

2026 Annual Conference Agenda - Wednesday

**Date:**

Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026

**Location:**

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Registration Opens - Conference Registration Area

7:30 am - 8:45 am



Networking Breakfast in Vendor Area-Sponsored By MISS DIG 811

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Start the conference off right by connecting with peers, industry partners, and exhibitors over breakfast served in the Exhibit Hall. This new networking opportunity gives attendees early access to the trade show floor and extra time to meet with vendors before sessions begin.

7:30 am - 1:00 pm

Trade Show Open

Location: Entertainment Hall

- The trade show floor is open! Meet exhibitors, see the latest innovations, and make valuable industry connections.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

AI in Construction 201: Optimizing your Every Day



Presented By: Tenna
Location: Black River Room

- With the rapid growth of generative AI, companies are turning to industry-specific tools to drive real results. Building on last year's session, this presentation focuses on practical applications and best practices you can use right away.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Tax Moves That Matter: Michigan Bonus Depreciation, OBBBA & Year-End Power Plays

Presented By: Doeren Mayhew
Location: Swan Creek Room

- Get ahead of the filing deadline with practical tax strategies, including Michigan's decoupling of bonus depreciation, updates on OBBBA, and key insights for smart year-end planning.

9:00am - 10:00 am

High-Risk Contract Clauses



Presented By: Clark Hill, PLLC
Location: Saginaw Room

- Construction contracts contain high-risk clauses that can significantly impact your project. This session highlights key provisions—such as indemnity, liquidated damages, and payment terms—and how to manage risk to improve project outcomes.

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Three Fires Room

- MITA BOD and Invited Guests

10:00 am - 11:00 am

The Business of Transition: Owner Succession/Estate Planning

Presented By: CLA
Location: Swan Creek Room

- This session highlights the importance of succession planning for construction and family-owned businesses, covering key transition strategies and the role of estate planning in preserving long-term business value.



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10:00 am - 11:00 am Panel: Lowering your Fleet's Total Cost of Ownership by Using Technology



Presented By: Tenna, Dunigan Bros., Harman Const. & Lounsbury Exc.
Location: Black River Room

- Learn how MITA members use technology to optimize fleet operations, reduce overhead, and increase productivity.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm MDOT OBD Update



Presented By: MDOT Office of Business Development
Location: Saginaw Room

- MDOT's Office of Business Development will share current updates, program information, and key developments impacting contractors, DBEs, and participants in MDOT's business development initiatives.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm How ESOPs Impact Bonding and Financial Strength

Presented By: Lazear Capital
Location: Anishnabeg Room

- This session explores how ESOP transactions impact bonding capacity, focusing on structuring strategies that maintain surety support and support continued growth and competitiveness.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Road Conductor Project Administration



Presented By: County Road Assn.
Location: Swan Creek Room

- Road ConductorSM is a cloud-based project management platform designed to simplify road and bridge projects, offering tools and downloadable resources to support project and accounting operations.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Future Leaders Meeting with Keynote

Location: Ojibway Room

- 2025 Future Leaders Participants Only

11:45 am - 1:00 pm Lunch - Sponsored by Guy Hurley

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Grab a bite to eat and mingle amongst the vendor booths.

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Opening Remarks & Awards Ceremonies

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Welcome Remarks, President's Address, Future Leaders Awards and Honorary Member Presentations.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Keynote Speaker - Jon Dorenbos

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Former NFL Pro Bowl long snapper and America's Got Talent finalist Jon Dorenbos shares a powerful message of resilience, leadership, and overcoming adversity through mindset and perseverance.

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm SBP Cocktail Reception Sponsored By AIS/CRC

Location: Saginaw & Swan Creek Rooms

- Connect with prime contractors and Small Business Program/DBE participants while building new relationships. Open to all conference attendees.

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm President's Dinner - Sponsored by ALTA

Location: Ruth's Chris

- For MITA's Past & Current President's and Invited Guests Only



2026 Annual Conference Agenda - Thursday

**Date:**

Thursday, Jan 22, 2026

**Location:**

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Registration Opens - Conference Registration Area

7:30 am - 8:45 am

Presidents Breakfast - Sponsored By ALTA

Location: Entertainment Hall

NEW LOCATION

- Enjoy breakfast with fellow attendees **in the Entertainment Hall**, as MITA honors the outgoing Board President, Mike DeFinis and introduces the association's new Board President, Pete Scodeller.

7:30 am - 1:00 pm

Trade Show Open

Location: Entertainment Hall

- The trade show floor is open! Meet exhibitors, see the latest innovations, and make valuable industry connections.

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Safety Directors Roundtable



Presented By: MITA

Location: Black River Room

- Join safety leaders and agency partners for a collaborative discussion on current safety issues, regulatory updates, and best practices in construction.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Protecting Your Gross Margin: Masterclass for Construction Leaders

Presented By: UHY

Location: Ojibway Room

- Gross margin directly impacts cash flow and long-term stability in construction. This session explores common margin misstatements, key accruals, and how sales mix can quietly erode profitability in today's tight market.

9:00am - 10:00 am

MDOT Hour 1



Presented By: MDOT

Location: Saginaw Room

- MDOT ProjectWise Update, MDOT Local Agency Program Update and Construction Field Services Update.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Keep on Truckin'



Presented By: Kotz Sangster &
Guy Hurley

Location: Swan Creek Room

- This session covers practical strategies for managing trucking-related liabilities, including fleet and subcontractor risks, contract considerations, and third-party exposures, using real-world case studies.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Political Landscape & PAC Update

Presented By: MITA & GCSI

Location: Three Fires Room

- Description to follow

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Using Emotional Intelligence to Enhance Your Safety Impact



Presented By: Guy Hurley

Location: Black River Room

- This interactive session explores strategies to help safety professionals and leaders effectively communicate, motivate, and drive meaningful safety improvement across their organizations.



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10:00 am - 11:00 am

MDOT Hour 2



Presented By: MDOT
Location: Saginaw Room

- Latest Updates to AASHTOWare Project, Innovative Contracting & Major projects, and Structural Fabrication and Bridge Construction Updates.

10:00 am - 12:00 am

How to Handle a Utility Claim



Presented By: Butzel Long
Location: Swan Creek Room

- Join the Butzel Long Construction Team for an interactive seminar in which you'll be provided with toolbox to handle any and all utility scenarios including how to effectively document, defend, and prosecute utility claims.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Outsmarting Cyber Threats: From Penetration Testing to AI-Driven Defense

Presented By: Rehmann
Location: Ojibway Room

- This session explores a practical approach to cyber resilience, combining penetration testing with AI-powered monitoring to identify vulnerabilities, strengthen defenses, and improve incident response.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Root Causes to Underground Assets - Damage Prevention



Presented By: DTE
Location: Black River Room

- Discussions to include prevention measures that excavators in the field can utilize to lowering damage risk. Encouraging communication with the utilities as different scenarios come up.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Global Chemical Soil Stabilization - Design Use & Long-Term Impacts



Presented By: Mount Carmel
Stabilization Group
Location: Saginaw Room

- This session highlights the use of chemical soil stabilization by Ohio DOT and the Ohio Turnpike Commission, showcasing its long-term performance and application in pavement design across DOTs and agencies.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Imperative Teamwork: Rapid Response and Collaborative Success on a Heliport Sink Hole Project



Presented By: G2 Consulting &
Lawrence M. Clarke
Location: Three Fires Room

- A Case Study: How Owner, Contractor and Engineer Collaboration Solved the U-M Heliport Emergency

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**Lunch - Sponsored by Guy Hurley
Beverage Service Sponsored By: M.L. Chartier**

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Grab a bite to eat and mingle amongst the vendor booths.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

MDOT Leadership Presentation



Location: Entertainment Hall

- Listen to MDOT's top brass as they detail the 2026 DOT program.

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

MDOT Partnering Award & Small Business Champion Award

Location: Entertainment Hall

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Speaker of the House - Matt Hall

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Recently named the most effective Legislator in Lansing, Michigan House of Representatives Speaker Matt Hall was instrumental and key to the success of the 2025 road funding package and will share his thoughts on how the passage of \$1.8 billion in new road funding annual investment was accomplished.





2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker - Kevin Hines

Location: Entertainment Hall

- Mental health advocate and suicide prevention speaker Kevin Hines shares a powerful message of hope, resilience, and the importance of connection and support.

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Industry Reception Sponsored By MacAllister CAT

Location: Saginaw & Swan Creek & Black River Rooms

- Enjoy dinner and meaningful conversations while connecting with colleagues from across the industry.

9:00 pm - 12:00 am

Afterglow - Sponsored By ALTA

Location: Ascend Bar

- Cash Bar. Entertainment Sponsored By Alta



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