

Best of the



2025

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

10:00AM-4:00PM *Conference Registration/Check-In*

Burkhart Pre-function Space, Lower Level

10:00AM-12:30PM *Conquer Your Questions:* Join industry experts to discuss a variety of topics including: DBE Updates, 2 CRF, 5311 Invoice Overview and OIG Investigations
*Emerson Burkhart A, Lower Level **Please note: You must pre-register for this class [here](#).*

9:00AM-3:00PM *Mobility Management Mini-Conference (By Invite Only)*
Hopkins Room, Lobby Level

1:00PM-3:00PM *Procurement Training Session sponsored by NEORide*
*Emerson Burkhart B, Lower Level **Please note: You must pre-register for this class [here](#).*

1:00PM-3:00PM *See Something, Say Something:* Join Assistant Chief Fire Investigator and Hazmat Technician Instructor, Doug Hobson, to discuss how situational awareness can save you from dangerous items and scenarios found in public transit.
Emerson Burkhart A, Lower Level

4:00PM-4:45PM *OPTA November Board Meeting & Annual Election of 2026 Officers*
Emerson Burkhart A, Lower Level

5:00PM-7:00PM *OPTA Welcome Reception, PINS Mechanical*
(141 N. 4th St., Columbus, OH 43215)

All guests are invited to enjoy food, drinks and games, courtesy of OPTA. A complimentary shuttle will be provided by TESCO from the Hilton. Complimentary parking is also available in Lot 403 (corner of N. 3rd St. and E. Spring St.)

You do NOT need to check-in at registration prior to attending this event. No badges will be needed to enter.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

7:30AM-4:00PM *Welcome Station and Registration*

George Bellows Pre-function Space, Lower Level

continued on next page



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

8:30AM-9:30AM **Opening Breakfast Reception with Keynote Dr. Andrea Mata**

The Human Edge: Building Relationships and Grit in an AI Driven World
George Bellows Ballroom, Lower Level
Books available for purchase

A full hot breakfast will be served beginning at 8AM outside of the George Bellows Ballroom

9:40AM-10:40AM **Educational Sessions**

Emerson Burkhart Room A, Emerson Burkhart Room B, George Bellows E, George Bellows F

10:00AM-4:00PM **Maintenance One-Day Track (Hands on Learning):** A hands-on learning experience for maintenance techs and supervisors. Tickets are \$75. *Expo Hall B, Greater Columbus Convention Center (Registration on Zeffy)*

10:50AM-11:50AM **Educational Sessions**

Emerson Burkhart Room A, Emerson Burkhart Room B, George Bellows E, George Bellows F

12:00PM-1:30PM **2025 OPTA Excellence Awards Luncheon**

A full plated meal will be served. Individual tickets available for \$75.
George Bellows Ballroom

1:30PM-2:15PM **Headshot Studio**

Update your headshot for LinkedIn with a professional photographer courtesy of OPTA. First come, first served. Pre-function space.

1:40PM-2:30PM **Educational Sessions**

Emerson Burkhart Room A, Emerson Burkhart Room B, George Bellows E, George Bellows F

2:00PM-2:05PM **EXPO Ribbon Cutting**

Officially open the Expo! Outside of Expo Hall B, Greater Columbus Convention Center

2:00PM-5:00PM **Exhibitor EXPO:** Interact with 70+ vendors and view 20+ vehicles in the Expo Hall. Micro-sessions (15-30) classes will also be available within the hall. Complementary food and drinks also available!

TBD-Close

TESCO After-Hours Annual Bash
More details forthcoming



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

8:00AM-10:00AM *Registration Table*
Burkhart Pre-function Space

9:00AM-9:45AM *OPTA Committee Meetings*
George Bellows A, George Bellows B, George Bellows E, George Bellows F

10:00AM-11:00AM *Closing Brunch Reception with Paul Mellor*
In the Driver's Seat to a Better Memory
George Bellows Ballroom
A full hot brunch will be served outside of the George Bellows Ballroom starting at 9:30AM.

11:10AM-12:00PM *Educational Sessions*
George Bellows A, George Bellows B, George Bellows E, George Bellows F

12:00-12:30PM *Grab and Go Snack Options*

CONFERENCE CLOSES
See you next year!

ITEMS TO NOTE:

The closest conference parking is available for pay in the Vine St. Self-Park lot connected to the Hilton (Tower 401). The garage opens directly into the LL, where most of the conference occurs.

Day of registration will NOT be accepted, we apologize.

Only full conference passes are sold (OPTA Members: \$275, Non-OPTA Members: \$375) and can be purchased [here](#).

There is a pedestrian skybridge connecting the Convention Center to the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

ALL are welcome to attend the EXPO for FREE, no registration required. Please share with procurement professionals!

