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

Presenting Partner: Trinity Rail

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 – Welcome Remarks from Siva Narayanan, Chair of NITL

Opening Remarks from Administrator Derek Barrs, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation

1:00 – 2:00 pm
NITL Executive Series 1: Strengthening the Supply Chain: Shipper Strategies for Resilience and Crisis Response – Be the Champion with A Triage Plan

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.

- Fireside Discussion with Moderator: Mike Regan, Co-Founder, Chief of Relationship Development, and Capacity Coach, Tranzact Technologies, Siva Narayanan, SNF, Global Logistics & CS Director and Traci Hamilton, Global Cellulose Fibers, Director, Transportation Procurement

2:00 – 3:00 pm
NITL Executive Series 2: Cargo Loss; Freight Security and Risk Management: Protecting Your Freight in a Multimodal Supply Chain:

Cargo damage, strategic theft, and fraud are risky businesses. Today's situation dictates that our members must understand the environment and what their firms must do regarding decision-making with carrier selection, broker selection, and insurance (both your own company's and that of your

transportation providers).

This session 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 and legal professionals on building a sound approach to managing today's challenges.

- Series Facilitator: Robert Petitt, Area Senior Vice President, Arthur J. Gallagher

- Panelists: Scott Cornell, EVP, SPG Cargo & Logistics; Doug Marcello, Esq. Saxton and Stump; Garth Pitzel, Director, Safety and Driver Development at Bison Transport Inc.

Partner: Arthur J Gallagher

3:00 – 4:00 pm
NITL Executive Series 3: Safety, Liability, and Carrier Choice: Understanding the New Risks for Shippers

The CH Robinson vs. Caribe Transport II SCOTUS case was the biggest reminder yet that every entity (shipper, broker, forwarder, etc.) that hires a motor carrier has selection obligations. Building on the previous session, this session will explore how recent court decisions are influencing companies from top thought leaders from the shipper, carrier, broker, and forwarder sides. Hear what has changed for them and how they are moving forward.

Participants will gain practical insights into carrier vetting, contracting strategies, documentation practices, and balancing legal exposure with operational realities.

- Series Facilitator: Jeff Tucker, CEO, Tucker Company Worldwide

- Panelists: Andrew Weiler, Director of Transportation, Packaging Corporation of America, Tyler Biddle, Esq., President, Shippers Interest Consulting; Jason Knight, Special Agent, FBI, Rob Moseley, Esq, Mosely Marcinak Law Group, LLP (Invited)

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 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

Presenting Partner: Trinity Rail

8:00 – 9:00 am
NITL Opening Breakfast Session

- Speakers: Derek Barrs, FMCSA Administrator (Invited) and Stephen M. Carmel, Administrator of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) at the U.S. Department of Transportation

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, NITL Chair & 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

Partner: Lansdale Warehousing

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.

- Series Facilitator: Bill Cassidy, Senior Editor of Trucking and Domestic Transportation, JOC

- Panelist: Prasad Gollapalli, CEO and Chairman, Qued, Sid Vijay, Founder, Meridian.io, and Michael Caney, Chief Commercial Officer, Highway

12:15 – 1:15 pm
Session Four
Networking Over Lunch Session

Partner: Tucker Company Worldwide

1:15 – 2:15 pm
Session Five
The Federal Maritime Commission: Priorities, Policies & Progress

- Fireside Chat with Cesar Sanchez, Manager, Business Development, Port of Long Beach and Commissioner Robert Harvey, Federal Maritime Commission

Partner: Port of Long Beach

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: Michael Rutherford, Assistant Secretary of the Multimodal Freight and Infrastructure Policy Department of Transportation

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

Wednesday, December 2,2026

8:00 – 11:30 am
NITL Registration

Presenting Partner: Trinity Rail

8:30 – 9:30 am
Session Eight
NITL in Action: Your Voice. Your Issues. Your Impact.

This is the session every NITL Engage attendee needs to be in the room

What is NITL doing to protect your interests, advance your priorities, and make sure the shipper's voice is heard in Washington and across the transportation industry? Get the inside story directly from the leaders driving NITL's work across rail, highway, and ocean transportation.

From rail competition and service, to trucking capacity and reliability, to ocean transportation, ports, and supply chain challenges, hear how NITL is turning member concerns into action—and where the League is pushing hardest for change.

If you attend only one session at NITL Engage, make it this one.

- Moderator: Ann Warner, Senior Policy Advisor, NITL

- Panelists: Rail Committee: Monica Freeman, Chair, CHS Inc., Highway Committee: Jeff Tucker, Chair, Tucker Company Worldwide and Ocean Committee: Traci Hamilton, Chair, Global Cellulose Fibers

9:30 – 10:30 am
Session Nine
From Experience to Innovation: The Future of Transportation Leadership

Transportation management has undergone dramatic change over the past several decades, driven by advances in technology, shifting market dynamics, evolving shipper-carrier relationships, and changing workforce expectations. In this engaging discussion, three transportation leaders representing different generations will share how they approach managing freight networks, leading teams, negotiating with providers, and adapting to industry change. From spreadsheets and phone calls to AI-powered decision making, panelists will explore what has changed, what has remained constant, and what future transportation leaders need to succeed in an increasingly complex supply chain environment.

- Moderator: Gail Rutkowski, President, Wabash Logistics

- Panelists: John Janson, Vice President of Global Logistics, SanMar, Laura Eory, Director of Transportation at KIND; Jonathan Griffiths, Rail Transportation Manager, Nestle Purina Petcare Company and Michael Bruce, SVP of Services, RSI Logistics

10:30 – 11:30 am
Session Ten
Global Trade at a Crossroads: A Fireside Chat with Mark Szakonyi and Pete Mento

Global trade is entering a new era shaped by geopolitical conflict, changing trade policies, evolving carrier strategies, and increasing supply chain risk. In this engaging fireside conversation, Peter Tirschwell and Peter Mento will share their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities ahead, offering practical insights for shippers seeking to build resilience and remain competitive in an increasingly uncertain world.

- Fireside Discussion with Mark Szakonyi, JOC/ S&P Global and Pete Mento, Global Trade Advisory Services US Licensed Customs Broker, Baker Tilly, US formerly DSV, Global Logistics

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)