing delays is crucial. This session offers practical strategies for importers, exporters, and logistics providers to streamline customs processes without compromising regulatory integrity, preparing you to navigate customs smarter and with confidence.

11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	Sponsor Exhibits & Study Hall Open	<i>Pre-Function Room/Summit A</i>
12:30 P.M.	Lunch Pick Up	<i>North Summit Street</i>
12:45 P.M.	Board Motorcoach	<i>North Summit Street</i>
1:00 P.M.	Depart for Detroit	

2:30 - 4:30 P.M.	Afternoon Rotations: Newlab Session & Bridge Tour Newlab Session: Gordie Howe International Bridge: Building Connections and Opportunities	<i>Newlab Event Space & Gordie Howe International Bridge</i>
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Heather Grondin
Chief Relations Officer
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Guided Tour of Customs at the Gordie Howe International Bridge





Katie Bosco
Manager,
Outreach and Engagement
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



Stephanie Campeau
Associate Vice President,
Stakeholder and Community Relations
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:30 - 3:30 P.M.	Attendees will be split into two groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group A will remain on their bus and travel to the Gordie Howe International Bridge for a guided tour of the customs facility.• Group B will attend the session at Newlab.	<i>Newlab Event Space & Gordie Howe International Bridge</i>
3:30 - 4:30 P.M.	The groups will switch: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group A will attend session at Newlab.• Group B will board the bus to travel to the customs facility.	<i>Newlab Event Space & Gordie Howe International Bridge</i>
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.	Rooftop Reception	<i>Newlab at Michigan Central</i>
	 Colin Bird Consul General of Canada in Detroit	 Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur 9th District of Ohio
6:30 P.M.	Board Motorcoaches and Return to Glass City Center	<i>15th Street</i>

AGENDA

THURSDAY | JULY 31

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 - 8:30 A.M.	Breakfast & Sponsor Exhibits Open	<i>Glass City Center</i>
8:30 - 9:00 A.M.	Navigating the Air Freight Landscape	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>



Kendra Robinson
President
InterJet West

From the unmatched speed and reliability of air freight to its critical role in global emergencies and modern e-commerce, the session explores key trends, market volatility, regulatory challenges, and the rising importance of regional hubs like Toledo. With equal parts strategy, innovation, and wit, this presentation will equip stakeholders not just to survive the turbulence, but to fly smarter through it.

9:00 - 9:45 A.M.	Regional Airports: Runways to the Future	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	Growth through AI Driven Advanced Air Mobility	



John Crisp
Manager
Fulton County Airport

Fulton County Airport is taking bold steps to become a regional leader in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), starting with infrastructure to support missions like crop spraying and air ambulance operations. Strategic investments in new hangars and new technology lay a foundation for safe, scalable AAM integration. With ample county-owned land and a proactive strategy to attract operators, the airport is uniquely positioned to demonstrate how future aviation can deliver real benefits to rural communities.

Operation Lollipop Drop: Introduction to Third Revolution Flight




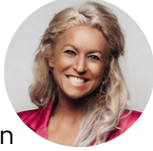





Clay Finken
Director
Erie-Ottawa International Airport

Last summer, a unique public-private collaboration brought Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to life in the Shores & Islands region. Operation Lollipop Drop trained high school seniors in drone operation, culminating in Ohio's first unmanned delivery flight between the mainland and South Bass Island. Learn how public and private partners worked together to show the future of workforce development and regional innovation.

AGENDA

THURSDAY | JULY 31

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:45 - 10:00 A.M.	Networking Break	
10:00 - 10:45 A.M.	Rail-Served and Ready Sites	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
Panelists:	 Matthew Dietrich Executive Director Ohio Rail Development Commission	 Matt Davis Vice President, Real Estate Regional Growth Partnership
	 Zachary Zaluski Industrial Development Manager, Ohio Norfolk Southern Corporation	Moderator:  Chase Eikenbary Vice President of Project Management Regional Growth Partnership
	<p>Rail access is a powerful driver of economic development that can slash transportation costs, streamline logistics, and reduce environmental impact while offering a competitive supply-chain edge. This session will explore the potential of rail-served land, including how to define and identify a rail-served site, assess customer needs, and build effective partnerships with railroads.</p>	
10:45 - 11:30 A.M.	Innovating Ag Logistics: The Louis Dreyfus Rail Project in Wyandot County	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
Panelists:	 Travis Smith Assistant Vice President of Sales and Marketing Genesee & Wyoming Rail Road Services Inc.	 Madison Corbi Manager of Demand and Market Development Ohio Soybean Council
Moderator:	 Tim Derickson Managing Director of Food and Agribusiness JobsOhio	
	<p>Discover how a \$500 million investment is creating a major hub for agricultural logistics. Slated for completion in 2026, the Louis Dreyfus Company's state-of-the-art crush facility will process more than 1.5 million metric tons of soybeans annually. With access to multiple Class I railroads via the Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad and featuring over 57,000 feet of track and capacity for 940 railcars, the project sets a new standard in innovative rail logistics.</p>	
11:30 - 11:45 A.M.	Closing Comments	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>



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- **JobsOhio Revitalization Program**
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Kevin Chambers
Managing Director,
Logistics, Distribution
and Supply Chain
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JobsOhio.

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The Ohio Department of Transportation is a proud sponsor of the 2025 Ohio Conference on Freight.



*check out our
Ohio Maritime Plan
and other
freight related plans
and initiatives at:*



transportation.ohio.gov/maritime



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Transportation**
transportation.ohio.gov



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

The Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) is comprised of regional agencies that serve governments and represent more than 10.5 million residents across Ohio.



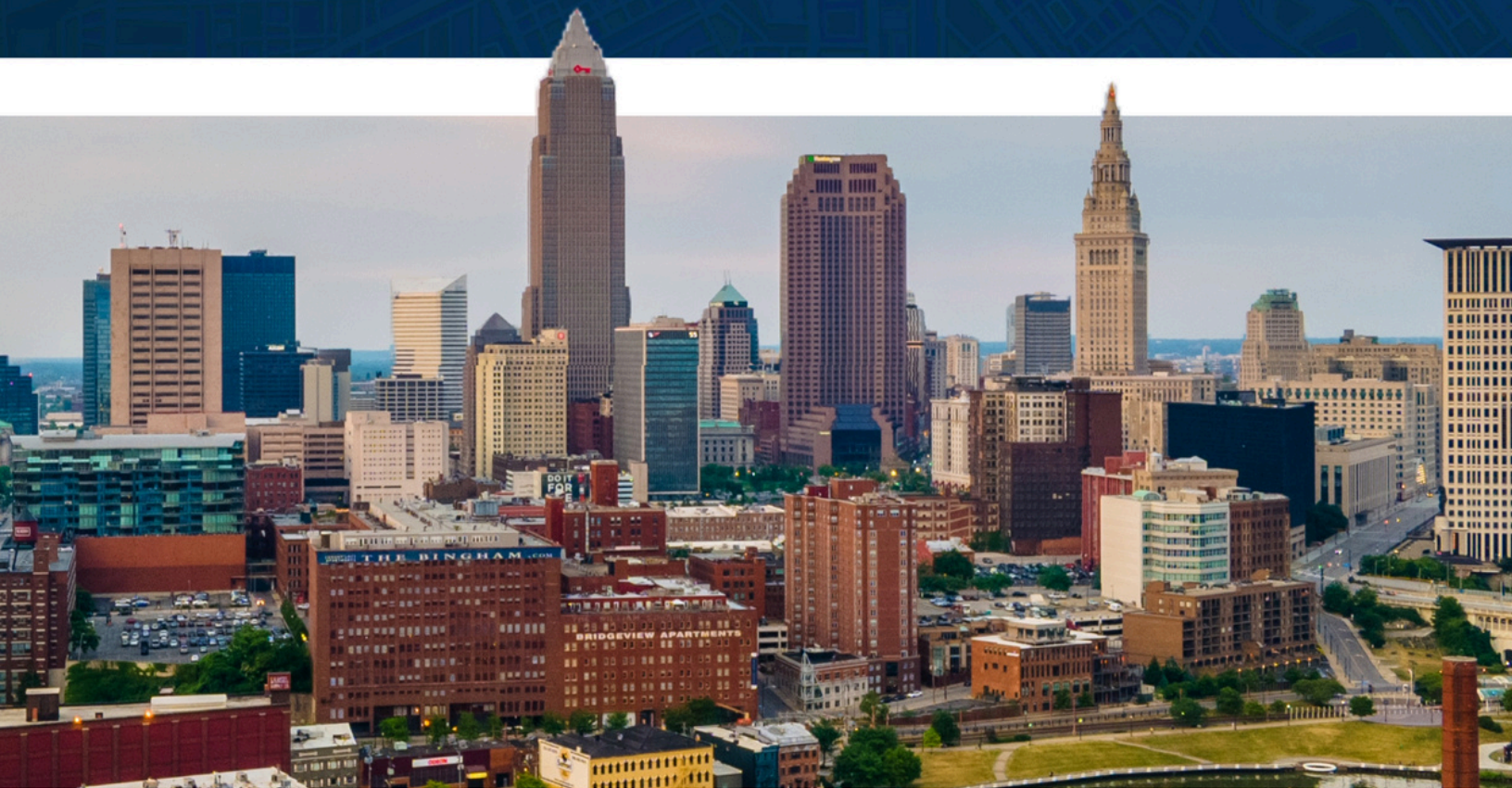
OARC'S MISSION IS TO:

- Coordinate voices at a state and federal level
- Strengthen the role and authority of regional councils
- Collaborate, coordinate and solve problems in the areas of transportation, environment and land use planning within the framework of state policy



NOACA proudly sponsors the
***Ohio Conference
on Freight***

Supporting endeavors that promote a more sustainable and interconnected community, enhancing the quality of life for residents of Northeast Ohio.



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View the
OKI Freight Plan



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**SEE YOU IN 2026 FOR THE NEXT
CONFERENCE ON FREIGHT!**