



# Infraday

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# INFRADAY SOUTHWEST

CONNECTING LEADERS.  
POWERING INFRASTRUCTURE.  
BUILDING THE FUTURE.



**NOVEMBER 5, 2026**



**ON JACKSON**

245 E Jackson St  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

[Directions](#)

A full-day event bringing together infrastructure leaders, innovators, and professionals across the Southwest to collaborate, learn, and drive impact.



## TOPICS INCLUDE:



### POWER & GRID INVESTMENT

Grid modernization, transmission expansion & reliability.



### DATA CENTERS & AI INFRASTRUCTURE

Meeting the growing demand for power, water & connectivity.



### PORTS, SUPPLY CHAIN & TRADE

Strengthening ports, freight mobility & global competitiveness.



### AVIATION & LOGISTICS

Airport modernization, cargo growth & multimodal access.



### WATER & RESILIENCE

Investing in water infrastructure & building regional resilience.



### DIGITAL DELIVERY & CONNECTED ASSETS

BIM, digital twins, AI & data-driven asset management.



### SUSTAINABILITY & CLEAN ENERGY

Advancing clean energy, decarbonization & sustainable solutions.



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8:00 – 8:30 AM

Registration & Networking Breakfast

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8:30 – 9:00 AM

**Panel: The Southwest Infrastructure Boom — Growth, Scarcity & the Race to Build**

The Southwest is experiencing one of America's most consequential infrastructure buildouts. Population growth, semiconductor manufacturing, AI data centers, advanced manufacturing, logistics and energy investment are driving billions of dollars into the region while placing unprecedented pressure on electricity, water, transportation and land. At the same time, extreme heat, drought and construction constraints are making infrastructure increasingly difficult and expensive to deliver.

This opening discussion examines where growth is accelerating, which infrastructure constraints pose the greatest threat to continued investment, and what the Southwest must build over the next decade to remain competitive.

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9:00 – 9:30 AM

**Panel: Powering the Southwest — Data Centers, Manufacturing & the Race for Electricity**

Electricity demand across the Southwest is entering a new era. AI data centers, semiconductor fabs, advanced manufacturing, electrification and population growth are requiring utilities to plan new generation, transmission, substations and storage at an unprecedented pace. This discussion examines where new power will come from, how utilities are responding to massive new loads, and whether transmission and generation development can keep pace with economic growth.

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9:30 – 10:00 AM

**Panel: Chips, AI & Data Centers — Building America's New Technology Corridor**

Phoenix and other Southwest markets are becoming critical centers for semiconductor manufacturing, cloud computing and AI infrastructure. These projects require enormous amounts of power, water, land, fiber and supporting infrastructure while creating entirely new demands on utilities and local governments.

This panel examines the infrastructure behind the Southwest's technology boom — and whether the region can continue attracting mega-projects without overwhelming the systems supporting them.

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10:00 – 10:30 AM

**Morning Networking Break**

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10:30 – 11:00 AM

**Panel: Moving the Southwest — Highways, Transit & Infrastructure for America's Fastest-Growing Region**

Rapid population and employment growth are transforming transportation needs across Phoenix, Las Vegas, Denver, Albuquerque, Southern California and other Southwest markets. DOTs and metropolitan agencies are expanding highways, bridges, transit systems and regional corridors while confronting congestion, rising construction costs and long-term funding challenges. This discussion examines the major transportation investments required to connect rapidly growing communities and support the Southwest's expanding economy.

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11:00 – 11:30 AM

**Panel: The Colorado River Challenge — Water Infrastructure for a Drier Southwest**

Few infrastructure challenges are more important to the Southwest's future than water. Declining Colorado River supplies, groundwater constraints, drought and continued population and industrial growth are forcing states and utilities to rethink how water is sourced, transported, treated, reused and conserved.

This panel examines the next generation of Southwest water infrastructure — including reuse, recycling, storage, groundwater management, conservation and major regional supply projects — and asks a fundamental question: Can the Southwest continue growing without water becoming its defining constraint?

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11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Panel: America's Trade Gateway — Ports, Freight, Rail & the U.S.–Mexico Border**

The Southwest sits at the center of some of North America's most important trade and supply-chain corridors. Ports of entry, highways, freight rail, airports and logistics hubs are handling growing volumes of goods as manufacturing expands in the United States and Mexico and nearshoring reshapes North American supply chains.

This discussion examines investment in border crossings, freight corridors, logistics infrastructure and intermodal facilities — and what must be built to keep goods moving efficiently between Mexico and the United States.

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12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Networking Lunch**

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1:00 – 1:30 PM

**Panel: Building the New Industrial Southwest — Semiconductors, Batteries & Advanced Manufacturing**

Billions of dollars are flowing into semiconductor fabs, battery plants, aerospace, clean technology and advanced manufacturing facilities across the Southwest. But the factory itself is only part of the investment.

Major industrial projects require electricity, water, wastewater, roads, rail, broadband, housing and a skilled workforce before production can begin. This panel examines how states, cities, utilities,

developers and infrastructure providers are preparing sites and communities for the next generation of industrial investment.

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1:30 – 2:00 PM

**Panel: Extreme Heat — Designing Infrastructure for a 120-Degree Future**

Extreme heat is becoming one of the Southwest's defining infrastructure challenges. Roads, rail systems, airports, power infrastructure, water systems and public facilities must operate reliably under increasingly severe temperatures while cities confront growing cooling and energy requirements.

This discussion examines how infrastructure owners are changing design standards, materials, operations and capital plans to build assets capable of performing in a hotter and more demanding environment.

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2:00 – 2:30 PM

**Panel: The Western Grid — Transmission, Storage & the Next Generation of Energy Infrastructure**

The Southwest has extraordinary solar, wind, geothermal and energy-storage potential, but generation is only valuable if electricity can reach the places where it is needed. Transmission congestion, interconnection delays and permitting challenges increasingly determine where new generation and major industrial loads can be developed.

This panel examines transmission expansion, battery storage, regional electricity markets, interconnection reform and the infrastructure required to create a more resilient and interconnected Western grid.

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2:30 – 3:00 PM

**Panel: Infrastructure Finance — Funding the Southwest's Next Generation of Projects**

The scale of infrastructure required across the Southwest is growing faster than traditional public funding alone can support. Transportation, water, energy and municipal infrastructure owners are increasingly combining federal programs, state and local funding, bonds, private capital and alternative delivery structures.

This discussion examines where capital is coming from, which projects are attracting private investment and how owners can move major projects from planning to construction faster.

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3:00 – 3:30 PM

Afternoon Networking Break

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3:30 – 4:00 PM

**Panel: Connected Infrastructure — Managing the Full Lifecycle of Capital Programs**

Infrastructure owners are increasingly connecting BIM, GIS, project controls, asset management, scheduling, field data, digital twins and AI into integrated environments supporting the full lifecycle of infrastructure assets.

This discussion explores how Southwest agencies, utilities and infrastructure owners are using connected information to improve project delivery, executive visibility, operations and long-term asset performance.

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4:00 – 4:30 PM

**Panel: Building Faster — Permitting, Procurement & Alternative Delivery in the Southwest**

The Southwest's infrastructure needs are accelerating faster than traditional project-development timelines. Design-build, progressive design-build, CM/GC, P3s and other collaborative delivery models are increasingly being used to move complex projects forward.

This discussion examines how owners are addressing permitting delays, procurement constraints, risk allocation and construction costs — and what they actually want from engineering, construction and technology partners.

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4:30 – 5:00 PM

**Panel: Resilient Southwest — Wildfire, Drought, Flooding & Critical Infrastructure**

The Southwest must prepare simultaneously for extreme heat, prolonged drought, wildfire, flash flooding and other increasingly severe environmental conditions. Utilities, transportation agencies and municipalities are hardening assets, improving emergency response and incorporating resilience into long-term capital programs.

This panel explores where resilience investment is occurring and how infrastructure owners are determining which assets, communities and projects require attention first.

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5:00 – 5:30 PM

**Panel: AI, Robotics & Autonomous Infrastructure Operations**

AI, drones, robotics, autonomous equipment, machine vision and predictive analytics are beginning to transform how infrastructure is planned, constructed, inspected and operated.

This closing discussion examines where these technologies are already delivering measurable value — from construction sites and utility networks to highways, water systems and industrial facilities — and how automation could reshape infrastructure delivery across the Southwest over the next decade.

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5:30 – 6:00 PM

Closing Networking Reception

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