



THE NEXT CHAPTER:  
NEW ENGLAND'S RAILS IN TRANSITION

# 2025 RAIL TECH CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> • DCU Center, Worcester, MA

The Rail Tech Conference is a one-day, industry-oriented event for rail and transit professionals, consulting companies, suppliers, state and federal agencies, and college students looking to start a career in transportation. The 2025 conference will feature an afternoon of seminars with timely topics highlighting new technologies and happenings in the industry followed by the traditional Hosted Networking Reception. The day will conclude with the Engineering & Transit Night Dinner and keynote presentation by CSX's Christina Bottomley, Vice President of Business Development and Real Estate.

You can keep up to date with the latest information about the event on our LinkedIn page or our website: [www.nerailroadclub.com](http://www.nerailroadclub.com). We'll update the site to include speakers, topics, and participating companies. We hope you can join us for this unique event highlighting some of the changes coming to the railroad industry in New England.

 Follow us on Linked In for Rail Tech news and updates: [New England Railroad Club](https://www.nerailroadclub.com)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Christina Bottomley**

Vice President, Business Development & Real Estate, CSX

Christina Bottomley has an extensive background in accounting and business development. In her current position with CSX, she oversees a large portfolio of properties, joint facilities, short line development, and industrial projects aimed at expanding rail-served sites. Christina joined CSX in 2020 as the Head of Real Estate. Since that time, she has nearly doubled strategic investments in growth and played a key role in onshoring and reshoring initiatives. She holds a Master's degree in Accounting from the University of Florida and completed an Executive Development Program in Business Administration and Management from Harvard Business School.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 RAIL TECH SPONSORS:



NEW ENGLAND LEGISLATIVE BOARD



## Schedule of Events

All events are on the third floor of the DCU Center. Visit our website for updates to speakers and seminar topics.

### PREFUNCTION AREA

12:00pm

#### ► Rail Tech Opens\*

\*Registration opens early at 11:00 to allow access to railroad employees who can only get a few late morning/lunch hours off from work.

### GRAND BALLROOM SEMINAR ROOM

#### 2025 Seminar Series

##### *Presented by Transload X*

12:45-1:30pm

#### ► Conference Kick-Off Presentation

Battery/Electric Technology and How it is Changing the Industry

1:45-2:30pm

#### ► Seminar #1

Where Maintenance of Way Meets AI

2:45-3:30pm

#### ► Seminar #2

IRAP (Industrial Rail Access Program) Funding

3:45-4:45pm

#### ► Seminar #3

State DOT Roundtable

### PREFUNCTION AREA

5:00-6:00pm

#### ► Networking Reception

6:00pm

#### ► Exhibitor Pavilion Closes

### GRAND BALLROOM

#### ► Doors Open 6:15pm

6:30pm

#### ► Engineering & Transit Night Dinner

*Presented by Keolis*

##### *Keynote Speaker:*

Christina Bottomley

Vice President

Business Development & Real Estate

CSX

## Tickets

**Tickets are available online until March 18, 2025.**

Conference Only tickets will be available on the day of the show. A limited number of dinner tickets may also be available for purchase the day of the show, but don't take the chance - buy your tickets early!

### 2025 Ticket Prices

• **Conference Only:** \$40

• **Dinner (Includes Conference):** \$125 / \$1,250 table of 10

• **A limited number of free tickets are available for students** who wish to attend the show and/or Dinner. Please email [jbudzyna@aol.com](mailto:jbudzyna@aol.com) to reserve your ticket

## Sponsorships

**Put your company's name front and center and help the Club!**

Event sponsorships allow us to offer more events and seminars at the Expo. By purchasing a sponsorship, you can showcase your company's name and logo and receive added recognition throughout the event. Visit our website for detailed information and to purchase sponsorships.

## Hotel

The Club has reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn, directly adjacent to the DCU Center. Exhibitors and attendees can either book online using the **group code NRRC3** at [hgi.com](http://hgi.com) or by calling reservations at **1-800-HILTONS** and referencing the group code or use your AAA if applicable.

Reservations must be received by Monday, March 3, 2025. After this date reservations will only be accepted on a space a rate available basis only.

## Join Us As An Exhibitor

The Rail Tech Conference's one-day show and tabletop display format make it easy for companies to set up and staff their displays with as little as one person. All events are held on the same floor, and we have designed the floor plan to maximize face time with attendees.

- **Tabletop display spaces are available for \$350/table.**
- **The price includes an 8'x30" table, skirting, chairs, electrical, and two complimentary Conference-only tickets for your exhibit staff.**
- **Visit our website to reserve your space.**
- **To reserve your table visit [www.nerailroadclub.com](http://www.nerailroadclub.com).**



# The 2025 Seminar Series Presented by TransloadX

12:45-1:30pm

## Battery/Electric Technology and How it is Changing the Industry

Battery technology is rapidly changing how we live and work. Advancements in battery size, power, and life have allowed the technology to be applied to everything from hand tools, to lawnmowers, to trucks. The rail industry is no exception. Starting with experimental designs a decade ago, battery locomotives and passenger multiple units have slowly but steadily been advancing in reliability.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Board of Directors has approved a \$54 million initiative to introduce battery-electric trains on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line. This plan, put forward by Keolis Commuter Services, aims to increase service frequency and reduce emissions in the communities served by the line. Keolis submitted their proposal in December 2023, outlining a vision for integrating battery-electric multiple unit trains (BEMUs) into the Fairmount Line operations. The new trains are expected to provide quieter, faster, and more reliable service while significantly lowering air pollution levels. The first battery-electric train is anticipated to enter service in early 2028.

This project is part of a broader effort to decarbonize the rail network, contributing to the state's clean energy and climate goals. The introduction of BEMU trains is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 17,700 tons annually compared to the current diesel-powered trains.

Keolis will manage the new fleet and infrastructure as a Project Delivery Partner (PDP), overseeing both the preparation and delivery phases of the project. Representatives of Keolis will be joining discuss this exciting new technology and what we can expect to see coming down the rails in the near future.



1:45-2:30pm

## Where Maintenance of Way Meets AI

Mass Coastal Railroad has embraced a new approach to tracking the status of its system's maintenance of way needs and projects providing for safer and more reliable operations. Working with partner and supplier Esri, the railroad is leveraging cloud-based geographic information systems (GIS) to allow employees to easily input, view, and prioritize MOW issues that needs to be addressed on its lines throughout eastern Massachusetts. Geomapping pinpoints the exact location of each issue. Data can be easily leveraged for analysis, providing detailed analytics that increase safety.

The flexibility and adaptability of the technology can offer a host of benefits to both freight and passenger railroads, especially our region's short lines and regionals who may not have the resources to employ the same technology used by the Class 1's. Calvin Corrigan from MassCoastal and Eric Henderson from Esri will join us to offer an overview of the system and how it performs in daily operations.



Visit [www.nerailroadclub.com](http://www.nerailroadclub.com) for tickets

2:45-3:30pm

## **Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) Funding - How to Navigate the Application Process**

Each year, Maine and Massachusetts award funding for rail improvements through their Industrial Rail Access Programs (IRAP). The programs are overseen by the Department of Transportation in both states. IRAP is a public/private partnership that combines funding to help eligible applicants invest in industry-based freight rail infrastructure improvement projects located on, within or adjacent to the general railroad system. The goals of the programs are to stimulate economic development, grow corporations, keep manufacturing jobs and create new jobs through increased efficiency, production capacity, and improved distribution logistics, and enhance intermodal transportation. State investment is matched with a percentage of local and/or private industry funds. Typically, two to three million dollars has been set aside for the programs in each state.

2025 recipients included transload projects in Framingham, MA, and Ware, MA, and expansion of a company's rail infrastructure in Haverhill, MA.

IRAP is a competitive program with applications scored based on state-specific criteria. An example of these include: job creation/retention, anticipated decrease in air emissions and highway congestion,, transportation and logistics cost savings, improvements in rail service, and benefit-cost ratio.

John Weston, Rail Program Specialist at MassDOT, and Nathan Howard, Director, Rail Transportation at MaineDOT, Office of Freight & Passenger Services, join us to offer an overview of each state's program and provide insight on how railroads can navigate the application process.

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3:45-4:45pm

## **State DOT Roundtable**

New England's six states have been working to build and better integrate their transportation networks, providing capacity that can answer the challenges of an increasing population, all while staying within tightening budgets. This includes expanding rail capacity: bringing regional and commuter passenger rail back to locations that haven't seen service in decades while encouraging the growth intermodal freight and "last mile" trucking to help ease highway congestion. These types of environmentally-responsible ways of connecting people and locations will be key to managing future economic and social growth.

Interstate partnerships and public-private partnerships are essential in this endeavor. The State DOT Roundtable will bring together representatives to discuss the future of rail in New England and touch on some of the local and regional initiatives currently underway.

### **Moderator:**

Ryan Coholan, Chief Operating Officer  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

*Panelists from Vermont Agency of Transportation, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Maine Department of Transportation, and have been invited to participate and will be added as they RSVP.*

### **Confirmed Panelists:**

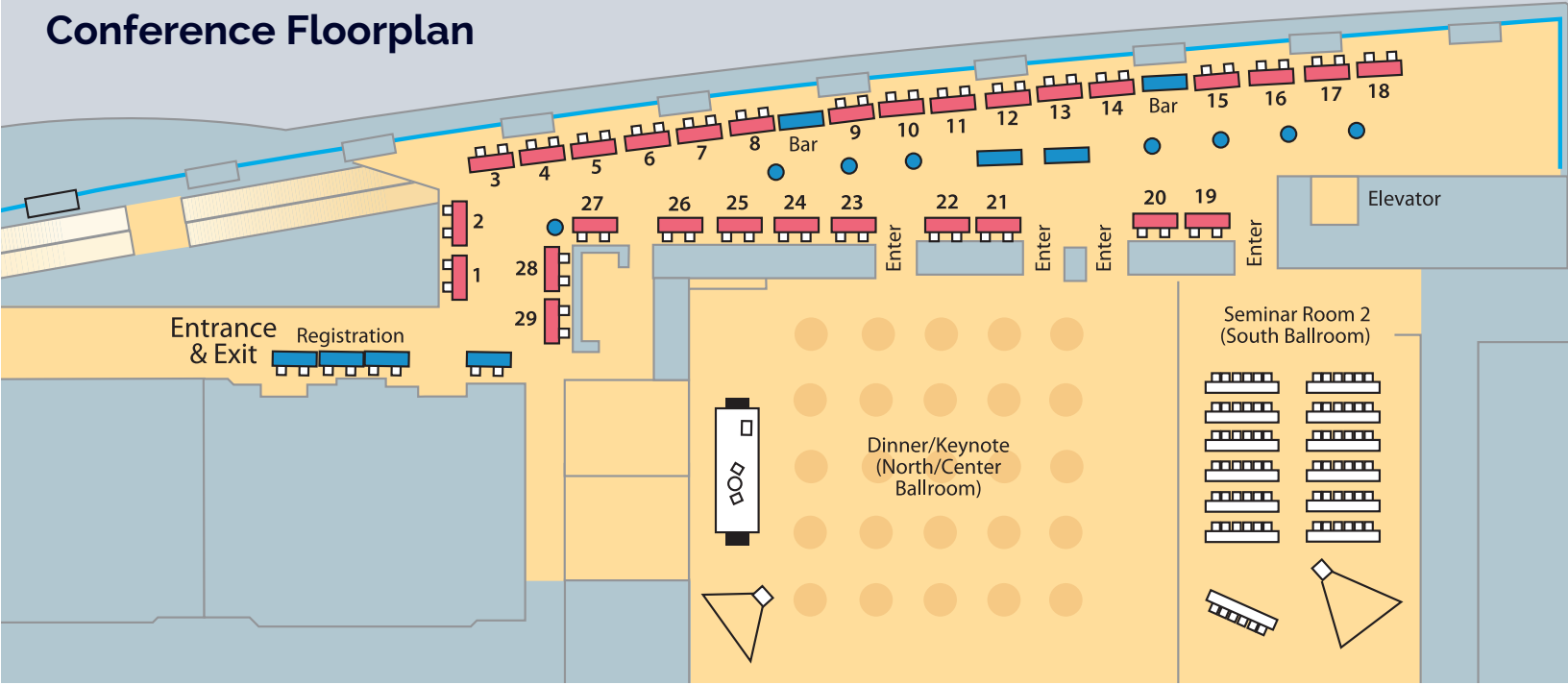
Andrew Koziol, Director of East-West Rail Project  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation,  
Rail & Transit Division

Pamela Cotter, Administrator of Planning  
Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Rich Jankovich, Rail Administrator  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
Office of Rail

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# Conference Floorplan



## Who's Coming...

### Attendees

Acorn Engineering  
 AECOM  
 Amtrak  
 ATDA  
 Belden  
 Bergman Associates  
 Colliers Engineering & Design  
 Connecticut DOT  
 Dagle Electrical Construction Corp.  
 DC Bates Equipment  
 EEC Corporation  
 Esri  
 Finger Lakes Rail  
 FreightCar America  
 Grafton & Upton Railroad  
 Holland LP  
 JAB Rail Services  
 J. Mikulsky Railway Supply Co.  
 Keolis Commuter Services  
 Loram Maintenance of Way  
 Mass DOT

Maine DOT  
 MBTA (Railroad Ops)  
 MBTA (Subway Ops)  
 MBTA (Engineering & Maintenance)  
 Milford-Bennington Railroad Co., Inc.  
 National Railway Supply Co.  
 Northern Tree  
 Rail Safety Technologies  
 Railroad Construction Company  
 RenStar  
 Rhode Island DOT  
 Rolling Stock Solutions  
 Seaview Transportation Company  
 Siemens  
 SMART Transportation Division  
 SSES Inc.  
 StreamlinedDesign  
 STV  
 T3 Professional Railway Services  
 TEC Associates  
 TransloadX  
 Unity Railway Supply & IRECO

Vermont Rail System  
 VHB  
 Weston & Sampson  
 WJ Riegel Rail Solutions LLC  
 WSP  
 Zebra Safety Solutions

### Exhibitors

2 WSP  
 3 MBTA  
 6 Operation Lifesaver  
 7 Rail Safety Technologies  
 8 SSES/Bonomi Group  
 9 SICUT North America  
 10 ARUP  
 11 Colliers Engineering  
 22 DC Bates  
 28 S & C Distribution Company  
 29 Transload X

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