



## River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

### Monday, October 16

10:00 am – Registration Opens

11:00 am – **Training Session I** (with lunch) – NTI Training (Herberger Suite)

#### **Fundamentals of Transit Supervision – James McLary**

The course is designed to provide transit supervisors with a better understanding of their role whether they are new to supervision or have been a supervisor for a while and are interested in brushing up on their skills. Participants will learn strategies for dealing with common challenges, and will acquire the skills necessary to avoid future problems

1:00 pm - **Training Session II** - Metro Bus Travel Training at downtown site

**Enhancing Independence through Travel Training and Community Outreach** Kim Hoff, Gil Williams, Saynab Shire – Metro Bus; Kristi Sellwood, MVTA Customer Service



In this training session you will learn the skills and techniques used in a successful Travel Training program and use those skills in determining the best means of transportation for your riders. You will also learn tips and best practices in reaching out to your communities.

3:00 pm – **CEO Summit** – (Wilson Suite)

The CEO Summit offers exclusive opportunities to share open and candid perspectives derived from experiences during the diverse stages of the executive leadership trajectory and career progression. This invitation is being extended to public sector transportation industry CEOs only, representing transit throughout Minnesota.

4:30 pm - **MPTA Annual Meeting** (Glen Carlson Hall)

Join friends and colleagues and learn more about important changes over the past year in transit funding and policy and then help celebrate the work of transit professionals who exemplify the best in transit service in Minnesota.



5:30 pm - **Transit Awards ceremony**

6:30 pm - **Welcome Reception**

**(Herberger Suite)**

## **Tuesday, October 17**

7:00 am – **Breakfast/Registration**

8:30 am – **Welcome** – (Glen Carlson Hall)

**Craig Rempp** – MPTA President  
**Mayor Dave Kleis**, City of St. Cloud



9:00 am – Keynote Speaker - **Matt Thornhill**, Southeastern Institute of Technology

### ***Transcendent Trends and Technology Reshaping the Future of Transit***

Matt Thornhill is founder and managing partner of the research-based think tank, SIR's Institute for Tomorrow, based in Richmond, Virginia. Matt is a futurist helping transportation and transit agencies understand key trends impacting the future and the generations making that future happen.

10:00 am – 11:00 am **Break in Vendor Expo area (Terry Haws Hall)**

11:00-12:00 – **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Future of Transit and Ridesharing** (*Mitchell and Swisshelm – Stockinger Suite*)  
Daryl Taavola, AECOM; Peter Gigante, Lyft, Aaron Westling, Shared-Use Mobility Center
- **Planning for the Future of Your System** (*First American Room*)  
Brian Gibson, St. Cloud APO, Antonio Rosell, Community Design Group; Sara Dunlap, Office of Transit

- **New Operations Technology** (*Schliplin & Whitney – Stockinger Suite*)

Dan Rudiger, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority  
Ed Yorek, St. Cloud Metro Bus  
Brian Funk, Metro Transit

- **Future Funding For Transit** (*Marsh and Fandel – Herberger Suite*)

Art Guzetti, APTA; Brian McDaniel, Franzen Moore; Jessica Treat, Transit For Livable Communities

- **Idea Café – Customer Service** (*Thielman Room*)

*Facilitator:* Anjila Olsen, Metro Transit

## 12:00 – 2:30 PM – Vendor Exhibition and Lunch in Exhibit Hall (Terry Haws Hall)

***Largest Transit Industry Expo in the Midwest! Over 50 booths featuring products and services for transit systems large and small. All conference attendees are encouraged to stop by all of the booths and chat with exhibitors.***

**Companies that are MPTA Members receive extra recognition at their booths!**

### 2:45 pm – **Tour of Mobility Training Center AND Operations Center** (*Meet at registration area*)

See the state's first Mobility and Training Center. The site provides a simulated bus riding experience for disabled, senior, low income individuals' who need or choose to use public transportation. The center features a simulated environment with stairs, ramps and varied slopes to assess an individual's ability to ride the bus. In addition, see the state's first public transit compressed natural gas fueling operation. Hear about the trials and tribulations Metro Bus went through to develop and build these two successful projects.



### 6:00 pm – **22nd Annual First Transit Reception** (Glen Carlson Hall)

#### **Lizzy The Dream Girl**

Comedy Stage Hypnosis

Explore the hilarious side of hypnosis and discover the amazing power and creativity of the human mind. Participants leave Lizzy's show feeling terrific. Lizzy's show is always tasteful and is appropriate for all ages. Relax, enjoy, and laugh out loud with Lizzy – The Dream Girl!





Ryman's act can be described as absurdist and clever, masked behind a very likable and innocent demeanor, often thought of as disturbingly adorable. He is a favorite among audiences at top clubs and is regularly featured on Rooftop Comedy, SiriusXM, and iheartradio. He was invited to perform at the prestigious Great American Comedy Festival at the Johnny Carson Theater, and was featured as one of the "Twin Cities' Funniest People" by Metro Magazine.

## Wednesday, October 18

7:30 am – [Breakfast](#)/Registration

8:00 am – 9:15 am – **General Session:** (Glen Carlson Hall)

- MnDOT Update Tom Gottfried
- Met Council Update Brian Lamb/Nick Thompson

9:30 to 10:45 am – Concurrent Sessions

- **New Transit Technology and Apps** (*Fandel and Marsh – Herberger Suite*)  
Laura Eash, MPTA; Craig Rempp, Chisago-Isanti Heartland Express, Berta Hartig, St. Cloud Metro Bus
- **Future Riders – How to attract them** (*Swisshelm and Mitchell – Stockinger Suite*)  
Art Guzetti, APTA; Rich Sampson, CTAA
- **Federal Changes Impacting Transit – FTA News** (*First American Room*)  
Marisol Simon, FTA Region V
- **Stakeholder Involvement/Public Engagement** (*Schliplin & Whitney – Stockinger Suite*)  
Julie Dupree, Easter Seals Project Action Consulting

10:45 to 11:00 am [Break](#)

11:00 to 12:00 – Concurrent Sessions

- **Performance Measures to Demonstrate Your System's Value** (*First American Room*)  
Rich Sampson, CTAA; Noel Shughart, Office of Transit
- **First and Last Mile Connections** (*Swisshelm and Mitchell – Stockinger Suite*)  
Matt Fyten, SouthWest Transit; Charlie Cochrane, SouthWest Transit; Josh Johnson, Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel;  
Jen Lehmann, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Aaron Westling, Shared Ride St. Paul

- **Local Funding Challenges** (*Fandel and Marsh – Herberger Suite*)  
Jessica Treat, Transit For Livable Communities, Karen Graham, Idealware  
Steve Skauge, Transit Alternatives Moderator
- **Future Transitways and Passenger Rail** (*Schliplin & Whitney – Stockinger Suite*)  
Lyssa Leitner, AICP, Washington County; Dan Krom, MnDOT Office of Passenger Rail

12:00 Noon – Closing Lunch (Glen Carlson Hall)

**Anne Grady** keynote speaker –

***Navigating Change***

When we are approaching a change, it can seem monumental. When we've made it through to the other side, it's easy to look back with perspective and call it growth. Keep this in mind as you encounter adversity, challenge, and change in your life. So far, you've navigated every change thrown your way. That's a pretty good track record.



Change can be scary, but by taking some time to proactively manage the process, you can better set yourself up for success.

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – *New Flyer Plant Tour - St. Cloud Facility***

**Winnipeg-based New Flyer Industries Inc. is North America's largest manufacturer of heavy-duty transit buses. This tour is an exciting experience for anyone who always wanted to know how buses are assembled. This guided, behind-the-scenes tour of the plant includes: a walk along the assembly line and a visit to the paint shop. *Walking closed-toe shoes are required and mandatory safety glasses will be provided to each guest.***