

# PROGRAM | 2025 MN Fall Expo Educational Sessions/Curriculum | St. Cloud, Minnesota

## Day 1, Wednesday, October 1, 2025

7:00a.m. Registration/Check-in, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits

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8:30a.m. – 9:15a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Lunchroom **Winter Maintenance Best Practices – An Interactive Session**  
**Steven R. Clark, Senior Product Manager, EnviroTech Services**

This presentation will share operational lessons learned from years of experience, explore use of equipment and deicing products, and explain the science and benefits of an environmentally sustainable anti-icing/deicing program. Attendees will engage in real-time polls and quizzes via cell phones to assess current practices, compare solutions, and exchange insights. Bring your phone and be ready to contribute to an informative, collaborative discussion.

Mechanics Bay **Fueling the Future: Renewable Options for Diesel Engines**  
**Lisa Pedderson, President, MEG Corp**

Explore low carbon, renewable fuel options for diesel fleets, including the use of higher biodiesel blends, renewable diesel, and the Optimus Technologies advanced B100 fuel system. Learn best practices for diesel fuel storage and handling to maintain quality and performance year-round. The session will also cover key steps to prepare diesel fuel for winter conditions and ensure fleet reliability in cold weather.

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9:30a.m. – 10:15a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Lunchroom **OPERA-Funded Rotating Tine Sod Mulcher/Reclaimer for Gravel Roads**  
**Nicollet County Public Works: Mike Suska, Assistant Public Works Director | Devron Havemeier, Maintenance Supervisor | Kyle Peterson, Shop Foreman, HEO (Blade Operator) | Nick Krueger, Shop Foreman, Mechanic (Tiller Operator) |**

Learn about the development, proposal submission, and successful rollout of Nicollet County's latest project designed to speed up the reclaiming process, improve public perception, and benefit overall road design. Get insight into the OPERA program's submission and approval process, and how the funding can benefit your agency's next project.

Mechanics Bay **Preparing for Winter Weather in Minnesota**  
**Nicholas Carletta, Lead Forecaster, National Weather Service**

Of all the seasons in Minnesota, winter has the biggest impact on surface transportation, with snow, ice, high winds, blowing snow, and extremely cold temperatures all contributing to these impacts. This presentation will discuss the types of winter weather hazards we experience in Minnesota, an overview of how forecasts are prepared, and how you can use National Weather Service products to be better prepared for winter weather.

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10:30a.m. – 12:00p.m. General Session

Mechanics Bay **From Hire to Retire**  
**Stacy Martin, Outreach & Education Specialist, PERA**

This session is designed for new PERA members, those who are close to retirement, and everyone in between. The PERA pension is discussed in detail, including how it fits into an overall retirement plan. PERA's pension benefit options, life changes that affect PERA, decisions members must make, the retirement application process, and self-service tools are highlighted.

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12:00 p.m. Lunch, Education Session & Expo Door Prize Drawings

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## Day 2, Thursday, October 2, 2025

7:00a.m Registration/Check-in, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits

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8:30a.m. – 9:30a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Lunchroom **Using Technology and Best Practices to Achieve a Sustainable Chloride Solution**  
***Shannon Holland, Salt Sustainability Coordinator, MnDOT***  
Find out how the use of technology and best practices help minimize the environmental impacts of winter operations. Take a look into chemical usage and selection, the chemistry behind the materials, and how they perform in the field.

Mechanics Bay **Verbal De-Escalation Toolbox: Winning with your Words**  
***Matt LeTourneau, Training & Development Specialist, MnDOT District 7 - Mankato***  
In this session, participants will learn about the cycle of escalation, develop greater self-awareness regarding factors that might contribute to increasing the temperature of the situation, and learn multiple takeaways they can use to help cool and calm a heated engagement.

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9:45a.m. – 10:45a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Lunchroom **Wake Up to Winter: Safer Surfaces Through Design**  
***Connie Fortin, Senior Project Manager, Bolton & Menk***  
Does your community consider winter factors in development/redevelopment? Designing for snow, blowing snow, and meltwater sprawl can take pressure off of the winter maintenance crews as these spaces will perform better in cold climates. Join us in exploring Low Salt Design!

Mechanics Bay **Understanding Basic Minnesota Truck Weight Regulations**  
***Tom Nelson, Technical Program Manager and Instructor***  
***Paul Robischon, Instructor/Portable Scale Weighing***  
During this session, attendees will be given basic knowledge regarding Minnesota weight laws. Information and explanations on how to determine legal weight limits on vehicle configurations will be presented. Attendees will gain a basic understanding of how to transport loads legally and safely, thus extending the life of Minnesota's road infrastructure.

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11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. General Session

Mechanics Bay **Commercial Vehicle Regulations**  
***Minnesota State Patrol Education Outreach Personnel***  
Join the Minnesota State Patrol to learn about commercial vehicle regulations. Discuss common issues with regulations, enforcement, and load securement, and take the opportunity to ask your questions during the Q&A.

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12:00 p.m. *Lunch, Education Session & Expo Door Prize Drawings, Rodeo and Skid Steer Results.*