



Infraday

WHERE INFRASTRUCTURE LEADERS CONNECT

5TH EDITION

INFRADAY PACIFIC NORTHWEST

CONNECTING LEADERS.
POWERING INFRASTRUCTURE.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.



AUGUST 20, 2026

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM



BLOCK 41

115 Bell St,
Seattle, WA 98121



A full-day event bringing together infrastructure leaders, innovators, and professionals across the Pacific Northwest 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.



WWW.INFRADAY.COM/PNW

FOLLOW US



Infraday Pacific Northwest 2026
Seattle, Washington

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Registration & Networking Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Panel: The Pacific Northwest Infrastructure Boom — AI, Clean Energy & Industrial Growth

The Pacific Northwest is entering one of the most significant infrastructure investment cycles in its history as artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, clean energy, and industrial development reshape the regional economy. Massive private investment is creating unprecedented demand for electricity, transportation, water systems, industrial land, and digital infrastructure while public agencies work to keep pace with growth. This discussion explores where investment is accelerating across Washington and Oregon, the infrastructure constraints beginning to emerge, and the priorities that will define infrastructure delivery over the next decade.

Panelists:

Garrison Marr, Senior Manager, Power Supply, **Snohomish County PUD**

John Wilson, King County Assessor, **King County, WA**

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Panel: AI Infrastructure, Data Centers & The Northwest Power Challenge

The Pacific Northwest has become one of North America's fastest-growing destinations for hyperscale data centers and AI infrastructure because of abundant renewable energy, fiber connectivity, and available development sites. Utilities are facing record electricity demand, transmission constraints, and increasingly complex interconnection challenges as technology companies race to secure capacity. This panel examines how utilities, developers, and public agencies are balancing economic growth with grid reliability, water availability, permitting, and long-term infrastructure planning.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Field COO - Public Sector, **Procore Technologies**

Panelists:

Adrian Hilderbrand, Principal Program Manager | Data Center Architecture, **Eaton**

Pratik Khare, Sr Technical Program Manager - Data Center Construction, **Edged**

Ya-Han Brownlee-Chen, Vice President of Data Center Strategy, **DP World**

9:30 – 9:50 AM

Presentation: Innovation on the Ballard Link Extension — Delivering Transformative Transit in the Puget Sound

The Ballard Link Extension is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest transit investments, expanding Sound Transit's light rail network by 7.7 miles and up to nine new stations while connecting communities across the agency's four-county service area. Designed to serve approximately 150,000 daily riders, the project will improve regional mobility, reduce congestion, and support

long-term economic growth throughout the Puget Sound region. This presentation will examine how Sound Transit is applying advanced design methodologies, digital engineering, and collaborative project delivery to improve passenger experience, optimize operations, and streamline construction on a complex, multi-billion-dollar infrastructure program. Attendees will gain insight into innovative planning, engineering, and delivery strategies helping shape the future of transit in Seattle.

Presenter:

Gavin Schaefer, Design Director – Ballard Link Extension, **Sound Transit**

9:50 – 10:10 AM

Morning Break

10:10 – 10:40 AM

Panel: Transmission Expansion, Grid Reliability & Electrification

Electric demand across the Pacific Northwest continues to rise as transportation, buildings, industry, and AI infrastructure become increasingly electrified. Utilities are responding with major investments in transmission, substations, renewable integration, wildfire mitigation, and grid modernization while managing growing reliability expectations. This discussion explores where the largest investments are occurring, the challenges slowing deployment, and what the region's electric system may look like over the next decade.

Panelists:

Aravindhan Vadivel, Grid Operations Manager - AI/ML - Applied Grid Innovation, **GE Vernova**

Jeff Winmill, Strategic Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, **Seattle City Light**

Katherine Rice, Senior Electric Vehicle Charging Planner, **City of Seattle**

Keerti Kappagantula, Director, Grid Materials & Manufacturing Program, **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**

Kishan Mistry, Supervisor of Engineering, Electric Commodities and Innovation, **Puget Sound Energy**

10:40 – 11:00 AM

Presentation: Why AI Deployments Fail in the Field — And What It Takes to Make Them Work

Artificial intelligence is rapidly entering infrastructure operations, yet many deployments fail because they are designed without the realities of field work in mind. Drawing on more than 25 years of operational leadership at Southern California Edison and Seattle Public Utilities, this presentation explores why the gap between AI developers and frontline crews often prevents successful adoption. Through real-world experience managing 44,000 annual inspections across 26,000 square miles, attendees will learn the operational, organizational, and human factors that determine whether AI succeeds or fails in the field. The session will provide practical strategies for designing AI solutions that improve safety, productivity, and decision-making while earning the trust of the workforce responsible for using them.

Presenter:

Bernard Morris, Founder, Blue Collar AI HQ | Blue-Collar AI Translator and Six Sigma Black Belt,
Seattle Public Utilities

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Panel: Ports, Maritime Trade & Supply Chain Competitiveness

The ports of Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and communities throughout the Columbia River system remain essential gateways for international trade and North American supply chains. Major investments in terminals, freight mobility, electrification, and waterfront infrastructure are transforming how cargo moves throughout the region. This session explores the next generation of maritime infrastructure investment, port competitiveness, and the role ports will play in supporting future industrial growth.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel: Aviation Expansion, Cargo Growth & Airport Modernization

Passenger growth, expanding cargo operations, and aging airport infrastructure are driving billions of dollars in capital investment across the Pacific Northwest. Airports are modernizing terminals, improving airfield capacity, upgrading utilities, and expanding multimodal access to support future demand. This discussion examines how airport owners are prioritizing investments while balancing operational efficiency, sustainability, and long-term regional growth.

Moderator:

Nicholas Johnson, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Brandon Rakes, Airport Director, **Chehalis-Centralia Airport**

Chris Czarnecki, Director - Aviation Business, Properties, and Airline Affairs, **Port of Portland**

Christian Venturino, Capital Project Manager - Aviation, **Port of Seattle**

Ellis Byeon, Associate Vice President, Aviation Area Manager, U.S. West, **AECOM**

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Networking Lunch

1:00 – 1:20 PM

Presentation: Refreshing an Icon — Rehabilitating the Seattle Center Monorail for the Next Generation

Built for the 1962 World's Fair alongside the Space Needle, the Seattle Center Monorail remains one of Seattle's most recognizable landmarks and an essential transportation link between Seattle Center and downtown. This rehabilitation project is modernizing the historic system while preserving its architectural character, improving accessibility, enhancing passenger circulation, strengthening safety, and creating a more seamless rider experience. The presentation will explore how the project balances historic preservation with contemporary design, the planning and operational strategies used to improve system performance, and how the revitalized station will continue serving residents and visitors for decades to come. Attendees will also gain insight into the design tools used to evaluate passenger throughput, wayfinding improvements, and operational enhancements that support long-term maintenance and future ridership growth.

Presenters:

Megan Ching, President, **Seattle Monorail Services**

Mark Johnson, Architect, **Signal Architecture + Research**

1:20 – 1:50 PM

Panel: Cascadia Resilience — Preparing Infrastructure for Earthquakes, Flooding & Wildfire

No region in North America faces a more complex combination of seismic, flooding, wildfire, and climate-related infrastructure risks than the Pacific Northwest. Public agencies are making significant investments to improve the resilience of transportation systems, utilities, public facilities, and critical infrastructure before the next major disaster occurs. This panel explores how resilience planning is influencing capital investment decisions and where the region is making its largest long-term infrastructure commitments.

Panelists:

Ann Richart, Aviation Director, **Washington State Department of Transportation**

LeAnn Blanco, Civil Rights Program Manager LTD, **Port of Seattle**

Seth Vidaña, Climate and Energy Manager, **City of Bellingham**

1:50 – 2:20 PM

Panel: Delivering Major Capital Projects Across the Pacific Northwest

From major transportation corridors to utility modernization and airport expansion, the Pacific Northwest is delivering some of the country's most ambitious infrastructure programs. This presentation provides an inside look at one of the region's flagship capital projects, highlighting planning, procurement, engineering, construction, stakeholder coordination, and lessons learned. Attendees will gain practical insight into managing large, complex infrastructure investments in rapidly growing metropolitan environments.

Panelists:

Robert Hoyman, Marine Maintenance Project Manager, **Port of Seattle**

2:20 – 2:50 PM

Panel: Water Infrastructure, Hydropower & Industrial Water Demand

Water remains one of the Pacific Northwest's greatest competitive advantages, yet aging infrastructure, environmental regulations, industrial expansion, and population growth are placing increasing pressure on water systems. Utilities are balancing drinking water, wastewater, hydropower, stormwater, and ecosystem protection while supporting continued economic development. This session examines the major investments shaping the future of water infrastructure throughout the region.

Panelists:

Cody Colt, Director of Public Works, **City of Yelm, Washington**

Doug Chalmers, Water Resources Engineer, **SEI — Stockholm Environment Institute**

Kristin Masteller, General Manager, **Mason County PUD No. 1**

2:50 – 3:10 PM
Afternoon Break

3:10 – 3:40 PM

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

Infrastructure owners are increasingly connecting BIM, GIS, digital twins, asset management, scheduling, AI, and project controls into integrated digital environments that support the full lifecycle of infrastructure assets. Connected data is improving project delivery, operational performance, executive visibility, and long-term asset management across transportation, utilities, aviation, and water systems. This discussion explores how agencies are building smarter capital programs through digital transformation and enterprise-wide integration.

Panelists:

Alistair Boudreaux, Information Technology Manager, **Skagit Public Utility District**

3:40 – 4:10 PM

Panel: Alternative Delivery at Scale — What Northwest Owners Actually Want From Contractors

Owners across the Pacific Northwest continue expanding the use of Progressive Design-Build, GCCM/CMGC, Design-Build, and collaborative project delivery models to improve schedule certainty and reduce project risk. Success increasingly depends on early contractor involvement, transparent communication, digital collaboration, and stronger program management capabilities. This session explores what public owners expect from contractors and consultants as infrastructure programs continue growing in size and complexity.

Panelists:

Eric Ostfeld, Executive Vice President, Design-Build, **Michael Baker International**

Janice Zahn, Washington State 41st LD House of Representative & Chief Engineer, **Port of Seattle**

4:00 – 4:30 PM

Panel: Governing Major Capital Programs — Executive Visibility, Controls & Decision-Making

As infrastructure owners oversee larger and more complex portfolios, maintaining visibility across budgets, schedules, procurement, risks, and performance has become just as important as delivering individual projects. Executive leaders require connected information, reliable forecasting, and stronger governance to make informed investment decisions and keep capital programs on track. This discussion examines how infrastructure organizations are strengthening program controls while improving accountability, transparency, and long-term portfolio management.

Moderator:

Michael Tooley, Vice President, Industry Strategy, **Aurigo Software Technologies**

Panelists:

Jan Whittington, Associate Professor, Urban Design and Planning Department, **University of Washington**

Jen Tetatzin, Public Works Director | City Engineer, **City of Tukwila**

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Panel: AI, Robotics & Autonomous Infrastructure Operations

Artificial intelligence, robotics, drones, autonomous equipment, and machine vision are rapidly transforming how infrastructure is designed, built, inspected, and maintained. Agencies and contractors throughout the Pacific Northwest are increasingly adopting automation to improve safety, address workforce shortages, increase productivity, and reduce operational costs. This session explores where these technologies are already delivering measurable value and how automation will reshape infrastructure delivery over the coming decade.

Panelists:

Bernard Morris, Founder, Blue Collar AI HQ | Blue-Collar AI Translator and Six Sigma Black Belt,
Seattle Public Utilities

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Networking Reception