



# 2025 MRCTI / GLSCI Joint Capitol Meeting Washington, DC

## All Our Work Comes Into Focus



# MRCTI



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE  
CITIES INITIATIVE**

**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**

DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

## 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 Phoenix Park Hotel unless otherwise stated.

### March 5

#### **Trade Reception with the Canadian Embassy, *Sponsored by: the Embassy of Canada***

**6:00pm – 7:30pm, Opening Reception, Canadian Embassy, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW**

*Mayors may gather in the Phoenix Park lobby at 5:30pm to board buses for the embassy.*

Join Mayors of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes for a reception with Canadian Mission Officials.

*Presiding: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair  
George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair*

*Welcome: HER EXCELLENCY KIRSTEN HILLMAN  
Canadian Ambassador to the United States  
Embassy of Canada*



*Remarks: CRYSTAL M.C. DAVIS  
Midwest Senior Regional Director  
National Parks Conservation Association*

**8:00pm – 9:00pm, Mayors' Post-Reception Dinner, Carmine's Italian Restaurant, 425 7th Street, NW at E St**  
Mayors will adjourn from the embassy for a welcome dinner to preview highlights of the Capitol Meeting.

*Presiding: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair  
George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair*

*Greeting:* HON. GINO MORETTI Mayor of Saint Anicet, QC  
GLSLCI Co-Chair

HON. MAT SISCOE Mayor of St. Catharines, ON

*Update:* JAMAL LEWIS Director of Policy Partnerships  
Rewiring America

MARK KUDLOWITZ Senior Policy Director  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation

March 6

**Emerging Issues Opening Breakfast – Recovery Funds Update, *Sponsored by: SmithGroup***

8:00am – 9:30am, Georgian Room, Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 N Capital Street, NW

Mayors will review objectives for the Capitol Meeting and their day on the Hill with inspiration from experts on top growing issues across Mid-America.

*Presiding:* Jerry Koch, Mayor of Coon Rapids, MN, MRCTI Minnesota State Chair

*Welcome:* MARK WAGSTAFF  
Principal, *SmithGroup*

*Remarks:* TRACY MEHAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
American Waterworks Association

*Partnership:* KIM NELSON  
Chief Operating Officer  
True Elements

**Concurrent House and Senate Meetings (Mayors and city staff only)**

10:00am – 12:00pm, House & Senate Offices, Capitol Hill

*Mayors will be escorted from the breakfast venue to the offices for these bilateral meetings.*

HON. RICK CRAWFORD (2422 RHOB, 10:30 am)  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives (AR)  
*Moderating: Mayor Melisa Logan*

HON. CINDY HYDE-SMITH (702 HSOB, 9:30 am)  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate (MS)  
*Moderating: Mayor George Flaggs*

OFC OF HON. JASON SMITH (1011 LHOB, 11:30 am)  
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means  
U.S. House of Representatives (MO)  
*Moderating: Mayor Nick White*

OFC OF SEN. BILL CASSIDY (455 DSOB, 10:30 am)  
Chair, Senate on H.E.L.P. Committee  
United States Senate (LA)  
*Moderating: Mayor Buz Craft*

**Capitol Hill Lunch, Policy Platform Unveiling, *Sponsored by: America is All In*** (open to all)

12:15pm – 1:30pm, Capitol Visitor’s Center, Rm 208-209

Mayors will unveil their 2025 Federal Policy Platform to members of Congress and leadership of the Senate Mississippi River Caucus. Mayors will also highlight successes of infrastructure deployment.

*Presiding:* *Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair*  
*Marcus Muhammad, Mayor of Benton Harbor, MI, Cities Initiative, Co-Chair*

*Fireside Chat:* HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
United States Senate (IL) HON. SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD  
Mayor of Mount Vernon, NY

*Introductions:* HON. HOLLIES WINSTON  
Mayor of Brooklyn Park, MN

*Greeting:* HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senate (MN)

*Panel:* Progress Made on Deployment of Plastic Pollution Infrastructure  
HON. ERRICK SIMMONS HON. MELISA LOGAN  
Mayor of Greenville, MS Mayor of Blytheville, AR  
MRCTI Immediate Past Co-Chair MRCTI Arkansas State Director  
  
JENNIFER WENDT  
MRCTI, Clean Water Program Di

**Mayors’ Press Conference: Trade, Vital Programs, and the ROI of Investing in Cities**

2:00pm – 2:30pm, 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, First Floor (accessed via 12th and E)

*Buses will pick-up Mayors at the Monument to Peace ellipse, west face of Capitol, Senate side*

Mayors will detail impacts of Administration policy shifts plus discuss top policy goals for 2025..

*Presiding:* *Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair*  
*George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS, MRCTI Co-Chair*

*Overview:* HON. MELISA LOGAN  
Mayor of Blytheville, AR  
MRCTI Arkansas State Chair

*Opportunity:* HON. HOLLIES WINSTON HON. NICK WHITE  
Mayor of Brooklyn Park, MN Mayor of New Madrid, MO

**SESSION I: Federal Agency Roundtable – Water, Infrastructure, and Conservation**

3:00pm – 4:00pm, Location 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, First Floor (accessed via 12th and E)  
Mayors will discuss the value-added to economic development and resilience from EPA and USDA activities that assist and prioritize for global commodity supply chain and manufacturing.

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

*Remarks:* JENNIFER MCLAIN  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GROUND WATER & DRINKING WATER  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*Remarks:* REPRESENTATIVE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

*Receiving:* WILLIAM K. PAAPE  
Associate Administrator, Office of Ports & Waterways  
Maritime Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation

**SESSION II: Industry Roundtable – Mayors, industry leaders discuss North American Trade**

4:00pm – 5:00pm, Location 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, First Floor (accessed via 12th and E)  
This roundtable will provide a timely forum for mayors and industry leaders to discuss expanding North American trade and solidifying mutual export interests.

*Presiding:* Mitch Reynolds, Mayor of La Crosse, WI, MRCTI Co-Chair  
Gino Moretti, Mayor of Saint Anicet, QC, GLSLCI Co-Chair

*Discussion:* ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

**Dinner with Global Partners, Sponsored by: America Is All In**

6:30pm – 9:00pm, Capitol Visitor's Center, Rm 208-209

*Mayors may gather in the Phoenix Park lobby at 6:00pm to proceed to the Capitol*

Mayors will be joined by leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as international delegations representing close partnership countries for an added discussion on global commodities and transformative adaptation.

6:30pm – 7:00pm, Reception Welcoming Guests

*Presiding:* Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA  
Stéphane Boyer, Mayor of Laval, QC

7:00pm – 9:00pm, Dinner with Global Partners and U.S. Department of Transportation

*Presiding:* George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS

*Remarks:* TONY FISHER  
Deputy Administrator  
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation  
U.S. Department of Transportation

*Presentation:* River Basins Across the World Working Together Toward Sustainable Trade

MR. GILBERTO TORO	VICTOR R. SHINDE, PHD	LINDA DEBASSIGE
Executive Director	Head, Climate Centre	Grand Council Chief
Colombian Federation of Municipalities	Republic of India	Anishinabek Nation

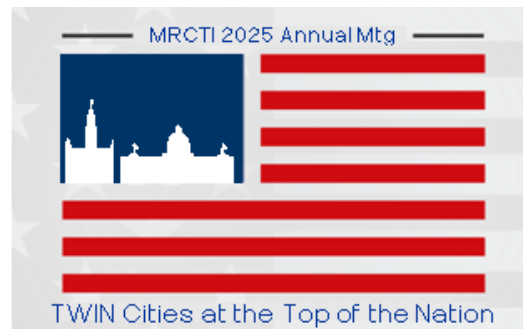
*Signing:* Memorandum of Common Purpose with Colombian Federation of Municipalities

HON. LIONEL JOHNSON	MR. GILBERTO TORO
Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA	Executive Director
	Colombian Federation of Municipalities

*Recognition:* HON. PHIL STANG  
Mayor of Kimmswick, MO  
MRCTI Missouri State Chair

HON. MITCH REYNOLDS  
Mayor of La Crosse, WI  
MRCTI Co-Chair

*2025 Annual Mtg:* Hon. Jerry Koch  
Mayor of Coon Rapids, MN  
MRCTI Minnesota State Chair



March 7

**Closing Breakfast: MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board – Our Shared Caretaker Mandate**

***Sponsored by: Niagara Cares***

8:00am – 9:30am, Residence of the French Ambassador to the U.S., 2221 Kalorama Rd, NW

Mayors may gather in the Phoenix Park lobby at 7:00 am to board buses for the embassy.

Mayors can work to change their cities within for both local and global opportunities. Mayors bring together resources and enterprises at home and abroad with corporate and international partners.

*Presiding:*     *Erick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS*  
                  *Bruno Marchand, Mayor of La Ville De Québec, QC*



**Embassy of France/  
Ambassade du France**

*Welcome:*     HIS EXCELLENCY LAURENT BILI  
                  French Ambassador to the United States  
                  Embassy of France to the U.S.

<i>Introduction:</i> CODY SELLERS	TIM HIGHTOWER
Director, Charter/Marine Operations	CEO
Viking River Cruises	Deconstruction Dev. Partners
MRCTI Corporate Advisory Board Chair	MRCTI CAB Vice Chair

*Panel:*         Local Action to Global Engagement on Plastic Pollution

HON. MITCH REYNOLDS  
Mayor of La Crosse, WI

ANTHONY TUSINO  
Director of Public Policy & Govt Affairs,  
The Recycling Partnership



**Mayors' Visit to the White House (Limited Mayors)**

10:30am – 12:00 pm, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Mayors will outline major policy priorities for the new Administration to realize the most return on investment into the built and natural infrastructure of the continents freshwater systems.

<i>Introduction:</i> HON. JERRY KOCH	HON. AUSTIN BONTA
Mayor of Coon Rapids, MN	Mayor of Portage, IN
MRCTI	GLSCI

<i>Priorities:</i> HON. MELISA LOGAN	HON. Mat Siscoe
Mayor of Blytheville, AR	Mayor of St. Catharines, ON
Hon. Buz Craft	Hon. Valerie Plante
Mayor of Vidalia, LA	Mayor of Montreal, QC

Discussion: HON. Alex Meyer  
Director  
White House Office of IGA

HON. CHRISTINE GLASSNER  
Deputy Director  
White House Office of IGA

12:00pm – Adjourn

## Hotel Information

Rooms are available at a reduced rate at the Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill (pictured below), 520 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Reservations can be made through the MRCTI conference page at [www.mrcti.org](http://www.mrcti.org)

