

2026

ARKANSAS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 12-14, 2026



WYNDHAM RIVERFRONT
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS



- 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration & Refreshments** - Sponsored by *Thermo King*
- 9:45 a.m. Bus Leaves for Tour**
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. Tour of Dickey-Stephens Park (Home of Arkansas Travelers Baseball)**
- 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own**

1:00 p.m. Welcome to North Little Rock

Chris Kent, Executive Director, Argenta Downtown Council

1:10-2:30 p.m. Succession Planning

Jon Harrison



Former Caterpillar, Inc executive Jon Harrison will explore the critical - but often overlooked - practice of succession planning. He will then facilitate a panel discussion featuring agency leaders from across Arkansas sharing their succession planning experiences, challenges, and lessons.

2:30-3:00 p.m. Afternoon Break - Sponsored by *Model 1 Commerical Vehicles*

3:00-3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Succession Planning

Shanna Maguffee, Executive Director, White River Area Agency on Aging

Justin Avery, Chief Executive Officer, Rock Region Metro

Jimmy Sanders Executive Director, Mid Delta Community Services



3:30-4:30p.m. Skills for the Next Generation

Kristen Joyner

President/KJ Backpack



This session will explore how transit agencies can prepare emerging managers and directors for future leadership roles while supporting their success today. The discussion highlights common leadership development gaps and practical strategies for building stronger leadership pipelines.

4:30-6:00 p.m. Vendor Welcome Reception

6:00 p.m. Dinner on Your Own

7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration & Refreshments - Sponsored by *CWI Digital Systems*

8:30 a.m. Welcome, Adam Waddell, ATA Board President

8:30-9:30 a.m. Transit's Future in Arkansas: What to Expect



Scott Bogren

Executive Director/CTAA

CTAA's Scott Bogren leads an interactive discussion that looks at the future of transit technology, changing Arkansas demographics, funding and operations. We'll focus on a reality-based dialogue that prepares systems to be ready for what's next.

9:30-10:00 a.m. Morning Break: Coffee & Connections - Sponsored by *Gallagher*

10:00-11:00 a.m. Collective Efficacy



Dr. Tyler Tarver

Owner/Tarver Academy

Public speaker, educator, and author Dr. Tyler Tarver will discuss how a team's shared belief in what they can accomplish has a direct impact on their performance and results.

11:00-11:45 a.m. Morning Vendor EXPO - Sponsored by *Intermotive Vehicle Controls*

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting & Luncheon



**Keynote Presentation
Josh Annett**

Executive Director/Museum Of Discovery

Museum of Discovery Executive Director Josh Annett will share how the museum's mission is delivered to Arkansas students and families. You will also enjoy a live science demonstration showcasing the type of engaging, interactive experience that has made the museum a hub for STEM education in the region and Newsweek's #6 children's museum in America.

1:00-2:15 p.m. Afternoon Vendor EXPO - Sponsored by *Q'Straint / Sure-Lok*

2:15-3:15 p.m. Positive Communication for Leaders: Proven Strategies for Inspiring Unity and Effecting Change



Dr. Julien Mirivel

Professor/University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Dr. Mirivel's signature program will inspire participants to grow as leaders, create high-quality connections, and foster a positive workplace culture in which their employees thrive and reach extraordinary goals. With impactful stories and memorable examples, you will learn the art and the science of positive communication.

Tuesday

October 13th

3:15-5:00 p.m. Trade Show & Door Prize Drawings

Sponsored by *Gillig*

5:20 p.m. Bus Leaves for Famous Fish Fry

5:30 p.m. Famous Fish Fry Reception & Live Music at ATA

Sponsored by *Nationwide Bus Parts*

6:00 p.m. Famous Fish Fry with Eat My Catfish

Sponsored by *Central States Bus Sales*

6:00 p.m. Loblolly Creamery Ice Cream Truck

Sponsored by *TripSpark Technologies*

Wednesday

October 14th

8:30-9:00 a.m. Morning Refreshments - Sponsored by *Transit Technologies*

9:00-10:30 a.m. FTA Programs Roundtable (Sections 5307, 5310 and 5311)

Gail Lyssy, Administrator, FTA Region VI

Latina Sisco, Section Head of Public Transportation, ARDOT

Heather Dalmolin, Executive Director, South West Transit Association



**Thank you for attending the 2026
Arkansas Public Transportation Conference!**



Rock Region
METRO

