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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RTA to Hold 107th Annual Conference in San Antonio, Oct. 20–23, 2025

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) has announced that its 107th Annual Conference will take place Oct. 20–23, 2025, at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas.

The event will bring together industry professionals from across the wood crosstie supply chain for three days of educational sessions, market updates, and networking opportunities in the heart of downtown San Antonio directly on the scenic Riverwalk.

Held annually, the RTA Conference serves all segments of the wood tie industry—from railroad engineers and procurement leaders to sawmillers, treating professionals, allied partners, and scientists. The 2025 program will feature a wide range of presentations focused on key industry topics, including:

- ☐ The Railroad Engineering Session, where railroads will present updates on major engineering projects with an emphasis on their continued reliance on wood crossties as a key component of track infrastructure.
- ☐ Governmental and legislative updates affecting transportation and forest products
- ☐ Tie end-of-life solutions and ongoing sustainability efforts.
- ☐ The Hardwood Marketplace Perspectives session, offering insight into current hardwood supply challenges and market trends.
- ☐ A Short Line and Regional Railroad panel, addressing funding and operational priorities.



- The highly anticipated Class I Railroad Procurement Session, which provides a forward look at capital expenditures and wood tie purchasing plans.

New in 2025 is the Innovations Luncheon, a dedicated session designed to spotlight emerging technologies and creative approaches being applied within the wood tie sector. This luncheon will feature short, high-impact presentations and provide a forum for discussion on advancements in inspection tools, treatment methods, and tie performance monitoring.

In addition to the formal programming, the conference includes structured opportunities for networking. Daily breakfasts and luncheons in the exhibit hall, as well as evening networking receptions, are designed to facilitate meaningful conversations and business development. Private meeting rooms near the ballroom will also be available for those who need space for formal face-to-face meetings during the event.

The RTA Conference also offers a variety of optional small-group activities—ideal for attendees looking to explore San Antonio’s unique culture or for guests who want to participate in conference week. These experiences are available by pre-registration and space is limited. Options include a golf tournament at the Quarry Golf Course, a Spanish tile-making workshop and brunch for spouses and guests, a guided culinary tour of the historic Pearl District, and a Hill Country winery excursion with a stop in the charming town of Boerne, Texas. Each experience is designed to encourage camaraderie and make the most of the region’s offerings.

With the increasing demand for sustainable solutions and evolving purchasing approaches, hardwood professionals are encouraged to attend and engage with customers and end-users of their products. Attendees will gain valuable perspective on what the railroads need, how treating operations are evolving, and how market pressures are influencing tie demand. The conference presents a timely opportunity for anyone in the hardwood supply chain to stay informed, visible, and connected.

RTA Executive Director Dr. Nate Irby emphasized the importance of hardwood industry participation. “Hardwood producers and processors play a critical role in the success of the wood crosstie market,” he said. “This event offers a chance to engage directly with the railroads that rely on hardwood ties, stay informed on evolving procurement needs, and understand the broader market dynamics influencing tie production.”

Founded in 1919, the Railway Tie Association serves as the central resource for wood crosstie research, education, and best practices. The association supports its members



through technical guidance, data analysis, outreach, advocacy, and educational events. Its annual conference is the leading national event dedicated specifically to the wood tie market and its relationship with the freight rail industry and forest products sector.

Attendees of the 2025 event can expect not only to gain knowledge and make new industry connections but also to experience San Antonio's renowned hospitality. With its historic sites, vibrant food scene, and scenic River Walk, the host city offers an ideal backdrop for professional development and personal enjoyment.

For more information or to register for the 2025 conference, visit www.rta.org/2025-conference.