

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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*Welcome to Charlotte*



**BUS TECH SUMMIT**

.....



TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR  
*Summit*

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# 247

SECURITY

## Celebrating 20 Years of Keeping Students Safe

**STNEXPO**

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### Networking Events:

Registration Check-in + Welcome Reception

**Thursday, March 20 | 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.**

Registration South Rotunda

Hosted By

**School Transportation**  
*News*

Road to the Championship Networking  
Reception

**Saturday, March 22 | 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.**

Rocky River Terrace

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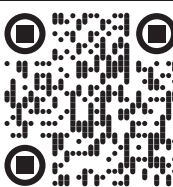
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# STN EXPO

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BUS TECHNOLOGY + **GreenBus** SUMMIT

## Trade Show Preview

**Monday, March 24 | 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**  
Concord Ballroom

## Networking Madness Reception

**5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**  
Dinner & Drinks on the Trade show floor

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## Lighting the Way to Safer Roads

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BOOTH #809**

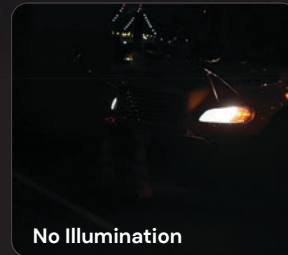
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# BUS TECH SUMMIT

.....

**March 23-24**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton**

**Charlotte-Concord, NC | Charlotte Motor Speedway**

Join us at the Bus Technology Summit, where you will immerse yourself in the latest technology trends and innovations that are redefining the landscape of transportation. Gain valuable insights while engaging in thought-provoking discussions that focus on the advancements shaping the future of the industry. Held concurrently, Green Bus Summit sessions provide the opportunity to discover groundbreaking developments in sustainable transportation practices and connect with influential leaders who are driving this vital movement forward.



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## Platinum Sponsors



## Gold



### Charlotte Motor Speedway Reception:

Technology Demonstrations and Ride & Drive

### NASCAR Cup Garage |

Charlotte Motor Speedway

Sunday, 3/23 | 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Network with industry leaders, enjoy dinner & drinks, and test out the latest green and smart bus technologies with hands-on demos and ride-alongs. Don't miss this exclusive experience!



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# TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR *Summit*

**March 21 – 22**

**Embassy Suites | Charlotte-Concord, NC**

**Topgolf Charlotte – Southwest**

## TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR SUMMIT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

*(subject to change)*

### March 21–22

Embassy Suites | Charlotte-Concord, NC

Topgolf Charlotte – Southwest

### Schedule at a Glance

#### Friday, March 21

**3:45 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.**

Welcome & Introductions at Embassy Suites  
Top Challenges Discussion with Tony Corpin  
Transportation Director Discussions  
Networking Mixer: Appetizers & Drinks



### Saturday, March 22

**8 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

Buses Depart for Topgolf Charlotte – Southwest  
Continental Networking Breakfast  
Leadership Training with Scott Welle  
Transportation Director Discussions  
Networking Lunch  
Networking Mixer  
Driving Range, Appetizers & Drinks  
Buses Depart for Embassy Suites

## Keynote Speakers



**Scott Welle**  
**OUTPERFORM THE NORM:**  
**Raise Your Game**

**Monday, March 21**

*Sponsored by*



Today's competition is brutal and the pressure to perform can be suffocating. What are you doing to stay ahead and keep from burning out?

Join Scott Welle, #1 Best Selling Author and Founder of "Outperform The Norm," as he shares the peak performance strategies used by high achievers and elite performers to take your "game" to the next level:

- Challenge limiting beliefs about your performance standards that may be holding you back
- Build a peak performance routine by utilizing the "Vital 4%"
- Raise your influence & impact by focusing less on what you need to DO versus who you need to BE
- Boost positivity and happiness by up to 30%
- Adapt & thrive through pressure, change, crisis and unpredictability

This dynamic, high-energy keynote will help you raise your personal standard of excellence and give you an effortless action plan to put into place immediately.



**Charles Kriete**  
**CEO Talk:**  
**2050 Technology Trends**

**Sunday, March 23**

*Presented by*



As CEO of Zonar and GPS Trackit, Charles focuses on delivering innovative fleet, video and field services solutions, while enhancing customer satisfaction, and driving strategic growth initiatives. With extensive experience in IoT, SaaS and fleet telematics, he specializes in scaling high-growth organizations and leveraging technology to create value for customers and partners. Prior to the Zonar and GPS Trackit merger, Charles served as CEO of GPS Trackit, where he spearheaded transformative growth, expanded global operations, and strengthened the company's position as a leader in fleet management solutions. Previously, he held CEO and other C-suite roles at multiple private equity backed companies and large public companies, leading global sales, marketing, operations and product strategies across diverse technology markets. Charles studied physics and mathematics at Lake Forest College, prior to receiving an MBA from the University of East London and a CEO College Certificate from the Yale Chief Executive Leadership Institute. He has been recognized as a CRN Top 100 Channel Executive and a 40 Under 40 business leader.



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**SafeGuard**

Product:  
SafeGuard SuperSTAR

**See Us at Booth 500**





## Conference Speakers

*Subject to change.*

### **Joe Annotti**

Senior Vice President, Incentives  
TRC Companies, Massachusetts

### **Weston Bartlett**

Manager of the Account Executive Team  
Tyler Technologies

### **Pete Baxter**

Retired Indiana State Director  
Indiana Department of Education

### **Gregory Baze**

National Account Manager, Parts  
IC Bus

### **Craig Berndt**

Segment Manager, K-12  
Geotab

### **Bret E. Brooks**

Chief Operating Officer  
Gray Ram Tactical

### **Derek Bryant**

Manager, Medium/Heavy Vehicle Test Development  
National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence

### **Mike Bullman**

Director of Transportation  
South Carolina Department of Education

### **Daoud Chaaya**

Vice President of Sales Aftermarket and Service  
Thomas Built Buses

### **Stephen Climer**

Sales Manager  
First Light Safety Products

### **Shay Coates, MA**

Director of Transportation  
Newport News Public Schools, Virginia

### **Erick Cole**

Field Support Representative  
Zonar Systems

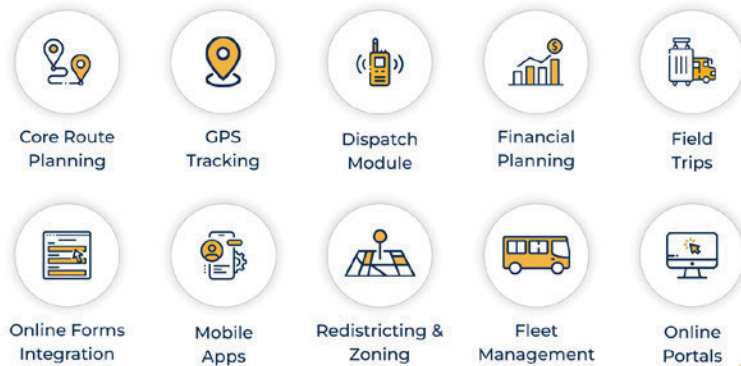
### **Jason Corbally**

President and Chief Operating Officer  
Edulog



## Student Transportation Simplified

We couple industry-leading support with smart solutions  
to transform school districts across North America.



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to learn how we can streamline  
operations at **your school district.**



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## Conference Speakers

### **Tony Corpin**

Publisher  
School Transportation News

### **Denny Coughlin**

Consultant  
School Bus Training Company

### **Jim Crowcroft**

General Sales Manager  
Thomas Built Buses

### **Matt Dickey**

Regional Vice President of Sales  
Zonar Systems

### **Denise Donaldson, CPST**

Editor & Publisher  
Safe Ride News

### **Terrell Doolin**

Professional Services Manager  
Transfinder

### **Crystal Duchane**

Account Representative & Supervisor  
Tyler Technologies

### **Barbara Duffield**

Executive Director  
SchoolHouse Connection

### **Chris Dutton**

Director of Product Management Visibility Solutions  
Safe Fleet

### **Taylor Ekbatani**

Senior Editor  
School Transportation News

### **Jim Ellis**

Director of Pupil Transportation  
Henrico County Public Schools, Virginia

### **Alan Fidler**

Fleet Manager  
Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, Indiana

### **Richard Fischer**

Consultant & School Bus Safety Trainer

### **Chris Fox**

Senior Product Manager, Visibility Solutions  
Safe Fleet



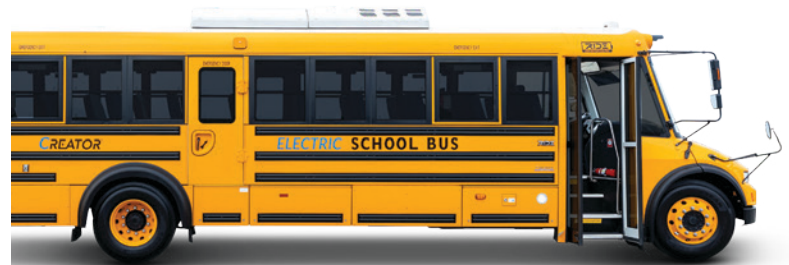
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MARCH 20-25, 2025

EXPERIENCE **THE CREATOR**  
**RIDE BOOTH #113**



## Conference Speakers

### **Paul Gandrud**

National Sales Executive  
Transportant

### **Derek Graham**

DG Consulting Services, LLC

### **Andrew Grasty**

Director of Transportation  
Metro Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee

### **Mike Hagan**

President  
Safe Fleet/Seon Digital Solutions Group

### **Paul Hasenmeier**

Public Safety Director & Fire Chief  
Hernando County Fire Rescue, Florida

### **Kala Henkensiefken**

Special Education Transportation Manager  
ISD31 Bemidji Area Schools, Minnesota

### **Laura Hill**

General Manager of Transportation  
Hillsborough County Public Schools, Florida

### **Greg Jackson**

Director of Business Development  
School Bus Logistics

### **John Jessup**

Executive Director  
Southeast Propane Alliance

### **Julian Jimenez**

Senior Product Manager, Violation Detection & Enforcement  
Solutions

### **Cor'Darius Jones "Mr. Bus Driver"**

Bus Driver  
Escambia County Schools, Florida

### **Kevin Kilner**

Chief Safety Officer  
Beacon Mobility

### **Mackenzie Krebs**

Software & Advisory Director  
Beacon Mobility



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**BOOTH  
H14**

# CUT COSTS & CARBON\*

WHEN YOU SWITCH FROM DIESEL TO PROPANE

\*Rough Cleantech (March, 2023), Propane Autogas School Buses Fact Sheet. Accessed May 7, 2024.



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PROPANE, LLC

See Us at Booth H14

## Conference Speakers

### Dustin Kress

Public Sector Senior Account Executive  
Samsara

### Charles Kriete

CEO  
Zonar

### Francisco Lagunas

General Manager – North American Bus  
Cummins Inc.

### Jannet Malig

Co-Director  
Long Beach Clean Cities, California

### Miriam Manary

Lead Research Engineer  
University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

### Graham Matthews

Regional Account Executive  
First Light Safety Products

### Bryant Maxey

Senior Product Marketing Specialist  
Zonar Systems

### Molly McGee-Hewitt, Ph. D., CAE

Executive Director and CEO  
National Association for Pupil Transportation

### Katie McKiever

Social Media Expert, North Carolina

### Teena Mitchell

Special Needs Coordinator  
Greenville County Schools, South Carolina

### Lawson Mollica

Instructor  
Long Beach (California) Clean Cities, California

### Katrina Morris

Transportation Director West Shore ESD Executive Director,  
Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation

### Luke Patrick

Director of Maintenance  
South Carolina Department of Education

### Robyn Pickard

Transportation Director  
West Des Moines Community Schools, Iowa

## Access Your Fleet Video Anytime Anywhere



### Combining Features to Reduce Cost

- Fleet Management Platform
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- Easy Cloud Video Sharing
- Live GPS Tracking
- Stop-Arm Camera
- Cloud Video Storage
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- Text/Email Event Alerts
- Full Duplex 2-Way Audio
- Driver and Dash AI Camera
- Android and iOS Mobile APP
- Wi-Fi & Cellular Video Downloads



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to go, safely and  
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## Conference Speakers

### Harley Pinson

Director of Fleet Maintenance  
Paulding County School District, Georgia

### Nicole Portee

Associate Superintendent of Operations  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina

### Gregg Prettyman

Vice President, Alternative Transportation  
First Alt

### Ewan Pritchard, Ph. D.

Consulting Engineer  
Energetics

### Joe Reen

Executive Director of Operations  
Eagle County School District, Colorado

### Bob Riebe

Vice President of Transit  
Applied Information Inc.

### Jason Riley

Chief Accounting Officer  
Tyler Technologies

### Kelly Rivera

General Manager  
Thomas Built Buses

### Alexandra Robinson, M.Ed.

A. Robinson Consulting, New York

### Dana Rosen, M.Ed.

Assistant Director of Transportation, Student Safety and Support  
Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Texas

### Dennis Ryan

Coordinator of Transportation  
North Penn School District, Pennsylvania

### Jeff Shackelford

Vice President of Sales  
Transportant

### Sue Shutrump, CPST

Susan Shutrump Consulting, LLC

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Because every minute matters.

## Regain lost time and make your day easier with...

### Timely, Seamless Parent Communication

Reduce calls and improve engagement with built-in text/email alerts and a self-service Parent Portal for real-time bus updates..

### Effortless Route Evaluation & Optimization

Identify inefficiencies and test new routes in the Sandbox before publishing live.

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**Transact**

## Conference Speakers

### Wayne Southard

Engineering Associate  
South Carolina Department of Education

### Lindsay St.Cin

Strategic Account Executive  
Samsara

### Peggy Stone

Director of Transportation  
Lincoln County School, West Virginia

### Jeremy Stowe

Director of Transportation  
Buncombe County School, North Carolina

### Trey Strudstill

Senior Executive Director of Transportation  
Paulding County School District, Georgia

### Marc Trudy

Solutions Manager  
IC Bus

### Charlie Vits, CPST

Market Development Manager/Regulatory Affairs Manager  
IMMI/SafeGuard

### Ronna Weber

Executive Director  
National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services

### Bill Wen, MS

Senior Director, Transportation Services  
Orange County Public Schools, Florida

### Stephen Whaley

Alternative Fuels Manager – East  
Blue Bird

### Chris Wickman

Strategic Account Executive  
HopSkipDrive

### Jason Yan, MMR

Director of Sales Operations  
RIDE

## TRANSPORTANT

### The Future of School Bus Safety – AI-Powered, Real-Time Monitoring

Seamlessly track, monitor, and secure your school bus fleet with cutting-edge AI and GPS technology

#### Key Features & Benefits



#### Live GPS Tracking

See real-time bus location for security and peace of mind.



#### Parent & School Apps

Instant notifications on bus arrivals, delays, and student check-ins.



#### Wi-Fi Connectivity

Onboard internet access for student learning and engagement.



#### Student Behavior Insights

AI-powered digital cameras to improve safety and security.



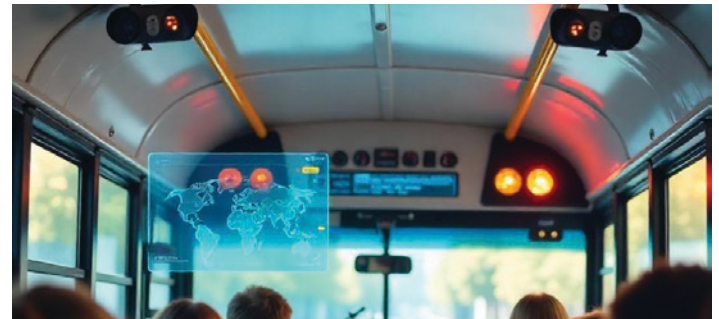
#### Live Video Monitoring

HD live-streamed and recorded footage ensures safety and accountability.



#### Increase Efficiency

Tools to monitor route performance gives the ability to adjust and reduce overall costs in the department.



#### What makes our solution different?

#### ✓ Cameras and Ridership in One Solution

Seamlessly combine cameras and ridership tracking without the need for separate tools or systems.

#### ✓ 100% K-12 Focused

Built exclusively for K-12, not a repurposed fleet solution

- Knowledgeable about unique problems K-12s face, like student behavior that fleet management systems wouldn't address

#### ✓ True Live Monitoring and Real-Time Action

Access live video instantly—no VPNs or extra integrations required—and take action in real-time.

- Digital cameras not analog. Leaves door open for AI/ detection in the future
- Access streamed by cellular instead of VPN set up/etc.
- Be proactive; most school bus fleet solutions are reactive

#### ✓ Fully Integrated with K-12 Systems

Easily connects with existing student information systems for streamlined operations.

- Full and complete data in one place

#### ✓ All-in-One Platform with Unlimited Access

Get every feature in a single package, with no licensing limits on dashboard installations.



# Conference Schedule

*All information is subject to change.*

*Download the conference app for the latest information.*

## THURSDAY, MARCH 20

### 5 P.M. - 8 P.M. | Registration South Rotunda Registration Check-in + Welcome Reception

Join us for the registration opening and welcome reception to kick off our conference, where you'll have the opportunity to network with fellow attendees and enjoy refreshments.

## Friday, March 21

### 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | Concord Ballroom (I&J) NHTSA Child Passenger Safety on School Buses National Training

*Instructors: Denise Donaldson, Kala Henkensiefken, Miriam Manary, Teena Mitchell, Susan Shutrump & Charles Vits*

The updated Child Passenger Safety on School Buses National Training provides an overview of the use of child safety restraint systems on school buses, with a focus on preschool-aged children and children with disabilities. Instructional videos are incorporated throughout the training. Participants are provided time for hands-on practice with guidance from skilled instructors. Nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will earn 3.5 continuing education units (CEUs) upon course completion.

*This seminar is available as an add-on to Main Conference registration or can be taken by itself. This seminar requires additional registration and fee.*

### 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom National School Bus Inspection Training (Two Days)

*Instructors: Derek Bryant, Mike Bullman, Alan Fidler, Jannet Malig, Lawson Mollica & Luke Patrick*

Developed by school bus maintenance and inspection expert Marshall Casey, STN EXPO offers the National School Bus Inspection Training Program to fully train technicians on how to conduct regular vehicle inspections, above and beyond state or federal Department of Transportation regulations. The two-day, eight-hour program is derived from best practices used in overseeing the maintenance of school buses in South Carolina, the only completely owned and operated state fleet in the nation. Attendees will learn how to discover more defects prior to failure, which allows for expedited repairs, increased vehicle uptime, and a more efficient maintenance program. The program includes eight hours of classroom instruction with a written exam, and a second day of hands-on identification of defects on real school buses along with OEM training on a propane-autogas system, diesel emissions, and high-voltage school bus electrification.

*This seminar is available as an add-on to Main Conference registration or can be taken by itself. This seminar requires additional registration and fee.*

### 8 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom Welcome & State of Industry

*Speaker: Tony Corpin*

### 8:30 A.M. - 9 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom NCST Update

*Speaker: Ronna Weber*

The National Congress on School Transportation will be held May 4-7 and is meeting for the first time since 2015. This session will help you understand how the Congress operates, the process it follows, and its impact on the entire school transportation industry.

### 9 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom Understanding Violence in Modern Society and the Impact on School Transportation

*Speaker: Bret E. Brooks*

This presentation explores the growing impact of violence in modern society and its effects on school transportation systems. It examines safety concerns faced by students, drivers, and school staff, highlighting real-world incidents and trends. Strategies for prevention, intervention, and policy improvements will be discussed to enhance security and ensure safe travel for students. Attendees will gain insights into practical solutions and collaborative efforts to address these pressing challenges.

### 10:45 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom Hurricane Recovery: Lessons Learned

*Facilitator: Derek Graham*

*Panelists: Laura Hill & Jeremy Stowe*

Hurricanes and other natural disasters impact entire communities. Our panelists have lived through them last year and will share their experiences leading up to and following hurricanes Helene and Milton. Pieces of the recovery puzzle include facilities, drivers, fuel, routes, communication -- all with a goal of achieving some measure of stability by returning students to school.

### 12 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

#### Lunch on your Own

Enjoy paid lunch options at the Embassy-Suites Atrium Buffet or any restaurants in the area.

### 1:15 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom Using Social Media to Attract & Retain Employees

*Facilitator: Katie McKiever*

*Panelists: Cor'Darius Jones, David Poag & Peggy Stone*

Social media is not only societal norm but also a business tool when used correctly, especially in a time of widespread personnel shortages. School districts, vendors and their employees alike use their channel to provide various updates to their followers. These communiques can be all business or pure comedy. Still, proper social media usage requires a strategy, for example how it can be used not only to communicate to parents or customers but for employee recruitment and retention efforts. This also requires forethought and, when used as

# Conference Schedule

a representative of a school district or company, careful consideration and even in some instances oversight. This panel, led by a social media expert who has consulted with school districts, will share the insights of school district transportation directors that have overseen the usage of social media to a school bus driver influencer who uses social media to demonstrate his daily responsibilities.

## **1:15 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Comparing Safety, Services & Costs of Vans with School Buses**

*Facilitator: Ryan Gray*

*Panelists: Pete Baxter, Shay Coates, Dick Fischer & Kevin Kilner*

Vans and other non-school-bus vehicles are increasingly operating home-to-school transportation of students nationwide, often as a response to a lack of available school bus drivers or a student's individual needs. Some states use vans painted yellow. Some states have school bus sign with red lights on the top of the vehicle. In some states, there are no special markings on vans, some are painted any color. Confusion results for not only the motoring public but student transporters. Meanwhile, some states regulate the use of these vans and their drivers. Others do not. While vans and other alternative vehicles might be more cost-effective than a school bus, what safety issues arise from their usage? The issue prompted the National Congress on School Transportation for the first time to create a writing committee about a non-school-bus vehicle. This panel will share the perspectives of a school district and a school bus contractor that uses vans as well as a safety trainer and a former NCST steering committee chair.

## **2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **What Safety Equipment Should Be Standard on School Buses?**

*Speaker: Denny Coughlin*

This session will solicit audience participation. You will have the opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings about what should be standard safety equipment on school buses. We will discuss items that were never imagined years ago, then became options, and later requirements. Where should your department, your state, and the industry put the efforts to improve the safety of the school bus, and the efficiency and accountability of getting students to school and home safer? What are the trade-offs when budgets are limited? What new innovations are we seeing and what features would you like to see on school buses that are not currently provided? The goal of this discussion is for you to have a better perspective of options as you order your future school buses.

## **2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Student Ridership Registration Programs**

*Speakers: Andrew Grasty & Bill Wen*

Due to the ongoing school bus driver shortage, it is critical to route buses as efficiently as possible to minimize the

number of buses needed before the school year begins. Routing based on anticipated or previous year ridership may have more routes starting the school year than needed and additional work will be required to consolidate routes. Identifying who needs a ride in advance over the summer will reduce the number of buses needed to start the school year. Orange County Public Schools in Florida started to have parents register their students for the bus during the 2023-2024 school year for this current school year. This session will guide you through the steps taken and the outcomes achieved in reducing routes.

## **3:45 P.M. - 6:15 P.M. | Concord Ballroom (F)** **Transportation Director Summit - Day 1**

The Transportation Director Summit at STN EXPO East is a signature event designed exclusively for qualified transportation directors. Participants will network with peers throughout two days, starting the afternoon of Friday, March 21 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, and continuing all day Saturday, March 22, offsite, prior to the start of the regular STN EXPO conference. Successful applicants will gain high-level insights from experts within the student transportation industry and beyond, on how to implement true leadership and innovation practices into their local operation. Both days attendance required. Transportation, breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday, March 22.

## **Saturday, March 22**



### **Transportation**

#### **Buses depart for Transportation Director Summit - Day 2 Departing 8 A.M.**

Pickup is outside at Conference Center Entrance (Next to Registration South Rotunda). Please bring your conference badge to be scanned prior to boarding.

*Transportation provided by*



## **8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | Topgolf Charlotte - Southwest** **Transportation Director Summit - Day 2**

*Keynote Speaker: Scott Welle*

The Transportation Director Summit at STN EXPO Day 2 at Topgolf Charlotte Southwest, prior to the start of the regular STN EXPO conference. Successful applicants will gain high-level insights from experts within the student transportation industry and beyond, on how to implement true leadership and innovation practices into their local operation.

## **ELEVATE: How Exceptional Leaders Inspire Peak Performance**

Leadership is not a role; it's a responsibility. It's not a selfie; it's service. It's not just talking the talk; it's walking the walk. Join Scott Welle, #1 Best Selling Author and Founder of Outperform The Norm, as he shares insights from his book, "Outperform The Norm for Leaders," on what the most influential leaders do to inspire peak performance in an



# Conference Schedule

ever-changing world.

Recruit great people by being a leader others want to follow

Retain these great people by cultivating the four levels of the “growth elevator”

Boost your personal productivity by turning lengthy to-dos into limited strategic priorities

Deal with “difficult” people by balancing empathy, direction & accountability

Enhance communication style and feedback to challenge and motivate team members

This content-rich session will give you tangible tools for your leadership toolbox that you can use to get the best out of you AND the best out of others.

## 8 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

### Transfinder Integrating Technology to Fleet Maintenance Operations

Effective fleet maintenance is a critical component of safe and reliable student transportation. In this session, discover how cutting-edge software and connected technologies can streamline maintenance procedures, reduce downtime, and extend the life of your vehicles. We will explore best practices for automating service reminders, integrating real-time GPS data and vehicle diagnostics, and centralizing maintenance records for easy tracking. Learn how an integrated approach to fleet operations not only improves efficiency and compliance but also provides long-term cost savings and safer journeys for students.

Opened to all main conference attendees and encouraged for all Inspection Training Attendees

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## Transportation

### Buses depart for National School Bus Inspection Training - Day 2

#### Departing 9 A.M.

Pickup is outside at Conference Center Entrance (Next to Registration South Rotunda). Please bring your conference badge to be scanned prior to boarding.

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## 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. | Cabarrus County Schools

### National School Bus Inspection Training (Day 2)

*Instructors: Derek Bryant, Mike Bullman, Alan Fidler, Jannet Malig, Lawson Mollica & Luke Patrick*

All schedule and details are subject to change. Developed by school bus maintenance and inspection expert Marshall Casey, STN EXPO offers the National School Bus Inspection Training Program to fully train technicians on how to conduct regular vehicle inspections, above and beyond state or federal Department of Transportation guidance. The two-day, eight-hour program held on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22, is derived from best practices used

in overseeing the maintenance of school buses in South Carolina, the only completely owned and operated state fleet in the nation. Attendees will learn how to discover more defects prior to failure, which allows for expedited repairs, increased vehicle uptime, and a more efficient maintenance program. The program includes eight hours of classroom instruction, including a written exam, a second day of hands-on identification of defects on real school buses, and OEM training from ROUSH CleanTech and Blue Bird, IC Bus, and Thomas Built Buses. This program requires separate registration and fees.

## 9 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

### Creating a Bus Captain Program for School Buses

*Speaker: Bret E. Brooks*

This presentation outlines the development and implementation of a Bus Captain Program to promote safety, leadership and accountability on school buses. It explores how student bus captains can assist drivers, encourage positive behavior, and foster a respectful bus environment. Strategies for selecting, training and supporting student leaders will be discussed along with real-world examples of successful programs. Attendees will leave with practical steps to establish or enhance a Bus Captain Program in their own school districts.

## 10:45 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom

### Using CSRS for Pre-K Students on School Buses

*Speaker: Denise Donaldson*

The tiniest school bus occupants need special attention to ride safely. It's hard for them to sit still, and even if somehow seated properly, compartmentalization cannot adequately protect their small bodies in a crash. NHTSA has long acknowledged that these children should ride in CSRS on a school bus ... so why do so many pre-school age kids ride without safety restraints? This session will address some common misunderstandings and point attendees on the right path to properly protect preschoolers, toddlers and infants.

## 10:45 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom

### Proactive Response Training for School Bus Drivers

*Speaker: Katrina Morris*

Have you ever heard the phrase the school bus is an extension of the classroom? Are your drivers trained like school staff, in their environment, for acts of violence? Come learn how one state has embraced transportation departments in regard to teaching school bus safety and security. Proactive Response Training for School Bus Drivers was written by Michigan State Police, Mason County Sheriff Department, Ludington Police Department and the West Shore Educational Service District to help protect our most precious cargo, our children. It is a free program available to be taught in other states.

# Conference Schedule

## **10:45 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Illegal Passing - NHTSA's Latest Research Results**

*Speaker: Derek Graham*

The problem of illegal passing has been well documented in the industry and is at the forefront of safety concerns for student passengers when accessing the school bus as pedestrians. The Investing in Infrastructure and Jobs Act mandated that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration take on a multi-pronged study of school bus illegal passing incidents. In addition to a summary of state laws on illegal passing, which was released earlier this year, NHTSA developed a toolkit for planning safety school bus stops and routes. NHTSA is also evaluating the many technology options that target illegal passing and their effectiveness. This presentation will summarize NHTSA's activities and findings thus far and suggest appropriate actions to improve school bus safety.

## **12 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.** **Lunch On Your Own**

## **1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **Winning Elements of a PBIS Program on the School Bus**

*Speaker: Dana Rosen*

Join this leadership duo as we explore the "real leadership stories from the trenches." Learn how to hone in on your leadership skill set, set yourself up for success (and succession), and take the challenge to create change and improvement for your team back home.

## **1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom** **Fire Department Response to School Bus Incidents**

*Speaker: Paul Hasenmeier*

How do we prepare a community and ourselves for a school bus emergency? As emergency responders, we are used to bringing calm to chaos. As educators, parents and school transportation representatives, we should strive to be prepared for the unexpected. No matter what, we answer the call and mitigate the challenges in front of us. Our children are our livelihoods and futures. Any emergency involving them is physically and emotionally taxing on all involved. Just like anything else that we develop action plans for, school bus emergencies need a plan of their own. That plan must involve the cooperative efforts of fire, EMS, police, school personnel, and public officials. In this presentation we will talk about hazards, fire rescue response, fires, and much more.

## **1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Student Homelessness & the Impact on Transportation**

*Speaker: Barbara Duffield*

The number of students who are homeless are only increasing, following nationwide trends for all ages. This creates significant challenges for students, who face many barriers to school attendance and success. It also creates challenges for school districts, which despite a general lack of qualified drivers must provide transportation services or options under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless

Assistance Act. Yet transportation is key to stability, successes and safety. A child homelessness expert will discuss these trends, how school districts are responding, and potential solutions.

## **3 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **Developing Performance Evaluations**

*Speaker: Denny Coughlin*

This session will cover one of the most underused and neglected processes in any organization, employee performance evaluations. Learn how they are commonly executed and how they can be used to improve the performance within the organization. Standard forms do not serve the individual job duties well. Discuss how to customize evaluations to match the job being evaluated. This is the time to communicate effectively with every subordinate what they do well and what they need to improve. It is a time to learn their ambitions and feelings of the employee about the workplace, and what they would like to improve or change. It also gives you the opportunity to determine what they think of your performance, if you're confident enough to ask.

## **3 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom** **Developing Mock Casualty Exercises with Local First Responders**

*Facilitator: Paul Hasenmeier*

*Panelists: Katrina Morris & Peggy Stone*

This panel discussion will cover planning for a mock school bus crash exercise. Fire Chief Hasenmeier will moderate the discussion that dives into best practices, the need for training, planning, and coordinated efforts to prepare your school district for school bus emergencies. We will take questions from attendees throughout the discussion.

## **3 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Avoiding Children Left Alone on School Buses**

*Speaker: Dick Fischer*

Are some school bus drivers simply too lazy to inspect the school bus for children at the conclusion of routes? Yes. Research also indicates sleeping students could also be "hiding in plain sight." Regardless, too many instances occur each year, especially when transporting preschoolers. Is this a training issue or one of poor job performance that shouldn't be tolerated?

## **5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. | Rocky River Terrace** **Road to the Championship Networking Reception**

Step into the excitement of our networking reception at the Rocky River Lounge and outdoor patio, where the spirit of competition and college basketball meets the joy of connection. Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with fun, engaging conversations, networking opportunities as attendees cheer for their favorite teams in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. This is your chance to build relationships, and enjoy a night of camaraderie, food and fun at Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte-Concord.

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# Conference Schedule

## Sunday, March 23

### 8:30 A.M. - 9 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

#### Opening Welcome

*Speakers: Tony Corpin*

### 9 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

#### CEO Talk: 2050 Technology Trends

*Speaker: Charles Kriete*

Your job is tougher than ever—shrinking budgets, driver shortages and growing expectations—but you're still expected to figure it all out. You don't have to do it alone. Join Zonar for an eye-opening session that recognizes your hard work and explores how today's smartest transportation leaders are staying ahead by working smarter, not harder. We'll break down the real role of AI (and when actual intelligence matters more), tackle complex challenges like driver shortages and EV transitions and show how the right partnerships and tools can help you do more with less—without compromising safety or service. Walk away prepared to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.

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### 9:45 A.M. - 10:35 A.M. | Carolina Ballroom

#### Zonar Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Mitigating Risk on the Road: Proactive Fleet & Student Safety Management

*Facilitator: Bryant Maxey*

*Panelists: Erick Cole & Matt Dickey*

School transportation directors juggle many responsibilities, but two of the biggest risks you manage daily are assets and people. In this interactive session, we'll explore how predictive maintenance helps prevent costly vehicle breakdowns and how advanced camera solutions enhance student and driver safety. Join Zonar for an engaging discussion on proactive strategies to reduce risk, improve operational efficiency and create a safer transportation environment. And most importantly, without adding extra work to your plate.

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### 9:45 A.M. - 10:35 A.M. | Fairway Ballroom

#### Transfinder Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Best Practices with Student Ridership

*Speaker: Terrell Doolen*

Parents and communities are expecting more and more from transportation departments every year. Cameras, GPS, parent apps, increased communication, decreased headaches – these are all adding complexities to student transportation. Tracking student ridership is quickly becoming not a “nice to have” but a must have. The good news is that this is very doable and the data collected is actually valuable to you and your operation. This session will review why tracking ridership is so important, how to collect ridership data and what to do with it once you

have it. Come see Transfinder's All-In-One solution and how collecting ridership data will help you streamline your operation and improve safety.

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### 9:45 A.M. - 10:35 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

#### Blue Bird Green Bus Summit: The Right Bus for the Right Route: Managing Mixed Fleets

*Facilitator: Stephen Whaley*

*Panelists: Luke Patrick & TBD*

Industry experts and school transportation professionals share their experiences and insights on managing mixed-fuel fleets (diesel, propane, electric) for different use cases. Panelists will share how they take advantage of the benefits each fuel-type bus offers, and how they manage scheduling the right bus for the right route. As the industry pushes for alternative-fuel fleets, this panel discussion will provide real-life examples of how school districts are managing the transition in a way that benefits students, drivers, and state and federal requirements.

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### 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom

#### Evolution of the Electronic Transition: Adapting and Improving on the Lessons Learned

*Speaker: Jim Ellis*

Transitioning from paper-based record-keeping to electronic systems is more than just a tech upgrade—it's a shift in efficiency, accuracy, and accountability. Explore how implementing digital solutions from timekeeping and pre-trip inspections to student conduct reports, and more streamline operations and reduce errors. This session will highlight key challenges, successes and lessons the speaker has learned along the way, offering practical insights for anyone looking to modernize their office processes. Whether you're starting your transition or refining an existing system, you'll walk away with actionable strategies for improvement.

### 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom

#### Top 10 Things to Know When Transporting Students with Disabilities

*Speakers: Alexandra Robinson & Susan Shutrump*

Are you new to transporting students with disabilities? Join two members of the TSD Conference tenured staff in this interactive discussion of the basic safety tenets surrounding this exciting and challenging new endeavor. The discussion will center on most important operational and mobility considerations.

### 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

#### State of Green School Buses

*Speaker: Joe Annotti*

Yellow continues to go green as school districts across the country modernize fleets with the latest alternative

# Conference Schedule

fuel technologies. Through expanded offerings in bio- and renewable diesel, near-zero emission propane and natural gas, and zero-emission battery electric offerings, owners and operators have options to support their sustainability initiatives in an economic fashion. However, shifting incentives and regulatory landscapes are likely to have material impacts on the school bus industry's clean transportation future.

## **12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom**

### **Lunch & Learn: Driving Efficiency, Safety, and Communication with an Integrated Student Transportation Platform**

This session explores the power of unifying all aspects of student transportation—from planned routes and real-time GPS tracking to driver directions, parent notifications, and vehicle maintenance—within a single, integrated solution. Presentation and Lunch

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## **1:30 P.M. - 2:20 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom**

### **Geotab Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo**

*Speaker: Craig Berndt*

In this session attendees will learn how data generated by a telematics system can augment their industry specific operational software like transportation routing, SIS and ridership. Bring your laptop if you'd like to get hands on with the software, as logins to a demo portal will be provided for you to engage with. Learn how the real world is represented in its digital twin and how you can make the most of it. Bring a list of difficulties you're trying to solve, whether you think they're telematics related or not. Hardware will also be available to review.

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## **1:30 P.M. - 2:20 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom**

### **First Student Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: AI-Powered Safety: A Hands-On Experience with First Alt & Samsara**

*Facilitator: Gregg Prettyman*

*Panelist: Lindsay St.Cin*

Safety in alternative student transportation is evolving—are you ready? Join Gregg Prettyman from First Alt and Samsara's AI technology experts for an immersive deep dive into how AI-powered cameras and real-time telematics are reshaping the alternative student transportation industry.

In this interactive session, you'll:

Engage with real-time AI camera footage to understand how alerts and predictive analytics work.

Work through real-world scenarios, using AI-driven insights to identify safety risks and improve driver performance.

Get hands-on with the latest AI camera technology, exploring how it integrates with First Alt's alternative transportation solutions.

Walk away with a firsthand understanding of how AI transforms fleet safety, incident response, and student protection—plus practical strategies for implementing these advancements in your own transportation network.

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## **2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom**

### **What Does the Danger Zone Mean to You?**

*Facilitator: Derek Graham*

*Panelists: Shay Coates, Dick Fischer & Laura Hill*

There is so much going on in what the industry refers to as "The Danger Zone." What it means to you depends on your perspective – whether as a student pedestrian, a motorist or a school bus driver. The bus, via the driver, communicates with other motorists through lights and other signals that have legal implications. We will focus on how cameras and other technology can help enforce those legal requirements. The school bus driver interacts with students in many ways including hand signals for crossing and awareness of the pedestrians through sophisticated mirror systems. We will discuss how every driver should be prepared for all interactions. Finally, we all work to ensure that student pedestrians and motorists never come in contact with each other. The panel will discuss strategies including but not limited to education and public awareness.

## **2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom**

### **School Bus Shop Management Strategies**

*Speaker: Denny Coughlin*

This Shop Management program is designed to help managers and leaders realize the characteristics that make them valuable to the organization. We will discuss the formula to help you be more effective with your work crew. Hiring the right people for the job and getting the most from your successful and enthusiastic employees is the goal. (Are all your employees successful and enthusiastic?) Management is a position. Leadership is a characteristic.

## **2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom**

### **CowFartBus Green Bus Summit: A Zero Carbon Alternative for Existing Diesel Buses**

*Speakers: Luke Patrick & Joe Reen*

The panel discussion includes current school district and school bus users of this low-to-no-carbon and low-cost fuel conversion platform. These users will share insights and experiences with the dual-fuel diesel displacement solution bringing renewable natural gas (RNG) to existing diesel school buses. Hear the rationale behind their considerations and choosing the solution and how it aligns with long term conventional fuel reduction, budgetary and sustainability initiatives. The session, moderated by Robert Friedman, managing director for the program, will also include a brief description of the solution and why



# Conference Schedule

focusing on the school bus industry makes sense in today's efforts to meet sustainability objectives and reduce fuel-related operating costs.

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## **4 P.M. - 5:15 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **Effective School Start Planning Strategies**

*Facilitator: Greg Jackson*

*Panelists: Jim Ellis, Andrew Grasty & Dana Rosen*

This study session will focus on key strategies for effective school start planning, ensuring transportation leaders are prepared to launch their routing operations efficiently. The discussion will cover best practices, challenges, and solutions to optimize bus routes, streamline communication, and improve service levels while addressing workforce shortages and evolving district needs.

## **4 P.M. - 5:15 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom** **The Challenge: Promoting Leadership in Student Transportation**

*Speakers: Nicole Portee & Alexandra Robinson*

It's not just about "what" you do as a leader but the "how" and "why." Join this panel of seasoned industry professionals to look into the what, how and why of leading teams. Prepare to "take the challenge" as we look further into responsibility, accountability and vision.

## **4 P.M. - 5:15 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Navigating Electrification as Service & the RFP Process**

*Speaker: Ewan Pritchard*

School districts that use contracted services and are investigating adding electric buses to their fleets face distinct challenges. Similarly, districts that have plans to electrify their fleets see the high capital costs and limited grant funding available as a challenge. These districts are turning to their contractors to begin their electric bus journey. In this session, we will discuss a number of these districts and their challenges. Join us as we talk about the challenges facing districts and contractors in this environment. There are a host of approaches and models available, and we will discuss the nuances of each along with the challenges facing districts looking to electrify and ways other districts have framed their RFPs for contract services to overcome the issues.



### **Transportation**

**Buses depart for Technology Demo & Ride and Drive at Charlotte Motor Speedway**

**Shuttles run from 5:45 P.M.- 9:30 P.M.**

Pickup is outside at Conference Center Entrance (Next to Registration South Rotunda). Please bring your conference badge to be scanned prior to boarding.

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## **6 P.M. - 9 P.M. | Charlotte Motor Speedway** **Charlotte Motor Speedway Reception: Technology Demonstrations and Ride & Drive**

Taking place at the famous Charlotte Motor Speedway, the Bus Technology Summit/Green Bus Summit Technology Demonstration and Green Bus Ride & Drive Experience is a special outdoor event showcasing the latest advancements in green school buses and transportation solutions.

Attendees are treated to a hands-on experience with a wide range of transportation technology demonstrations and green buses, including electric, propane and other alternative fuel vehicles. The event offers a unique opportunity for school transportation professionals to ride the latest models, learn about their features, and discuss the future of sustainable transportation in the school bus industry. With a focus on environmental sustainability and efficiency, the Green Bus Summit provided valuable insights into the benefits of transitioning to cleaner, greener transportation options. Dinner & Drinks Served.

\*Please note all participants must sign a waiver to attend the event at the Charlotte Motor Speedway and another waiver to ride demo vehicles. Please sign both waivers before boarding shuttle buses and demo buses.

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**Monday, March 24**

## **8 A.M. - 9 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **School Bus V2X & Transit Planning**

*Speaker: Bob Riebe*

Learn about advanced applications of Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything technology, or C-V2X, highlighting innovative solutions such as school bus priority, transit signal optimization, and emergency vehicle preemption strategies.

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## **9:15 A.M. - 10:05 A.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **EduLog Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo**

*Speakers: Jason Corbally & Derek Graham*

School bus transportation has evolved significantly, with parents now expecting real-time communication and accurate updates. While parent apps have been in use for over a decade, many have struggled to provide reliable information to the true stakeholders—leading to frustration and mistrust. Inaccurate data can be more harmful than no data at all. It's time to shift towards a connected school district and transportation department, where all stakeholders—transportation staff, bus drivers, school administrators, secretaries, and parents—collaborate to ensure precise, real-time updates. Join us to discover a comprehensive, fully integrated solution that enhances safety, efficiency and trust in school transportation.

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# Conference Schedule

## 9:15 A.M. - 10:05 A.M. | Fairway Ballroom

### HopSkipDrive Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Revolutionizing Student Transportation: How AI is Driving Efficiency and Addressing Budget Challenges for School Districts

*Speakers: Dustin Kress & Chris Wickman*

What would your district look like if you were never short of a driver? What would that mean for your students? How about your transportation team?

This session will explore the challenges districts and transportation teams face, such as bus driver shortages, changes in bell times, and budget cuts — while also being charged with improving operational efficiency to get more students to school safely and on time.

We are excited to present a product demonstration highlighting HopSkipDrive's revolutionary new technology offering for student transportation planning — RouteWise AI. Attend this session to explore the technology first-hand and learn how RouteWise AI helps districts with:

Routing vs. Optimization: Learn about the science behind RouteWise AI's optimization engine and how that differs from standard time and distance routing solutions  
Bus Driver Shortages: Identify ways RouteWise AI's optimization impacts individual routes and how that can help districts significantly reduce their total route package. One district was able to address their bus driver shortage and increase pay for their drivers.

Changing Bell Times: Understand how RouteWise AI models shifting school schedules and transportation policies, positioning Transportation teams with data to advocate for operational efficiencies

Cost Savings: Learn about the impact route optimization has on the long-term financial health of a department, both operating costs and capital investments.

Don't miss this opportunity to see how HopSkipDrive's RouteWise AI can partner with you to revolutionize student transportation for your district. We look forward to seeing you there!

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HopSkipDrive

## 9:15 A.M. - 10:05 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

### First Light Safety Products Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Take Action Now: How First Light's Illuminated Solutions Are Saving Lives

*Speaker: Stephen Climer & Graham Matthews*

The need for safer school buses has never been more urgent. Act now to prevent stop-arm violations and protect students on the road. First Light's Illuminated School Bus Sign and Fully Illuminated Stop Arm are setting a new standard in school bus safety. Don't let another day pass without protecting your students.

**What You'll Learn:**

The Critical Impact of Illumination on School Bus Safety: See how ultra-bright illumination makes school buses visible from over 1,000 feet, allowing motorist to recognize the school bus and protect students.

Proven Results in Reducing Illegal Passings: See how our 15-month study, where 14 out of 15 schools experienced a reduction in violations—up to 88% in low-light conditions.

Affordable Safety Upgrades: Act now and learn how districts can significantly reduce stop-arm violations for less than 1% of the cost of a new bus.

Understanding the Differences and Benefits: Discover how First Light's Fully Illuminated Stop Arm provides maximum visibility in low-light conditions. See firsthand how our solutions keep students safe, helping you make an informed safety decision for your district.

Don't wait! Explore how First Light's safety solutions are changing the game in school bus safety. Because every second counts when it comes to keeping kids safe, join us to learn how easy it is to implement First Light's life-saving solutions in your district.

*Presented by*



## 10:20 A.M. - 11:50 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom

### OUTPERFORM THE NORM: Raise Your Game

*Keynote Speaker: Scott Welle*

Today's competition is brutal and the pressure to perform can be suffocating. What are you doing to stay ahead and keep from burning out?

Join Scott Welle, #1 Best Selling Author and Founder of "Outperform The Norm," as he shares the peak performance strategies used by high achievers and elite performers to take your "game" to the next level:

Challenge limiting beliefs about your performance standards that may be holding you back.

Build a peak performance routine by utilizing the "Vital 4%"  
Raise your influence & impact by focusing less on what you need to DO vs. who you need to BE

Boost positivity and happiness by up to 30%

Adapt & thrive through pressure, change, crisis and unpredictability

This dynamic, high-energy keynote will help you raise your personal standard of excellence and give you an effortless action plan to put into place immediately.

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## 12:05 P.M. 12:55 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom

### Tyler Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Every day in K-12 transportation is an adventure!

*Facilitator: Weston Bartlett*

*Panelists: Crystal Duchane & Jason Riley*

Join us as the Tyler team runs the fast break on a difficult 'Day-In-The-Life' of a transportation professional. This interactive presentation will showcase how challenging situations become as routine as a layup for everyone involved in school transportation. From teachers to mechanics, students, guardians, drivers, and more, Tyler's



# Conference Schedule

integrated solutions can address everyday issues in real-time and with ease, keeping your team on top of their game.

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## **12:05 P.M. - 12:55 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom** **Samsara Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo:** **Empowering Schools Across the US**

*Speaker: Mackenzie Krebs*

Samsara provides schools real-time data from sensors, cameras and integrations for smarter, safer and more efficient transportation and school security for their students. In this session, you will learn how K-12 schools are using Samsara to instantly account for students and ensure their safety, respond to and resolve incidents faster, and leverage data to improve operational efficiency.

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samsara

## **12:05 P.M. - 12:55 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **IC Bus Green Bus Summit: Panel Discussion**

*Speakers: Gregory Baze & Marc Truby*

The student transportation industry faces numerous challenges, including fleet management, safety, and funding. Learn how solutions like advanced remote diagnostics, online parts ordering, and purchasing tools can help improve uptime, reduce costs, and ensure a seamless transportation experience for students.

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## **1 P.M. - 2:15 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom** **Lunch & Learn: How to Hit the Easy Button on Replacing Diesel Buses**

*Facilitator: Stephen Whaley*

*Panelist: John Jessup, Dennis Ryan, & Trey Studstill*

This panel discussion will offer insights into simplifying the transition from diesel buses, highlighting real-life savings of operating alternative-fueled buses. Transportation directors and officials, and infrastructure and alternative-fuel subject-matter experts will share their experiences and operating alternative-fuel fleets from the cold regions of the north to the rough terrain of the south. Attendees will learn their secrets to success in replacing diesel buses.

Presentation and Lunch

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## **2:30 P.M. - 3:20 P.M. | Carolina Ballroom** **Safe Fleet Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo: Next-Gen School Bus Safety: Tech Innovations and Cloud Solutions for a Safer Ride**

*Facilitator: Mike Hagan*

*Panelists: Chris Dutton, Chris Fox, & Julian Jimenez*

In this forward-thinking session, industry experts will explore the cutting-edge technologies transforming school transportation safety. Attendees will gain valuable insights into how to implement and potentially fund an integrated view of bus safety and security with a roadmap to enhance bus safety, address the illegal passing epidemic, improve bus and driver visibility, leverage proactive notifications and enforcement strategies, and manage video evidence in the cloud for greater student safety insights.

*Presented by*



## **2:30 P.M. - 3:20 P.M. | Fairway Ballroom** **Transportant Bus Technology Summit Lab & Demo:** **Connected, Protected, Perfected: Transportant's Evolution of Bus Safety**

*Facilitator: Paul Gandrud*

*Panelists: Robyn Pickard & Jeff Shackelford*

Join us for an engaging and insightful session where we unveil how Transportant is revolutionizing school bus safety and efficiency through cutting-edge technology. In this 50-minute presentation, transportation directors and industry leaders will discover how our latest innovations are connecting fleets, protecting students, and perfecting transportation operations like never before.

**What You'll Learn:**

**Seamless Connectivity** – Explore how real-time GPS tracking, live video streaming, and advanced data analytics keep transportation teams, drivers, and parents informed with instant, accurate updates.

**Enhanced Safety & Security** – Learn how AI-powered onboard cameras, automated incident detection, and student ridership tracking are setting new industry standards for protecting students and drivers.

**Operational Perfection** – See how an intelligent fleet management system helps optimize routes, reduce costs, and improve overall efficiency with actionable insights from real-time and historical data.

**New & Upcoming Features** – Be the first to see Transportant's latest innovations that are redefining the future of student transportation.

**Real-World Success Stories** – Hear how districts across the country are using Transportant's solutions to increase efficiency, enhance safety, and create a better experience for students, parents, and transportation teams.

**Who Should Attend?** This session is designed for transportation directors, fleet managers, school administrators, and industry professionals looking to stay ahead in an evolving transportation landscape. Whether

# Conference Schedule

you're already using Transportant or looking to modernize your fleet, this session will provide the insights and tools you need to make smarter, safer, and more efficient decisions.

*Presented by*

**TRANSPORTANT**

## **2:30 P.M. - 3:20 P.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom**

**Thomas Built Buses Green Bus Summit: ICE: The Future Outlook for Traditional & Alternate Fuels in School Buses**

*Facilitator: Jim Crowcroft*

*Panelists: Daoud Chaaya, Francisco "Paco" Lagunas, Luke Patrick, & Kelly Rivera*

Hear from a panel of experts, including a school bus fleet operator, an engine manufacturer, a school bus vehicle OEM, and a school bus dealer, as they discuss how traditionally fueled school buses fit into the future of school transportation. Learn how alternative fuels like biodiesel (renewable), gasoline, and propane can help operators meet future emissions requirements as our industry transitions toward electrification.

*Presented by*



## **3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. | Concord Ballroom**

**Trade Show Preview**

## **5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. | Concord Ballroom**

**Trade Show + Networking Madness Reception**

Embrace the College Basketball Madness spirit with our basketball-themed dress code. Show off your team pride by wearing your favorite basketball jerseys, team colors, or sporty chic attire. Get ready for an evening of exciting networking opportunities, engaging trade show exhibits, and a slam dunk of fun!

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## **Tuesday, March 25**

### **8 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. | Kannapolis Ballroom**

**Leadership Challenge Accepted**

*Speakers: Molly McGee-Hewitt, Nicole Portee, Alex Robinson & Sue Shutrump*

You've had several days of networking and learning and now it's time to accept your leadership challenge! This closing panel will include Tales from the Trenches, Educating Your Superiors and Special Education Collaborators, Mentoring Future Leaders Through Effective Delegation, all with a focus on your own personal Leadership Growth. Participants will leave with a personalized plan for their operations back home.



### **Transportation**

**Buses depart for Thomas Built Buses Factory Tour**

**Tour 1: Departing 9:15 A.M., Returning 2:15 P.M.**

**Tour 2: Departing 11:45 A.M., Returning 4 P.M.**

Pickup is outside at Conference Center Entrance (Next to Registration South Rotunda). Please bring your conference badge to be scanned prior to boarding.

### **9 A.M. - 4 P.M. | Thomas Built Buses Headquarters & Factory, High Point, NC**

#### **Thomas Built Buses Factory Tours**

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner Plant in High Point, N.C. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

#### **9 A.M. - 2:15 P.M. | Thomas Built Buses Factory Tour 1**

*Bus Departs Embassy: 9:15 A.M.*

9:15 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. - travel to Thomas Bus

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. - tour begins

12:15 P.M. - 12:45 P.M. - boxed lunch

1 P.M. - 2:15 P.M. - travel to Embassy

#### **11:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | Thomas Built Buses Factory Tour 2**

*Bus Departs Embassy: 11:45 A.M.*

11:45 A.M. - 1 P.M. - travel to Thomas Bus

1:10 P.M. - 1:40 P.M. boxed lunch

1:50 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. - tour starts

2:30 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. - Travel to Embassy Suites

#### **Tour guests will see:**

- Our state of the art Saf-T-Liner Plant
- New automation on the assembly line
- Production of our industry leading Type C and Type D buses
- Welding
- Painting
- Body Mounting

*(Maximum of 50 participants per tour. Separate registration required)*

*Presented by*



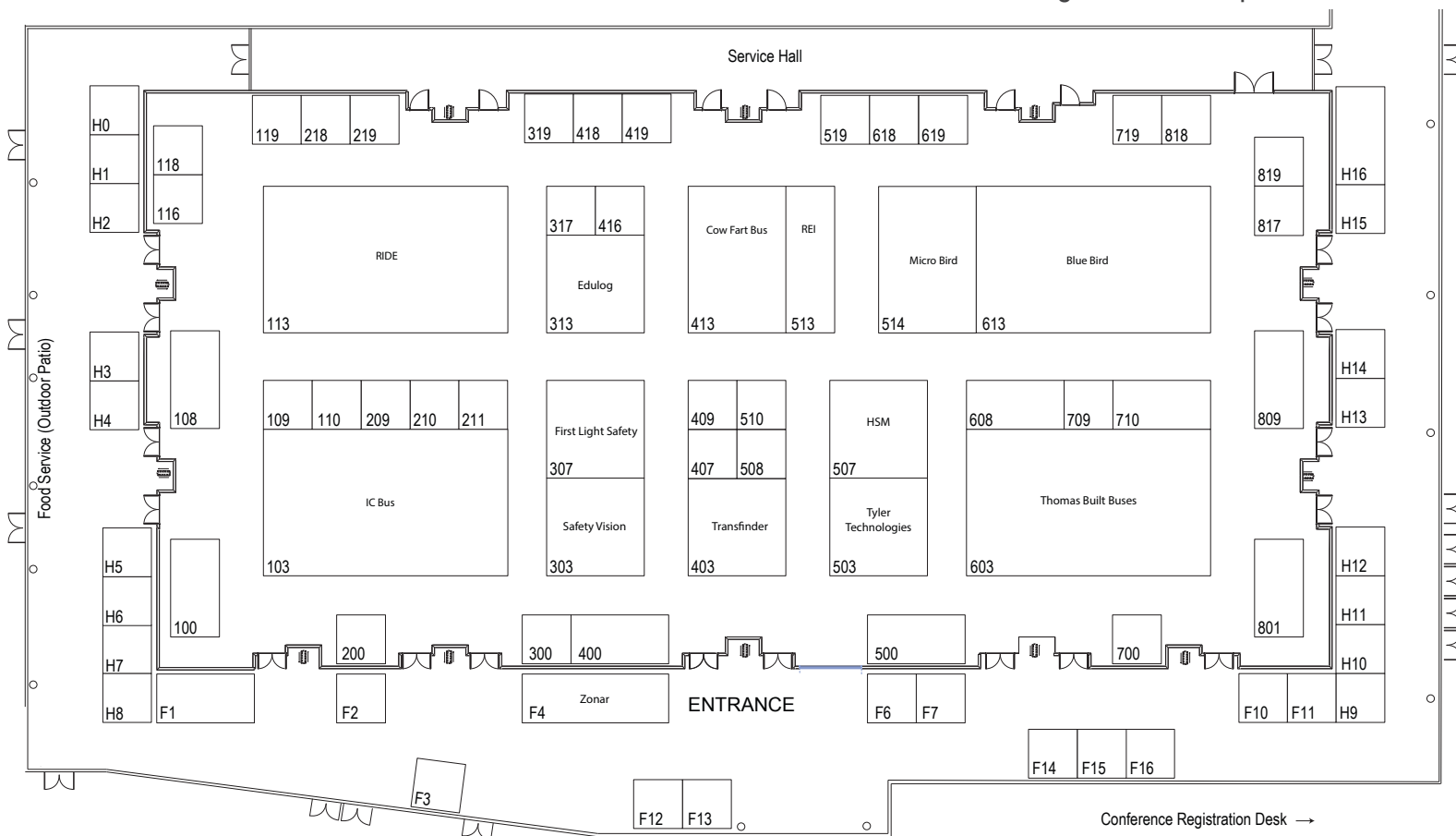


## Trade Show Exhibit Hall

Monday, 3/24 | 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.  
Trade Show Preview

Concord Ballroom | Embassy Suites

5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.  
Trade Show + Networking Madness Reception



## Trade Show Exhibitors

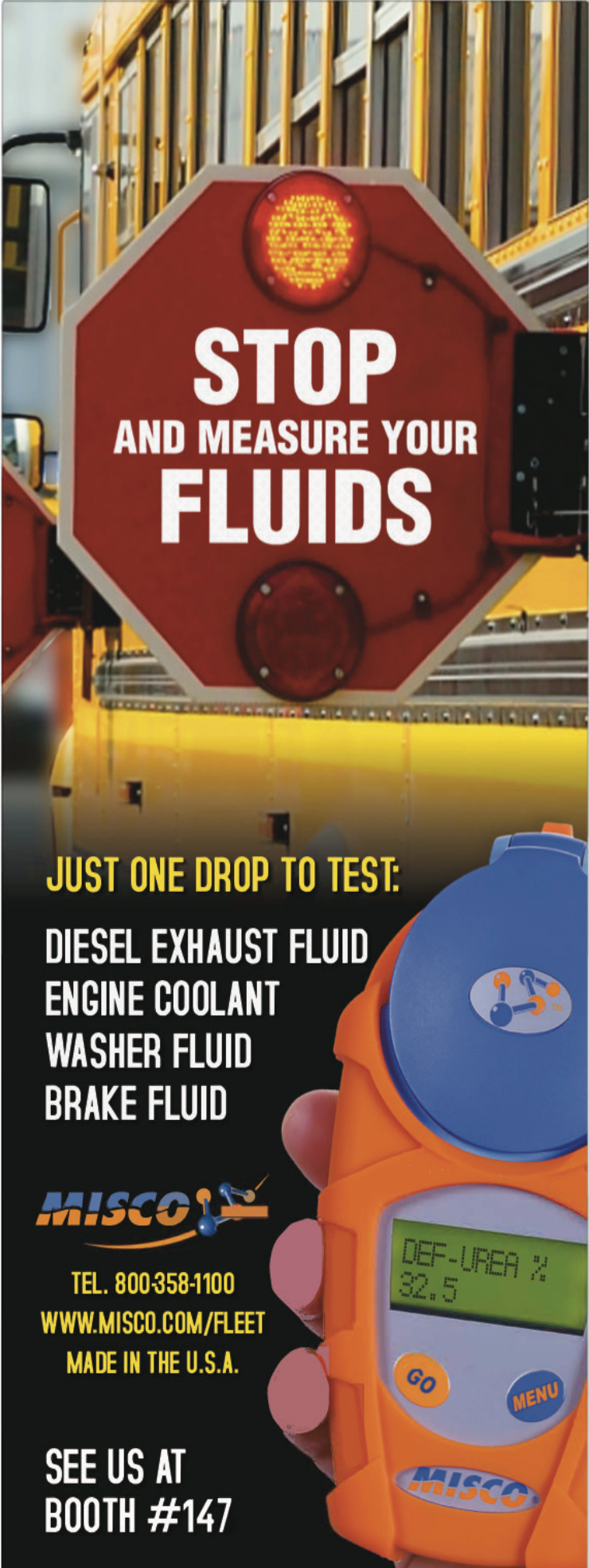
Subject to Change

247Security.....	100	Education Logistics.....	313	REI.....	513
4MATIV Technologies Inc.....	H9	EverDriven.....	409	RIDE.....	113
ADROIT Advanced Technologies.....	H10	EZ-ON Products.....	619	Rosco Vision.....	809
AMF Bruns America.....	700	First Light Safety Products.....	307	Safe Fleet.....	608
AngelTrax.....	H4	First Student.....	300	SafeGuard/IMMI.....	F6
Auto-Jet Muffler.....	119	Fleetsoft.....	H11	Safety Brake Set.....	F13
BatOnRoute - School Transport App.....	709	Fortress Mobile.....	F2	Safety Vision.....	303
Beacon Mobility.....	818	Gatekeeper Systems.....	F15	School Bus Safety Company.....	218
Bergstrom Inc.....	719	Heliox.....	116	School-Radio.....	710
BESI.....	200	HopSkipDrive.....	319	School Transportation News.....	H16
Bitimec Wash-Bots.....	317	HSM Transportation Solutions.....	507	Scraper Systems.....	F3
Blue Bird.....	613	Huntington Distribution Finance.....	508	SMART tag™.....	F12
Bostech.....	H8	IC Bus.....	103	Student Transportation of America.....	H2
Bus Climate Contro.....	F14	InCharge Energy.....	H15	Syntech Systems.....	209
Bus Safety, Inc.....	H13	Kajeet.....	109	Thomas Built Buses.....	603
bushive.....	418	MicroBird.....	514	Trans/Air Manufacturing.....	210
BusPatrol America.....	118	MISCO Refractometer.....	F11	TransAct Communications.....	F7
BusPlanner.....	801	Model 1 Commercial Vehicles.....	110	Transfinder.....	403
Bustrak.....	H0	NAPT.....	H5	Transportant.....	F10
Bytecurve.....	416	Noregon Systems.....	H6	Tyler Technologies.....	503
CalAmp.....	108	O2 Cool Manufacturing.....	419	United Safety and Survivability Corporation.....	618
Certified Safety MFG.....	H7	Olympic Transportation.....	407	Velocitor Solutions.....	510
CI Solutions.....	F16	Optimal / Olathe Fleet Solutions.....	F1	Verra Mobility.....	819
Collaborative Student Transportation.....	H12	Orbital Installation Technologies.....	519	Via Student Transit.....	H1
CowFartBus.....	413	PFC Brakes.....	817	World Resources Institute.....	H3
DCC Propane LLC.....	H14	Pro-Vision Video Systems.....	219	Zonar.....	F4
Easy Way Safety Services.....	500	Q'Straint/Sure-Lok.....	400	Zum Services.....	211

## Trade Show Exhibitors

All information is subject to change.  
Download the conference app for the latest information.

<b>247Security</b> .....	100
<a href="http://www.247securityinc.com">www.247securityinc.com</a>	
<b>4MATIV Technologies</b> .....	H9
<a href="http://www.4mativ.org">www.4mativ.org</a>	
<b>ADROIT Advanced Technologies</b> .....	H10
<a href="http://www.goadroit.com">www.goadroit.com</a>	
<b>AMF Bruns America</b> .....	700
<a href="http://www.amfbrunsamerica.com">www.amfbrunsamerica.com</a>	
<b>AngelTrax</b> .....	H4
<a href="http://www.angeltrax.com">www.angeltrax.com</a>	
<b>Auto-Jet Muffler</b> .....	119
<a href="http://www.auto-jet.com">www.auto-jet.com</a>	
<b>BatOnRoute - School Transport App</b> .....	709
<a href="http://www.batonroute.com">www.batonroute.com</a>	
<b>Beacon Mobility</b> .....	818
<a href="http://www.gobeacon.com">www.gobeacon.com</a>	
<b>Bergstrom</b> .....	719
<a href="http://www.bergstrominc.com">www.bergstrominc.com</a>	
<b>BESI</b> .....	200
<a href="http://www.besi-inc.com">www.besi-inc.com</a>	
<b>Bitimec Wash-Bots</b> .....	317
<a href="http://www.wash-bots.com">www.wash-bots.com</a>	
<b>Blue Bird</b> .....	613
<a href="http://www.blue-bird.com">www.blue-bird.com</a>	
<b>Bostech</b> .....	H8
<a href="http://www.bostechauto.com">www.bostechauto.com</a>	
<b>Bus Climate Control</b> .....	F14
<a href="http://www.bcc-hvac.com">www.bcc-hvac.com</a>	
<b>Bus Safety</b> .....	H13
<a href="http://www.bussafetysolutions.com">www.bussafetysolutions.com</a>	
<b>bushHive</b> .....	418
<a href="http://www.bushive.com">www.bushive.com</a>	
<b>BusPatrol America</b> .....	118
<a href="http://www.buspatrol.com">www.buspatrol.com</a>	
<b>BusPlanner</b> .....	801
<a href="http://www.busplanner.com">www.busplanner.com</a>	
<b>Bustrak</b> .....	H0
<a href="http://www.bustrakapp.com">www.bustrakapp.com</a>	
<b>Bytecurve</b> .....	416
<a href="http://www.bytecurve.com">www.bytecurve.com</a>	
<b>CalAmp</b> .....	108
<a href="http://www.calamp.com">www.calamp.com</a>	



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## Trade Show Exhibitors

<b>Certified Safety MFG</b> .....	H7
<a href="http://www.cerifiedsafetymgf.com">www.cerifiedsafetymgf.com</a>	
<b>CI Solutions</b> .....	F16
<a href="http://www.cardintegrators.com">www.cardintegrators.com</a>	
<b>Collaborative Student Transportation</b> .....	H12
<a href="http://www.drivecst.org">www.drivecst.org</a>	
<b>CowFartBus</b> .....	413
<a href="http://www.cowfartbus.com">www.cowfartbus.com</a>	
<b>DCC Propane</b> .....	H14
<a href="http://www.dccpropane.com">www.dccpropane.com</a>	
<b>Easy Way Safety Services</b> .....	500
<a href="http://www.ewss.org">www.ewss.org</a>	
<b>Education Logistics</b> .....	313
<a href="http://www.edulog.com">www.edulog.com</a>	
<b>EverDriven</b> .....	409
<a href="http://www.everdriven.com">www.everdriven.com</a>	
<b>EZ-ON Products</b> .....	619
<a href="http://www.ezonpro.com">www.ezonpro.com</a>	
<b>First Light Safety Products</b> .....	307
<a href="http://www.firstlightsafety.com">www.firstlightsafety.com</a>	
<b>First Student</b> .....	300
<a href="http://www.firststudentinc.com">www.firststudentinc.com</a>	
<b>Fleetsoft</b> .....	H11
<a href="http://www.fleet-maintenance.com">www.fleet-maintenance.com</a>	
<b>Fortress Mobile</b> .....	F2
<a href="http://www.fortressmobile.com">www.fortressmobile.com</a>	
<b>Gatekeeper Systems</b> .....	F15
<a href="http://www.gatekeeper-systems.com">www.gatekeeper-systems.com</a>	
<b>Heliox</b> .....	116
<a href="http://www.heliox-energy.com">www.heliox-energy.com</a>	
<b>HopSkipDrive</b> .....	319
<a href="http://www.hopskipdrive.com">www.hopskipdrive.com</a>	
<b>HSM Transportation Solutions</b> .....	507
<a href="http://www.hsmtransportation.com">www.hsmtransportation.com</a>	
<b>Huntington Distribution Finance</b> .....	508
<a href="http://www.huntingtondf.com">www.huntingtondf.com</a>	
<b>IC Bus</b> .....	103
<a href="http://www.icbus.com">www.icbus.com</a>	
<b>InCharge Energy</b> .....	H15
<a href="http://www.inchargeus.com">www.inchargeus.com</a>	
<b>Kajeet</b> .....	109
<a href="http://www.kajeet.com">www.kajeet.com</a>	



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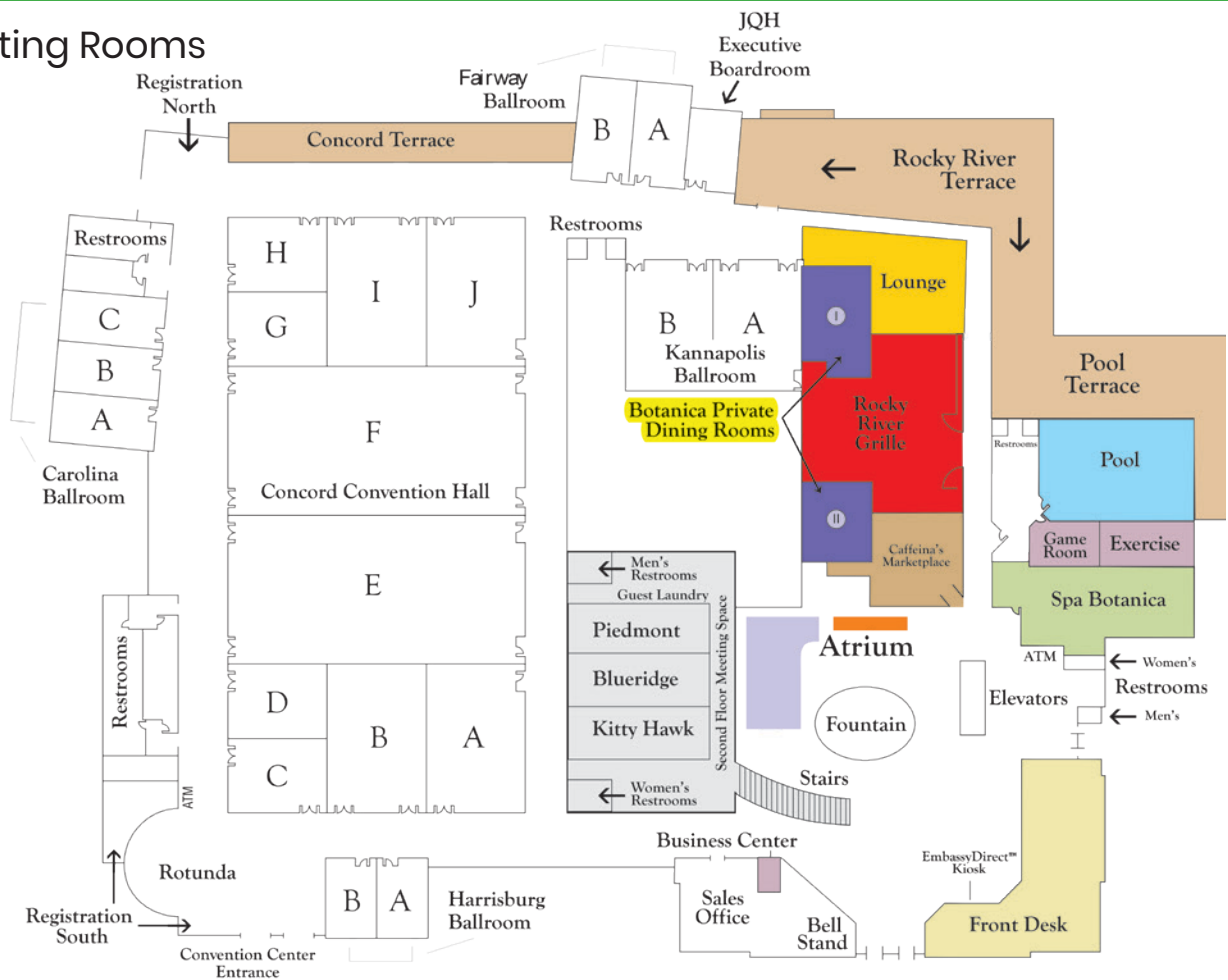
## Trade Show Exhibitors

<b>MicroBird</b> .....	514
www.microbird.com	
<b>MISCO Refractometer</b> .....	F11
www.misco.com	
<b>Model 1 Commercial Vehicles</b> .....	110
www.model1.com	
<b>NAPT</b> .....	H5
www.napt.org	
<b>Noregon Systems</b> .....	H6
www.noregon.com	
<b>O2 Cool Manufacturing</b> .....	419
www.o2coolmfg.com	
<b>Olympic Transportation</b> .....	407
www.RideOlympic.com	
<b>Optimal / Olathe Fleet Solutions</b> .....	F1
www.optimal-ev.com	
<b>Orbital Installation Technologies</b> .....	519
www.Orbitalinstalls.com	
<b>PFC Brakes</b> .....	817
www.pfcbrakes.com	
<b>Pro-Vision Video Systems</b> .....	219
www.provisionusa.com	
<b>Q'Straint/Sure-Lok</b> .....	400
www.qstraint.com	
<b>REI</b> .....	513
www.radioeng.com	
<b>RIDE</b> .....	113
www.ride.co	
<b>Rosco Vision</b> .....	809
www.roscovision.com	
<b>Safe Fleet</b> .....	608
www.safefleet.net	
<b>SafeGuard/IMMI</b> .....	F6
www.safeguardseat.com	
<b>Safety Brake Set</b> .....	F13
www.safetybrake.com	
<b>Safety Vision</b> .....	303
www.safetyvision.com	
<b>School Bus Safety Company</b> .....	218
www.schoolbussafetyco.com	
<b>School-Radio</b> .....	710
www.School-Radio.com	

<b>Scraper Systems</b> .....	F3
www.scraperstystems.com	
<b>SMART tag™</b> .....	F12
www.smart-tag.net	
<b>Student Transportation of America</b> .....	H2
www.ridesta.com	
<b>Syntech Systems</b> .....	209
www.Syntech Systems	
<b>Thomas Built Buses</b> .....	603
www.thomasbuiltbuses.com	
<b>Trans/Air Manufacturing</b> .....	210
www.transairmfg.com	
<b>TransAct Communications</b> .....	F7
www.transact.com	
<b>Transfinder</b> .....	403
www.transfinder.com	
<b>Transportant</b> .....	F10
www.transportant.com	
<b>Tyler Technologies</b> .....	503
www.Tylertech.com	
<b>United Safety and Survivability Corporation</b> .....	618
www.usscgroup.com	
<b>Velocitor Solutions</b> .....	510
www.vtrack.com	
<b>Verra Mobility</b> .....	819
www.verramobility.com	
<b>Via Student Transit</b> .....	H1
www.ridewithvia.comw	
<b>World Resources Institute</b> .....	H3
www.wri.org	
<b>Zonar</b> .....	F4
www.zonarsystems.com	
<b>Zum Services</b> .....	211
www.ridezum.com	

## Conference Meeting Rooms

### Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort & Spa



## STN EXPO East Registration Hours

(Subject to Change)

Embassy Suites | Registration South Rotunda

Thursday, March 20 | 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.

Friday, March 21 | 6:30 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Saturday, March 22 | 7 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Sunday, March 23 | 7:30 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Monday, March 24 | 7:30 A.M. – 4 P.M.

# IT'S HERE!

Join the School Transportation Nation podcast, as STN Publisher Tony Corpin and Editor-in-Chief Ryan Gray discuss the day's pertinent issues.

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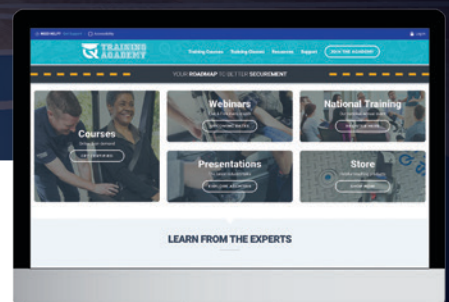
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