Final Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are open to all mayors and other officially invited guests. Accommodations and meeting services are located in the Hilton Washington, DC Capitol Hill.

March 1
Congressional Reception & Dinner, Sponsored by: FedEx
6:00pm – 6:30pm, Opening Reception, The Conrad Washington, DC, 950 New York Ave NW
Mayors may gather in the Hilton Capitol Hill lobby at 5:30pm to board buses for the dinner venue. Join Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons, and members of the U.S. Senate for a reception and dinner for the Mississippi River Caucus.

Presiding: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Greeting: Duple Travillion
Sr. State and Local Government Affairs Rep.
Federal Express

Hon. Melisa Logan
Mayor of Blytheville, AR

Remarks: The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
Incoming Mississippi River Caucus Co-Chair
United States Senate (AR)

6:30pm – 8:30pm, Dinner, The Conrad Washington, DC, 950 New York Ave NW
Mayors will welcome a new House Co-Chair of the Mississippi River Caucus and unveil their Policy Platform.

Presiding: Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair
Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Unveiling: MRCTI 2023 Federal Legislative Platform

Introduction: Hon. Dave Kleis
Mayor of St. Cloud, MN

Keynote: The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Mississippi River Caucus Co-Chair
United States Senate (MN)

Presentation: Sarah Dawn Petrin
Senior Director
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
March 2

Opening Plenary Breakfast: 2023 Farm Bill
8:00am – 9:30am, Charlie Palmers Main Dinning Room, 101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Buses will depart at 7:45am from the Hilton Capitol Hill to the breakfast venue close-by. Join Mayors, commodity groups, USDA, and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition for a panel discussion on the next Farm Bill and its implications for our cities.

Presiding:  Scott Maddasion, Mayor of Clinton, IA, MRCTI Iowa State Chair

Opening Remarks:  HON. JONI ERNST
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
United States Senate, (IA)

Introduction:  HON. DAN GIBSON
Mayor of Natchez, M

Remarks:  HON. LOUIS ASPEY
Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Presentation:  MIKE LAVENDER  ANDREW WALMSLEY
Policy Director  Senior Director, Government Affairs
Nat. Sustainable Ag Coalition  American Farm Bureau Federation

SESSION: U.S. Department of Transportation Infrastructure Act Roundtable
10:00am – 11:30am, U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters, 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Mayors and guests will engage a high-level U.S. DOT Roundtable regarding accessing some of the most valuable Bipartisan Infrastructure Act programs for MRCTI Cities.

Moderating:  Cliff Berry, Mayor of Tiptonville, TN, MRCTI Tennessee State Chair

Welcome:  CHARLES SMALL
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Government Affairs, Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

Roundtable:  KALA WRIGHT  SABRINA MCNEAL
Director of External Affairs  Office of Government Affairs
Plenary Lunch: Resilience and Adaptation Spending, Sponsored by: Arnold & Porter
12:00pm – 1:45pm, Arnold & Porter Offices, 601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Mayors and guests will be treated to Arnold & Porter’s incredible space near mid-town Washington, DC overlooking the convention center.
Presiding: Theron Smith, Mayor of New Roads, LA
Welcome: JAMES KIM
Partner
Arnold & Porter
Keynote: DR. CORY WIGGINS
Federal Co-Chair
Delta Regional Authority
Introduction: JENNY WENDT
Campaign Manager, Plastic Pollution Reduction
Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative
Update: NENA SHAW
Director, Resource Conservation & Sustainability Division
U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery

SESSION: Infrastructure and Progress of the Jobs Act and IRA
2:00pm – 4:00pm, Arnold & Porter Offices, 601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Mayors will join organizations tracking vital categories of spending in the Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction for a discussion on best techniques to position cities for funding.
Moderating: Brad Cavanagh, Mayor of Dubuque, IA
Infrastructure Panel: DEIRDRE FINN
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
ANGIE KRONENBERG
President
Internet & Competitive Networks Association (INCOMPAS)
Conversation and Dinner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
6:00pm – 9:00pm, Atrium Ballroom, Hilton Capitol Hill, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Mayors will be joined by leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army for this annual but critical discussion on the status of Corps work along America’s Main Street.

6:00pm – 6:30pm, Reception Welcoming Guests
Presiding: Phil Stang, Mayor of Kimmswick, MO, MRCTI Missouri State Chair

Partnership: EDWARD BELK
Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters

6:30pm – 9:00pm, Dinner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Presiding: George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Mississippi State Chair

Update: HON. DAVID MAURSTAD
Associate Administrator of Resilience
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Introduction: HON. BELINDA CONSTANT
Mayor of Gretna, LA
MRCTI Louisiana State Chair

Announcement: SASKIA PARDAANS
Senior Advisor on Infrastructure and Water Management
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Keynote: MR. JAIME PINKHAM
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Army

March 3
Closing Breakfast: Working with the U.S. EPA to Tap the Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act
Sponsored by: The US Chamber of Commerce
8:00am – 9:30am, US Chamber of Commerce, Lee Anderson Veterans Center, 1615 H St., NW
MRCTI and the US Chamber host a breakfast with the Department of the Interior and U.S. EPA on land, water, and equity in the Jobs Act. Mayors and guests may gather in the lobby of the Hilton Capitol Hill to board buses for the breakfast venue at 7:15am.

Presiding: Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA
David Goins, Mayor of Alton, IL

Welcome: PETER FADOUN
Manager, Sustainability & Circular Economy Program
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Mayors’ Visit to the White House (Mayors and city staff only)
10:30am – 12:00pm, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
This high-level engagement hosted by the White House is an opportunity for MRCTI Mayors to directly discuss the IRA with the principal architects of its implementation.

Presiding:  
Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN, MRCTI Co-Chair  
Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair

Introduction:  
HON. EVAN WESSEL  
Special Assistant to the President  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
The White House  

HON. JULIE RODRIGUEZ  
Assistant to the President  
Director of IGA  
The White House

Remarks:  
HON. JOHN PODESTA  
Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Advisor to the President on IRA Implementation  
The White House

Presentation:  
CRYSTAL BERGEMANN  
Senior Director, Council on Env. Quality  
The White House  

HON. ALI ZAIDI  
National Climate Advisor  
The White House

12:00pm – Adjourn
Hotel Information

Rooms are available at a reduced rate within the currently being updated Hilton Washington, DC Capitol Hill (pictured below), 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Reservations can be made by calling 202-628-2100, ask for the block under Mississippi River Cities & Towns.