# Forward Air

## **4Q24 Earnings Presentation**

February 26, 2025





## **Statements & Disclaimers**

## **Forward Looking Statements**

This presentation contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "goal," "seek," "believe," "project," "estimate," "expect," "strategy," "future," "likely," "may," "should," "will" and similar references to future periods. Forward-looking statements included in this presentation relate to expectations regarding customer demand for services of Forward Air Corporation ("Forward", "we" or "us") as well as expectations regarding the freight market; ability to achieve and timing of capturing the intended benefits of the acquisition of Omni, including any revenue and cost synergies; expectations regarding lease overhang costs; ability to improve liquidity as well as the ability to delever and focus on debt repayment; expectations regarding the timing and impact of forecasted or anticipated savings and ability to reach the run rate; ability of Forward to identify opportunities to dispose of any non-core assets; expectations regarding Forward's ability to execute on its plan to integrate Omni Logistics in order to generate long-term value for shareholders; capital allocation strategies, including the result of any portfolio review and expectations regarding our Consolidated EBITDA for the 2024 calendar year. Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are based only on our current beliefs, expectations and assumptions regarding the future of our business, future plans and strategies, projections, anticipated events and trends, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict and many of which are outside of our control. Our actual results and financial condition may differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. The following is a list of factors, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forwardlooking statements: economic factors such as recessions, inflation, higher interest rates and downturns in customer business cycles, Forward's ability to achieve the expected strategic, financial and other benefits of the acquisition of Omni Logistics, including the realization of expected synergies and the achievement of deleveraging targets within the expected timeframes or at all, the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully or that integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected, the risk that operating costs, customer loss, management and employee retention and business disruption (including, without limitation, difficulties in maintaining relationships with employees, customers, clients or suppliers) as a result of the acquisition of Omni Logistics may be greater than expected, continued weakening of the freight environment, future debt and financing levels, our ability to deleverage, including, without limitation, through capital allocation or divestitures of non-core businesses, our ability to secure terminal facilities in desirable locations at reasonable rates, more limited liquidity than expected which limits our ability to make key investments, the creditworthiness of our customers and their ability to pay for services rendered, our inability to maintain our historical growth rate because of a decreased volume of freight or decreased average revenue per pound of freight moving through our network, the availability and compensation of qualified Leased Capacity Providers and freight handlers as well as contracted, third-party carriers needed to serve our customers' transportation needs, our inability to manage our information systems and inability of our information systems to handle an increased volume of freight moving through our network, the occurrence of cybersecurity risks and events, market acceptance of our service offerings, claims for property damage, personal injuries or workers' compensation, enforcement of and changes in governmental regulations, environmental, tax, insurance and accounting matters, the handling of hazardous materials, changes in fuel prices, loss of a major customer, increasing competition, and pricing pressure, our dependence on our senior management team and the potential effects of changes in employee status, seasonal trends, the occurrence of certain weather events, restrictions in our charter and bylaws and the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, and as may be identified in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. We caution readers that any forward-looking statement made by us in this presentation is based only on information currently available to us and they should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect management's opinion as of the date on which it is made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise unless required by law.

## **Non-GAAP Measures**

To supplement the financial measures prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("GAAP"), we have included Consolidated EBITDA, Consolidated EBITDA Margin %, Net Leverage Ratio, Net Debt, Reported EBITDA, Reported EBITDA Margin %, Excluding Impairment of Goodwill, each a non-GAAP financial measure (each, a "Non-GAAP Measure"), in this presentation. The reconciliation of each Non-GAAP Measure to the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP can be found in the Appendix to this presentation. Because each Non-GAAP Measure excludes certain items as described herein, it may not be indicative of the results that Forward expects to recognize for future periods. As a result, each Non-GAAP Measure should be considered in addition to, and not a substitute for, financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. The Company is also providing Consolidated EBITDA and Net Leverage Ratio calculated in accordance with Forward's credit agreement as we believe it provides investors with important information regarding our liquidity, financial condition and compliance with our obligations under our credit agreement.





## AGENDA

4Q24 Highlights Integration Update Leverage and Liquidity Cash Flow 2024 Summary Appendix



- Full Year Results by Quarter

## 4Q24 Overall Performance Steady Despite Prolonged Softness in Freight Cycle





Non-GAAP financial measure. Calculated pursuant to Senior Secured Loan Credit Agreement
Liquidity is defined as unrestricted cash plus availability to borrow under the Revolving Credit Facility

## **Consolidated Results by Quarter**

### \$ in millions



### Consolidated EBITDA \$ <sup>(2)</sup> & Consolidated EBITDA Margin % <sup>(2)</sup>



1. Pro-forma adjusted to reflect the Omni acquisition calculated in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation S-X. As a result, this number differs from reported amounts for 1Q24. For more information, please see our 8-K filed on June 10, 2024. 2. Non-GAAP financial measure. Calculated pursuant to Senior Secured Loan Credit Agreement 3. Reflects Consolidated EBITDA reported in previous quarters. Amounts were updated to reflect pro forma EBITDA add-backs of rent expense related to abandoned properties.

## **Expedited Freight Segment Results by Quarter**<sup>(1)</sup>

\$ in millions







Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses.
Non-GAAP financial measure. Reconciliation provided in the Appendix on slide 17

### Reported EBITDA7<sup>(2)</sup> \$ & Reported EBITDA Margin %<sup>(2)</sup>



## **Omni Logistics Segment Results by Quarter** <sup>(1)</sup>

\$ in millions







Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses.
Non-GAAP financial measure. Reconciliation provided in the Appendix on slide 18

### Reported EBITDA \$ <sup>(2)</sup> & Reported EBITDA Margin %, Excluding Impairment of Goodwill <sup>(2)</sup>



## Intermodal Segment Results by Quarter

\$ in millions







Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses.
Non-GAAP financial measure. Reconciliation provided in the Appendix on slide 19

### Reported EBITDA <sup>(2)</sup> \$ & Reported EBITDA Margin % <sup>(2)</sup>



## **Omni Integration on Track**

**Gross Synergies by Quarter in \$M** 



**1Q24 Close Transaction** \$8.3M Cumulative

- Maintained service and corporate processes without interruption
- Shut down Omni's linehaul operations and absorbed volume into FWRD's network
- Began to execute facilities consolidation plan

### \$14.6M

2Q24 Action Items \$22.9M Cumulative

- Executed organizational streamlining with headcount redundancies
- Transitioned local cartage from 3<sup>rd</sup>-party vendors to FWRD where accretive
- Continued to execute facilities consolidations

The above does not include approximately \$23M in other annualized cost reductions announced in June 2024

**Omni** Logistics<sup>®</sup>



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### End of 1Q25 and Beyond (Run-Rate) ~\$80M Annualized

- All synergy initiatives currently planned are expected to be actioned by the end of 1Q25
- Costs to achieve depend on ability to secure lease terminations and sublets.
  Amount expected to decrease over time as lease overhang costs are mitigated from exited sites
- Continue to seek new synergy opportunities

### **\$17.9M**

**3Q24 Realize Savings** \$40.8M Cumulative

Completed air freight transportation management system consolidation; additional systems conversions to continue into 2025

 Rolled out indirect spend initiatives using combined company's improved buying power

 Continued to execute facilities consolidations \$18.6M

**4Q24 Refinement and Improvement** \$59.4M Cumulative

- Completed harmonization of corporate policies and human capital management in US
- Continued IT system consolidations
- Continued to execute facilities consolidations

The above does not include approximately \$22M in other annualized cost reductions announced in December 2024

\$ in millions



## **Deleveraging Remains a Key Priority for Management Through Potential Asset Sales and Operational Improvement**

	Net Leverage <sup>(1)</sup>									
	6.0x	I	6.0x		6.	0x	_	6.7	5x	
	<b>5.0x</b>		5.2x		5.	<b>4</b> x		5.5	X	
	<b>1Q24</b> Net Levera	age Rat	<b>2Q24</b> io <sup>(1)</sup>	R		24 ed Co	ovenant L	4Q2 evei		Ratio <sup>(1)</sup>
\$ in millions			1Q24		2Q24		3Q2	4		4Q24
Term Loan	В	\$	1,045 \$		,045	\$	1,045			1,045
Senior Sec. N		\$	725 \$			\$	725			725
First Lien De	bt <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	1,770 \$	1	,770	\$	1,770	) \$		1,770
Net Cash <sup>(;</sup>		\$	136 \$			\$		2 \$		86
Net Debt		\$	1,634 \$	1	,702		1,648			1,684
Consolidated LTM	EBITDA	\$	355 \$		342	<b>þ</b>	332	2 \$		308



**Omni** Logistics<sup>®</sup>

5.0x

5.5x

5.0x



1. Calculated pursuant to Senior Secured Loan Credit Agreement

2. Includes Term Loan, Senior Secured Notes, and Revolving Credit Facility; excludes finance leases

3. Excludes foreign subsidiaries and restricted cash

4. Undrawn revolver balance

5. Totals may not foot due to rounding

## **Amended Credit Facility Agreement – December 2024**





**Provides increased flexibility to continue executing** transformation

**Extended leverage step down by four quarters** 

2027 through maturity net leverage covenant increased by 1x

Facility size reduced from \$340M to \$300M

Additional details regarding the amendment can be found in the Company's Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 6, 2025



## **2H24 Cash Bridge**

(\$ in millions)





## *\$20M positive cash flow over 2H24, with operating cash flow* primarily used to service debt and pay legacy professional fees

### Commentary

- 1 Operating cash flow decreased \$39M from 3Q24 to 4Q24, resulting from seasonal volume uplift
- 2 Professional fees primarily include:
  - Transaction and integration professional fee spend in 2H24 largely driven by \$28M catch up of accrued fees from prior two quarters
- Debt service primarily includes: 3
  - 3Q Primarily \$26M interest payment on Term Loan B
  - 4Q Primarily \$35M interest payment on Senior Secured Notes, \$26M interest payment on Term Loan B
- \$21M of LC cash collateral transferred to (4) RCF and released to unrestricted cash





## **2024 Summary**



**Completed transaction in 1Q24** 



Executed more than \$100 million in annualized cost reduction synergies in 2024



Brought in new senior leadership beginning in April



stronger back-office support, process and procedure



Continuing as an industry leader in on-time service and claims rates



Steady 4Q24 financial performance in the face of challenging market backdrop





Deleveraging remains focus via asset rationalization and improved performance



Ended 4Q24 in strong liquidity position



- Transforming from separate legal entity driven organizations to a product, service and operations driven team with
- Amended senior secured term loan credit agreement in December to provide additional financial flexibility





## Appendix



## **Net Income to Consolidated EBITDA Reconciliation**

\$ in millions

<b>Consolidated EBITDA Reconciliation</b>	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	TTM (12/31/2024)
Net (loss) income from continuing operations	(\$89)	(\$966)	(\$34)	(\$35)	(\$1,125)
Interest expense	41	47	53	48	189
Income tax (benefit) expense	(18)	(175)	1	67	(125)
Depreciation and amortization	32	49	26	38	144
Reported EBITDA <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	(\$35)	(\$1,046)	\$46	\$118	(\$917)
Impairment of goodwill		1,093	15	(79)	1,028
Transaction and integration costs	62	10	(1)	10	81
Severance costs	8	4	3	2	16
Optimization project costs				10	10
Pro forma synergies	11	6	5	1	22
Pro forma savings	11	10	6	5	33
Other	7	12	13	2	33
Consolidated EBITDA <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$63	\$89	\$86	\$69	\$308
Consolidated First Lien Indebtedness					1,770
Net Cash & Cash Equivalents					(86)
Net Debt					\$1,684
Consolidated First Lien Net Leverage Ratio					5.5x



## **FY2024 Segment Performance – Expedited Freight**<sup>®</sup>

\$ in millions

### 1Q24

### **Expedited Freight**

**Operating revenue** 

### **Operating expenses**

Purchased transportation Salaries, wages, and employee benefits Operating leases Depreciation and amortization Insurance and claims Fuel expense Other operating expenses Total operating expenses<sup>(2)</sup>

### Income (loss) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>

(+) Depreciation and amortization

Reported EBITDA<sup>(2)</sup> **Reported EBITDA Margin %** 





1. Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses. 2. Totals may not foot due to rounding

4	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	FY 2024
\$273	\$291	\$285	\$266	\$1,115
128	143	140	136	546
63	64	59	57	242
15	15	16	18	64
10	11	10	10	41
11	11	12	10	44
3	2	2	3	10
25	24	26	24	100
254	269	265	259	1,047
\$19	\$22	\$19	\$7	\$68
10	11	10	10	41
\$30 10.9%	\$33 11.2%	\$29 10.3%	\$18 6.6%	\$109 9.8%

## **FY2024 Segment Performance – Omni Logistics**<sup>®</sup>

\$ in millions

1Q24

**Omni Logistics** 

**Operating revenue** 

**Operating expenses** Purchased transportation Salaries, wages, and employee benefits Operating leases Depreciation and amortization Insurance and claims Fuel expense Other operating expenses Impairment of goodwill Total operating expenses<sup>(2)</sup>

### Income (loss) from operations<sup>(2)</sup>

(+) Impairment of goodwill

Adjusted income (loss) from operations<sup>(2)</sup>

(+) Depreciation and amortization

Reported EBITDA<sup>(2)</sup> **Reported EBITDA Margin %** 





1. Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses. 2. Totals may not foot due to rounding

4	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	FY 2024
\$225	\$312	\$335	\$326	\$1,197
144	179	195	183	701
49	58	55	54	216
19	27	28	23	97
17	33	11	23	84
2	3	3	4	12
0	1	1	1	3
22	25	26	29	101
-	1,093	15	(79)	1,029
253	1,418	333	237	2,242
(\$29)	(\$1,106)	\$1	\$89	(\$1,045)
-	1,093	15	(79)	1,029
(\$29)	(\$13)	\$16	\$9	(\$16)
17	33	11	23	84
(\$12) -5.2%	\$20 6.4%	\$27 8.0%	\$32 9.8%	\$67 5.6%

## **FY2024 Segment Performance – Intermodal**<sup>®</sup>

\$ in millions

### 1Q24

### Intermodal

### **Operating revenue**

### **Operating expenses**

Purchased transportation Salaries, wages, and employee benefits Operating leases Depreciation and amortization Insurance and claims Fuel expense Other operating expenses Total operating expenses<sup>(2)</sup>

### Income (loss) from operations<sup>(2)</sup>

(+) Depreciation and amortization

Reported EBITDA<sup>(2)</sup> **Reported EBITDA Margin %** 





1. Segment totals do not include intercompany eliminations or corporate unallocated expenses. 2. Totals may not foot due to rounding

4	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	FY 2024
\$56	\$59	\$57	\$60	\$233
17	19	18	19	74
15	15	15	14	59
5	5	6	6	22
5	5	5	5	18
3	3	3	2	10
2	2	2	2	9
6	6	6	5	23
53	54	53	54	214
\$4	\$5	\$4	\$6	\$19
5	5	5	5	18
\$8 14.6%	\$10 16.9%	\$9 15.1%	\$10 17.5%	\$37 16.0%

## Legacy Forward Air LTL Operating Metrics







- 4Q24 revenue per shipment, ex fuel of \$203 with a 4.0% YoY increase
- Driven by the corrective pricing actions focused on updated DOE costing methodology and contribution margin management. Negative and low contribution margin accounts are proactively being managed, rerated, or canceled.