



AUGUST 14-15 . LOEWS CHICAGO HOTEL . CHICAGO, IL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration & Check-In – Wright Foyer
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Welcome Lunch & Networking – Wright Ballroom 4+5
1:00 – 4:45 PM	Afternoon Conference Sessions – Wright Ballroom 1+2+3
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Welcome Address <i>Brian Oszakiewski, Executive Director – American Great Lakes Ports Association</i> <i>Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III, President – American Great Lakes Ports Association</i> <i>Erik Varela, Executive Director – Illinois International Port District (Host Port)</i>
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Strengthening the Seaway – Cross-Border Collaboration <i>Mike McCoshen, Administrator – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)</i> <i>Jim Athanasiou, President – St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC)</i>
2:00 – 2:15 PM	MARAD Perspectives – Priorities & Progress in the Great Lakes <i>Sang H. Yi, Administrator (Acting) – Maritime Administration (MARAD)</i>
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Moving the Region – Inside the Great Lakes Fleet <i>Jim Weakley, President – Lake Carriers' Association</i>
2:30 – 3:00 PM	The National Museum of the Great Lakes – A Gathering Place for Great Lakes Conversations <i>Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III, Founder – National Museum of the Great Lakes</i> <i>Kate Fineske, Executive Director – National Museum of the Great Lakes</i>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Sponsor Spotlight – Ports of Indiana <i>Jody Peacock, Chief Executive Officer – Ports of Indiana</i>
3:15 – 3:45 PM	Unlocking Opportunity – Practical Port Funding Strategies <i>Bill Hanka, President – Hanka Advisor, LLC</i> <i>Libby Ogard, President – Prime Focus, LLC</i> <i>Mitch Holzrichter, Partner – Mayer Brown</i> <i>Joe Cappel, VP of Business Development – Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (Moderator)</i>
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Sponsor Spotlight – Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority <i>Mark Schrupp, Executive Director – Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority</i>
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Beyond the Docks – The Freight Economy in Motion <i>Doug Pryor, President & CEO – Will County Center for Economic Development & Board Member – Coalition For America's Gateways & Trade Corridors</i>
4:30 – 4:45 PM	SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT – Foth <i>Joe Liebau, Jr., Senior Strategic Advisor – Foth Companies</i>
6:00 – 9:00 PM	Dinner Cruise – Chicago's Classic Lady



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7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet – Wright Ballroom 4+5
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Morning Conference Sessions – Wright Ballroom 1+2+3
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Safety, Policy & Progress – A Conversation with Chairwoman Homendy <i>Jennifer Homendy, Chairwoman – National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)</i>
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Washington, D.C. & Great Lakes Policy Regional Update <i>Mark Ruge, Partner – K&L Gates</i> <i>Alec Messina, Partner – HeplerBroom</i> <i>Eric Oberhart, Maritime Program Director – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers</i>
9:00 – 9:45 AM	Updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Reliability & Innovation on the Great Lakes <i>Colonel Kenneth P. Rockwell, Chicago District Commander – USACE</i> <i>Nick Zager, Detroit District Chief of Operations, Great Lakes Navigation Team Lead – USACE</i> <i>Kristine Meyer, Chicago District Chief of the Lake Michigan Project Office – USACE</i> <i>Adam Hamm, Buffalo District Chief of Operations Branch – USACE</i>
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Coffee Break & Networking
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Strengthening the Corridor – Seaway Infrastructure & Investment <i>Peter Hirthe, Director, Office of Trade and Economic Development – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)</i> <i>Ken Carey, General Manager, Commercial – St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation</i> <i>Sylvonica Madlock, Executive Officer – GLS (Moderator)</i>
10:45 – 11:15 AM	An Inside Look – Progress on the New Lock at the Soo <i>Mollie Mahoney, New Lock at the Soo Senior Project Manager – USACE</i>
11:15 – 11:30 AM	A Rising Tide – How Cruises Lift Great Lakes Communities <i>John Waggoner, Chief Executive Officer – Victory Cruise Lines</i>
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Awards
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch – Wright Ballroom 4+5
1:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Afternoon Conference Sessions – Wright Ballroom 1+2+3



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1:00 – 1:30 PM	Navigating What's Next – Leveraging AI for Safer, Smarter Ports <i>Dylan Sparks, Director of Operations – Mythos AI</i> <i>Lauren Tzirides, Membership Manager – Newlab Ventures</i> <i>Sam Hankinson, Port Development Coordinator – Port of Monroe (Moderator)</i>
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Shipbuilding in Focus – Challenges & Opportunities Ahead <i>Jan Allman, Chief Executive Officer – Fincantieri Marinette Marine</i> <i>Patrick Kelly, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Partner – Fraser Shipyards</i> <i>Tom Rigolo, Vice President, Shipyard General Manager – The Great Lakes Group</i> <i>Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III, Director – Port of Monroe (Moderator)</i>
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Sponsor Spotlight – Ramboll <i>Adam Tindall-Schlicht, Senior Advisor for Transportation, US/Canada – Ramboll</i>
2:15 – 2:45 PM	Intermodal Integration – Moving Goods, Building Connections <i>Tom Livingston, Vice President, Government Affairs – CSX Transportation</i> <i>Tony Kazakevicius, Senior Director, Sales & Marketing – Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad</i> <i>Erik Varela, Executive Director – Illinois International Port District (Moderator)</i> <i>Brian Oszakiewski, Executive Director – American Great Lakes Ports Association (Moderator)</i>
2:45 – 3:15 PM	A Conversation with Our New & Interim Port Directors <i>Kevin Beardsley, Executive Director – Duluth Seaway Port Authority</i> <i>Dave Gutheil, Interim President & CEO/Chief Commercial Officer – Port of Cleveland</i> <i>Tiffany McClelland, Executive Director – Lorain Port and Finance Authority</i> <i>Tom Schneider, Interim Executive Director – Port of Oswego Authority</i> <i>Deb DeLuca, Executive Director (Retired) – Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Former Vice President – American Great Lakes Ports Association (Moderator)</i>
3:15 PM	Closing Remarks