

# 2026 Great Lakes Expo

## May 20th – 21st

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Tuesday, May 19

- 11:30 am - 6:00 pm Golf Outing - 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
- 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Wine Tour – details to follow
- 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm YP Welcome Reception

#### Wednesday, May 20

- 7:00 am - 8:00 am MI-APWA Registration Open
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 8:30 am Annual Meeting/Branch President & Past President Awards
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am MML Update – John LaMacchia
- 9:30 am - 11:00 am Keynote Speaker — Angie Morgan – former Marine Captain and New York Times Best-Selling Author  
Angie is a leadership expert who helps leaders become “The Actual” in their lives. She provides strategies for achieving personal and professional growth while empowering individuals to lead authentically and create lasting impact. In addition, Angie’s approach helps leaders overcome self-doubt while embracing their strengths. Angie is the author of three books: “Leading from the Front,” “Spark,” and “Bet on You.”
- 11:00 am – 4:30 pm Vendor Floor Open
- 11:00 am – 11:30 am Break, Visit Exhibitors
- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Concurrent Sessions
  - Fleet – PROVING SUCCESS WITH PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS
    - Preventative maintenance programs are essential to maximizing fleet uptime, reducing lifecycle costs, and improving operational reliability—but their success must be measurable. Explore practical methods for implementing and tracking maintenance strategies that demonstrate real performance outcomes. Attendees will gain actionable insights on how to validate program effectiveness with results that support safety, budget planning, and long-term asset management.

- Management – H2S OPTIMIZATION & CORROSION PREVENTION
  - This presentation walks through how White Lake Township identified, measured, and successfully reduced dangerously high hydrogen sulfide levels in a low-pressure force main system originally never designed for year-round use. Attendees will learn how a proactive, biology-based strategy protected infrastructure, improved worker safety, and restored community confidence - without costly system redesign.
  
- Operations – CROSS CONNECTIONS, CROSS BUDGETS & CLEAR SOLUTIONS
  - Michigan’s Public Act 399, Part 14 requires residential cross-connection control—but offers no funding to make it happen. This session helps Public Works Directors bridge that gap with creative budgeting, phased implementation, and partnership approaches that balance compliance with fiscal reality. Participants will gain practical strategies and real-world examples for building a sustainable, affordable program that protects both water quality and municipal resources.

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm      Lunch on Exhibit Floor

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm      Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – EMISSIONS UPDATE
  - Emission regulation update for on-highway equipment. Including the latest government regulation landscape and product update.
  
- Management – NAVIGATING ACO’s: EGLE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS
  - Many public works professionals understand the difficulty of responding to violation notices and ACOs from state regulators. Dan Bock is a Senior Attorney in the Water Resources Group of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, and before that he spent 17 years as EGLE's attorney. This presentation will offer insight into the enforcement process and the best approach to responding to enforcement communications.
  
- Operations – ARE YOU LISTENING? COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS
  - Former APWA National President Keith Pugh shares practical insights on communicating infrastructure priorities and budget realities to elected officials. Drawing on real-world experience, Keith explores how to craft compelling messages, navigate council dynamics, and use data and storytelling to foster understanding and support. You will learn strategies for delivering difficult news, maintaining productive relationships, and becoming confident, influential advocates for their Public Works departments.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm      Break, Visit Exhibitors

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm          Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet –INTERNATIONAL S13/T14 INTEGRATED POWERTRAIN
  
- Management – ASK ME ANYTHING – TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
  - Interactive presentation that includes FAQs from communities regarding various topics such as: Can I change/ reduce the speed limit on this road? Can I install a Stop sign at this intersection? Are Road Diets dangerous? Also, it will provide a forum for attendees to submit their own questions to be answered real-time in the presentation, similar to a Reddit AMA.
  
- Operations – MDOT’s TRANSPORTATION WORKER – WORK ELEMENT PROGRAM
  - Developed to provide a method for classifying employees according to the employee's knowledge, skill, and abilities along with work elements that each employee can effectively perform. Work Elements have been developed for several different operations and equipment and earning an element may require a designated amount of time performing the element function, taking a specified training, passing an exam, or demonstrating the skill to a superior. The Work Element Program provides for placement, reallocation, and promotion, based on demonstrated individual capabilities from the TMW 6 through TMW 9 levels.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm          Social Hour on Exhibit Floor

Wednesday evening is on your own

**Thursday, May 21**

7:30 am – 8:30 am          Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:30 am - 2:00 pm          Exhibit Floor Open

8:30 am – 9:30 am          Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – FUNDAMENTALS FOR PUBLISHING EQUIPMENT STANDARDS
  - Begin with the end in mind to prevent "change orders". Defining what you want/need. Clarity for equipment spec wiring. Integrating equipment to the chassis.
  
- Management – CITY OF MT CLEMENS CONNECTION TO GLWA WATER SYSTEM
  - This presentation highlights the intensive coordination required to manage SRF funding, multi-community stakeholders, and complex permitting under a compressed state schedule. Attendees will gain insights into the planning and construction hurdles of this major infrastructure shift slated for 2028 completion.

- Operations – TRACKING DEARBORN’S \$90M LEAD SERVICE LINE MONSTER
  - The City received a Drinking Water Asset Management grant (DWAM) to help accelerate and improve its inventory, prediction, and communication of lead services. The session will cover how the City maximized the grant funds to inspect pipe materials, digitize old records, and manage all of the data in the Asset Management system. We will also cover how Machine Learning was used to improve the prediction of unknown materials, saving the City more than \$4M of field verifications and finally showcase the on-line platform developed to communicate with customers in an open and transparent manner in a multi-lingual community.

9:30 am – 10:00 am      Break, Visit Exhibitors

10:00 am - 11:00 am      Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – VACTOR MAINTENANCE
  
- Management – INCORPORATING ADA ACCESSIBILITY INTO PARKS & TRAILS
  - This session offers strategies and best practices for learning how to assess existing infrastructure, identify key accessibility standards to incorporate into project to make grants more competitive, and implement practical, cost-effective solutions, while also identifying when it might be appropriate to incorporate universal design principles. We'll show some case studies within Grand Traverse County and/or Saginaw County Parks that were identified in their ADA Transition Plan and then implemented. Create and activate equitable, safe, and enjoyable parks and trails that are welcoming and inclusive.
  
- Operations – YOUR STAFF ARE ASSETS: RETAINING KNOWLEDGE AFTER RETIREMENT
  - This session equips Maintenance Superintendents with practical strategies to protect workforce and infrastructure through modern asset management. You will learn to navigate the challenges of aging workforces and legacy systems by formalizing maintenance practices to preserve institutional knowledge and streamline operations. Through real-world case studies, the presentation demonstrates how documenting expertise strengthens capital planning and builds resilient, efficient teams.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm      Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – AUTOCAR ACX (Refuse/Recycling Application)
  
- Management – THE MODERN SIDEWALK PROGRAM
  - Focusing on what makes up a successful and efficient sidewalk programs today and going into the future. What changes are happening in Michigan that municipalities need to be aware of when it comes to sidewalks.

- Operations – PRACTICAL GIS SOLUTIONS FOR DAY TO DAY DPW ACTIVITIES
  - Emphasis will be made on the collection and preservation of various forms of data, ensuring useful and practical data is preserved for the DPW employees of today and tomorrow. Additional topics will include dashboards for public data consumption and project specific field applications for cemetery management and sidewalk replacement activities.

Noon - 2:00 pm Lunch with Exhibitors

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – SWEEP CAROLINE: STREET SWEEPER TECH REVIEW
  - A comparative analysis of street sweepers. Mechanical vs. regenerative, environmental impact, and selecting the right sweeper for the job.
  
- Management – TRAINING FOR CONSISTENCY & SAFETY
  - This session will show you how to capture what your experienced team members actually know, transform it into repeatable systems, and ensure every person has the opportunity to safely do the job. You'll discover practical methods to standardize training that protects your people, reduces your risk, and preserves decades of hard-won expertise before it's gone forever.
  
- Operations – FULL-DEPTH RECLAMATION: SUSTAINABLE, COSTS-EFFECTIVE ROAD REHABILITATION
  - FDR stabilizes failing roads in place by recycling the existing pavement and base into a strong, stable foundation. Attendees will be able to identify the principles and processes of FDR, compare FDR to overlays, reconstruction, and other repair methods, and evaluate the benefits of implementing an FDR program in their communities.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

- Fleet – THE RIGHT NOZZLE FOR THE JOB
  - Advanced Pipe Cleaning with Jack Doheny Company dives into the how and why behind clearing debris and other materials out of the pipe. This session will cover step cleaning methods and how to choose the correct nozzle and set up for specific applications.
  
- Management – MICHIGAN INFRASTRUCTURE 30-YEAR INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
  - The Michigan Infrastructure Council's (MIC) 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy is the first comprehensive infrastructure plan for the State of Michigan. During the presentation, MIC will outline key strategic actions and highlight Michigan's unique opportunity to become a national leader in integrated infrastructure management. This will be achieved by fostering coordination and collaboration across both public and private infrastructure sectors.

- Operations – THE EVOLUTION OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT
  - This session will start with the history of where we have been and where we are going with waste management. We will highlight the pivotal changes in the industry and current practices in managing waste sustainably. We will close with some recommendations and innovative options to take care of waste material

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm      Cocktails

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm      Awards Presentation

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm      Banquet & Dueling Pianos