

NITL Engage Policy Forum
November 30 – December 2, 2026
Developing Schedule of Events Venue: [The Mayflower Hotel](#)

Monday, November 30, 2026

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

NITL Registration

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

NITL Emerging Leaders Luncheon and Program (NELP)

Additional Registration is required.

12:00 – 1:00 pm

NITL Engage Opening Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 pm

NITL Executive Series 1 (Pre-Registration Required)

NITL Executive Series 1: Building Resilient Supply Chains: Strategic Planning for Crisis Response Across Rail, Ocean, and Highway Transportation:

Strategic Planning for Crisis Response Across Rail, Ocean, and Highway Transportation In today's increasingly volatile freight environment, supply chain disruptions can emerge with little warning — from geopolitical conflict and labor instability to major rail mergers, port congestion, severe weather, and infrastructure disruptions.

This interactive workshop will provide transportation and supply chain professionals with practical tools to develop a strategic response plan that prepares their organizations to navigate uncertainty across rail, ocean, and highway freight networks.

Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to create a strategic transportation plan that supports business continuity, protects customer relationships, and strengthens supply chain resilience in an increasingly unpredictable global environment.

- Series Facilitator: Siva Narayanan, SFN Holdings, Global Logistics & CS Director
- Panelist: TBA

Partner: Lansdale Warehousing

2:00 – 3:00 pm

NITL Executive Series 2 (Pre-Registration Required)

NITL Executive Series 2: Protecting Your Freight: Insurance, Liability, and Risk Management in a Multimodal Supply Chain:

Insurance, Liability, and Risk Management in a Multimodal Supply Chain As supply chains become more complex and disruptions more frequent, understanding transportation insurance and liability exposure has become critical for shippers.

This series will help attendees better understand what protection they need from insurance providers, carriers, brokers, and logistics partners to minimize financial and operational risk. This session would

provide practical guidance from insurance experts, legal professionals, and transportation practitioners on how to build a more resilient risk management strategy.

- Series Facilitator: TBA
- Panelist: TBA

Partner: Arthur J Gallagher

3:00 – 4:00 pm

NITL Executive Series 3 (Pre-Registration Required)

NITL Executive Series 3: Freight Visibility and Data Strategy: Using Technology to Improve Supply Chain Decision-Making:

Using Technology to Improve Supply Chain Decision-Making Today's supply chain leaders are expected to make faster, data-driven decisions across increasingly fragmented transportation networks. This workshop would focus on how shippers can leverage technology, visibility tools, and freight data to improve operational performance and respond more effectively to disruptions. Attendees would gain insight into emerging technologies and practical strategies for improving efficiency, responsiveness, and customer service across multimodal freight operations.

- Series Facilitator: TBA
- Panelist: TBA

5:30 – 7:00pm - Reception

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Dinner

Location: [The Historic Decatur House](#)

(Final times TBD)

Offsite Reception and Dinner at The Historic Decatur House & NELP Graduation

Step into history as we gather at the iconic [Decatur House](#), one of Washington, DC's most treasured historic landmarks. Located just steps from the White House, this remarkable venue offers a unique blend of rich history, timeless elegance, and unforgettable charm. Join us for an evening of networking, conversation, and connection in a setting that has welcomed influential leaders and witnessed nearly two centuries of American history. We look forward to bringing our community together for a truly memorable experience in the heart of the nation's capital.

Presenting Partner: CIT Rail

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

NITL Registration

8:00 – 9:00 am

NITL Opening Breakfast Session

- Speaker: Congressman John Garamendi, CA (Invited)

Supporting Partner: AMTR

9:00 – 9:15 am

Welcome to NITL Engage Policy Forum- Opening Remarks, NITL Business Meeting & NITL Heritage Award

Speakers:

- NITL's Chair Siva Narayanan, SFN Holdings
- NITL's Executive Director Nancy O'Liddy

9:15 – 10:15am

Session One

Market Shifts and Supply Chains: The Economic Outlook for Freight Transportation

- Speaker: Bob Costello, Chief Economist & SVP, International Trade and Security Policy, American Trucking Associations

Partner: The Greenbrier Companies

10:15 – 11:00 am

Session Two

The Surface Transportation Board: Priorities, Policies, & Progress

- Speaker: Chair Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board

11:00 – 11:15 am

AM Networking Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Session Three

Beyond the Hype: How Shippers Are Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve Transportation Performance

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly moving from concept to practical application across freight transportation and supply chain operations. Shippers are increasingly using AI to optimize routing, improve demand forecasting, enhance shipment visibility, support freight procurement decisions, and identify potential disruptions before they occur.

This session will move beyond the buzzwords to explore how leading organizations are using AI to solve real-world transportation challenges. Panelists will share practical examples, lessons learned, implementation challenges, and measurable results from AI initiatives across transportation and logistics operations.

- Moderator: TBA
- Panelists: Project44 (Invited), Triumph, (Invited)

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Session Four

Networking Over Lunch Session

- Speaker: Senator Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin (Invited)

1:15 – 2:15 pm

Session Five

The Federal Maritime Commission: Priorities, Policies & Progress

- Speaker: Commissioner Robert Harvey, Federal Maritime Commission (Invited)

2:15 – 3:00 pm

Session Six

Geopolitics, Trade Policy, and Their Impact on Freight Flows

Global events and how government policies are reshaping supply chains at an unprecedented pace, creating new challenges — and opportunities — for shippers across rail, ocean, trucking, and intermodal transportation networks.

From geopolitical conflicts and shifting trade alliances to tariffs, sanctions, labor disruptions, and evolving regulatory requirements, transportation professionals must continuously adapt to an increasingly uncertain global freight environment.

- Speaker: Assistant Secretary of the Multimodal Freight and Infrastructure Policy Michael Rutherford

3:00 – 3:15 pm

PM Networking Break

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm

Session Seven

Post-Election Political Analysis: What Results Mean for Freight Transportation and Supply Chains

The 2026 midterm elections will shape the future of freight transportation policy, infrastructure investment, trade, regulation, labor, and the broader economic environment impacting shippers. This session will provide attendees with a timely, nonpartisan analysis of the election results and what the new political landscape means for rail, trucking, ocean shipping, and supply chain operations.

- Speaker: Ashlee Stephenson, President, AxAdvocacy

Presenting Partner: GATX

4:00pm – 5:00pm

NITL Freight Leaders Networking Reception: Conversations & Connections

8:00 – 11:30 am

NITL Registration

8:30 – 9:30 am

Session Eight

Fuel Up & Connect - Breakfast Session: Freight Transportation Leadership Outlook: Priorities for 2027 and Beyond

A conversation with transportation leaders examining the key issues expected to shape freight transportation in the coming year, including regulation, infrastructure investment, supply chain resiliency, technology, workforce challenges, and evolving customer demands.

- Moderator: TBA
- Panel: TBA

9:30 – 10:30 am

Session Nine

Navigating Change: The Future of Freight Transportation in an Evolving Regulatory Environment

Freight transportation is facing unprecedented change as regulatory developments, environmental initiatives, labor policies, infrastructure investments, trade actions, and carrier consolidation reshape the movement of goods. Shippers must stay informed and adaptable to effectively manage risk, control costs, and maintain service reliability.

This session will provide an overview of the key legislative, regulatory, and policy developments impacting rail, trucking, ocean shipping, and intermodal transportation. Industry experts will discuss emerging trends, potential challenges, and opportunities for shippers, including the implications of carrier mergers, sustainability requirements, trade and tariff policies, and federal transportation initiatives. Attendees will gain practical insights to help their organizations anticipate change, engage in policy discussions, and make informed transportation decisions in a rapidly evolving freight environment.

- Moderator: Ann Warner, LLC
- Panel: TBA

10:30 – 11:30 am

Session Ten

The Future of Freight Transportation: An Executive Shipper Roundtable

As the transportation landscape continues to evolve, shippers face critical decisions regarding network design, sustainability initiatives, technology investments, carrier partnerships, and long-term transportation strategy.

This executive-level discussion will bring together senior transportation and supply chain leaders to share perspectives on the challenges and opportunities expected to define freight transportation over the next decade.

Topics will include supply chain visibility, infrastructure modernization, workforce development, regulatory trends, and emerging transportation technologies.

- Panelists: Senior Transportation and Supply Chain Executives (Invited)

11:30 am

Conference adjourns

Schedule and attend meetings with representatives on Capitol Hill at your convenience to advocate for key industry issues.

Attendees are encouraged to schedule and attend meetings with Congressional offices and federal agencies on Capitol Hill to discuss key transportation and supply chain issues impacting their organizations and the broader shipper community.

NITL will not schedule these meetings on attendees' behalf but has reserved this time to facilitate advocacy and engagement with policymakers.

However, if you need help please reach out to us.

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Board Meeting and Lunch (Closed Meeting)