

IRPT 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AGENDA

NAVIGATING WHAT'S NEXT AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, September 1st	
10:00AM-3:30PM	Exhibitor Move-in
11:00AM-12:30PM	Executive Committee Meeting/Lunch
1:00PM-3:30PM	IRPT Board Meeting
4:00PM	Bus Pickup at Loews Hotel
4:30PM-5:30PM	Port Tour at Port KC
5:30PM-8:30PM	Welcome Reception
Wednesday, September 2nd	
7:30AM	Breakfast in Conference Hall
8:00AM-11:45AM	All-Day-Conference Sessions (see pg. 2)
12:00PM-1:30PM	Lunch & Learn Sponsored by E-Crane International USA
1:30PM-5:00PM	All-Day-Conference Sessions (see pg. 5)
5:30PM-8:30PM	Offsite Event: Where Connections Grow No Other Pub (Power & Light District)
Thursday, September 3rd	
7:30AM	Breakfast in Conference Hall
8:00AM-11:45AM	All-Day-Conference Sessions (see pg. 6)
12:00PM-1:30PM	Lunch & Learn by Chamber of Marine Commerce /CARGO Awards
1:30PM-5:00PM	All-Day-Conference Sessions (see pg. 8)
5:30PM-8:30PM	Marcus Construction Private Dinner & Dinner on your Own
Friday, September 4th	
8:00AM-12:00PM	Exhibitor Break-down

AGENDA

DEEP-DIVE

Main Stage

Breakout Hall

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST

10:00AM – 3:30PM	Exhibitor Move-In
11:00AM - 12:30PM	IRPT Executive Committee Meeting & Lunch
1:00PM – 3:30PM	IRPT Board Meeting
4:00PM	Bus pick-up at Loews Hotel
4:30PM – 5:30PM	Port tour of Port KC
5:30PM - 8:30PM	Welcome Reception/Dinner Rock Island Bridge

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

7:30AM Breakfast in Conference Hall

8:00AM - 8:20AM: IRPT Welcome

Kick off the IRPT 2026 Annual Conference by connecting with industry leaders from across the inland waterway system. Join us as we welcome attendees, recognize our sponsors and partners, and set the stage for several days of learning, networking, and collaboration focused on the future of America's inland rivers, ports, and terminals.

8:20AM – 9:00AM: Modernizing Project Delivery Through Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork (BINP)

Learn how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' BINP initiative is streamlining project delivery while maintaining environmental stewardship. This session will explore what these changes mean for ports, terminals, and inland waterway infrastructure.

9:00AM – 9:40AM: The Business of Moving America: Economic Trends Affecting Inland River Transportation

Explore the economic forces influencing freight movement, investment decisions, and supply chain activity across the inland waterway system. This session will provide valuable insight into the trends shaping business opportunities throughout the industry.

9:40AM – 10:10AM: Building for Growth: Strategic Investments in Ports, Terminals and Industrial Facilities by **Marcus Construction**

Discover how strategic infrastructure investments are helping ports, terminals, and industrial facilities expand capacity, improve efficiency, and position for future growth. Industry leaders will share insights on planning and executing projects that support long-term success.

10:10AM – 10:30AM Networking Break

10:30AM – 11:30AM: Multimodal Planning for Inland Ports

Learn how inland ports are leveraging river, rail, road, and logistics connections to strengthen supply chain performance and support regional growth. This session will highlight planning strategies that enhance efficiency, connectivity, and long-term competitiveness.

11:30AM – 11:50AM: The Art of Risk: Protecting Assets, People & Profitability

Explore strategies for managing risk while protecting your workforce, operations, and bottom line. This session will provide practical insights to help organizations strengthen resilience and support long-term success.

AGENDA

DEEP-DIVE

Main Stage

Breakout Hall

12:00PM-1:30PM: Lunch & Learn by E-Crane International USA **CARGO Awards Ceremony**

Join us for an engaging lunch session focused on innovative material handling solutions for ports, terminals, and industrial facilities. Attendees will gain insight into equipment strategies that improve efficiency, reliability, and long-term operational performance.

1:30PM-2:00PM: Creating Capacity: How Rail Partnerships Drive Growth

Discover how strong rail partnerships can expand market access, improve operational efficiency, and create new opportunities for growth. This session will showcase collaborative approaches that help facilities maximize the value of their transportation networks.

2:00PM-3:20PM: Accelerating Project Delivery Despite Regulatory, Funding & Environmental Uncertainty

Learn how industry leaders are advancing critical projects in an increasingly complex and unpredictable environment. This session will explore strategies for navigating regulatory requirements, securing resources, and maintaining momentum from planning through construction.

3:20PM – 3:40PM

Networking Break

3:40PM – 5:00PM: IRPT European Summit: Strengthening the Supply Chain

Explore key insights and innovative ideas gathered during IRPT's European Summit and engagement with inland transportation leaders across the European Union. This session will highlight opportunities to strengthen supply chains, foster collaboration, and support growth throughout the inland waterway industry.

AGENDA

DEEP-DIVE

Main Stage

Breakout Hall

5:30PM – 8:30PM

Offsite Event: Where Connections Grow

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

7:30AM

Breakfast in Conference Hall

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Driving Growth: Strategies for Business Development Success

Discover proven approaches for building relationships, identifying opportunities, and creating long-term value in a competitive marketplace. This session will provide practical insights to help organizations strengthen their business development efforts and drive sustainable growth.

9:00AM – 9:45AM: Marketing to Global Shippers and Breakbulk Europe

Learn how to effectively position your facility, services, and capabilities to attract cargo owners and logistics partners from around the world. This session will explore strategies for building visibility, communicating value, and expanding your reach in the global marketplace.

9:45AM – 10:30AM: Commodity Session Part I

Join industry leaders for a dynamic discussion of the commodities fueling growth across the inland waterway system. From market trends to emerging opportunities, this session will provide valuable insight into the cargoes shaping the future of transportation and logistics.

AGENDA

DEEP-DIVE

Main Stage

Breakout Hall

10:30AM – 10:50AM

Networking Break

10:50AM – 11:45AM: Strengthening Partnership and Building Relationships for Economic Development and Community Engagement

Discover how collaboration between transportation partners and regional planners can drive economic growth and strengthen communities. This session will highlight the value of building lasting relationships to advance shared infrastructure and development goals.

12:00PM-1:30PM: Lunch & Learn by Chamber of Marine Commerce CARGO Awards Ceremony

1:30PM-2:30PM: State DOT & Port Collaboration Roundtable

Join a discussion on strengthening partnerships between ports and state transportation agencies. Explore opportunities to advance shared priorities and support future growth. Learn how economic impact studies can demonstrate value and support investment in port infrastructure. This session will explore funding opportunities and strategies for securing state support.

2:30PM-2:50PM

Networking Break

2:50PM – 3:25PM: Shipbuilding in the U.S.

Explore the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of American shipbuilding. This session will examine the industry's role in strengthening supply chains, supporting national priorities, and expanding maritime capacity.

AGENDA

DEEP-DIVE

Main Stage

Breakout Hall

3:25PM-3:30PM CARGO Awards Ceremony

3:30PM – 5:00PM: Commodity Session Part II

Gain insight into the markets, trends, and opportunities shaping key cargo sectors across the inland waterway system. This session will explore the factors driving demand and influencing freight movement in the year ahead.
