



# **Infraday Southwest October 21**

**Phoenix, AZ**

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## **Infraday Southwest 2025 – Agenda**

**Location:** Phoenix, AZ

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### **8:00 AM – 8:45 AM | Registration & Networking Breakfast**

Coffee and informal networking to start the day.

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### **Morning Sessions**

#### **8:45 AM – 9:00 AM | Opening Remarks**

Welcome to Infraday Southwest.

Themes for the day: climate adaptation, energy transition, water resilience, cross-border coordination, and sustainable growth.

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#### **9:00 AM – 9:45 AM | Panel: Capital Under Pressure – Infrastructure Funding Amid Cost Escalation**

- How inflation, insurance, and construction costs are reshaping infrastructure priorities
  - Southwest-specific capital risks: drought adaptation, wildfire recovery, energy demand
  - Balancing short-term recovery with long-term regional growth
  - P3s, tolling, and innovative finance tools in use across the Southwest
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#### **9:45 AM – 10:15 AM | Panel: Heat, Water & Power – Building for the Climate Reality**

- Designing infrastructure to withstand extreme heat
  - Grid hardening and peak energy load management
  - Long-term drought planning, water reuse, and supply diversification
  - Interagency coordination across utilities and state lines
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#### **10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Panel: Southwest Energy Transition – Solar, Storage & Transmission**

- Scaling solar and battery storage across desert and suburban landscapes
- The critical role of interstate transmission lines and permitting reform
- Equity in energy access for tribal and rural communities

- What's next for hydrogen, geothermal, and clean fuels?
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#### **10:45 AM – 11:15 AM | Networking Break**

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#### **11:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Panel: Transportation & Trade – Connecting the Southwest**

- I-10 and I-40 corridors: freight, congestion, and safety
  - Investment in light rail, BRT, and active mobility systems
  - Infrastructure upgrades at border crossings and ports of entry
  - Multimodal projects linking tribal, rural, and metro areas
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#### **11:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Panel: Water Infrastructure – Conservation, Storage & Delivery**

- Funding and maintaining critical water infrastructure across arid regions
  - Reuse, desalination, and regional water-sharing agreements
  - New public-private solutions in urban and agricultural water systems
  - Lessons from Colorado River basin negotiations
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#### **12:15 PM – 1:15 PM | Networking Lunch**

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#### **Afternoon Sessions**

#### **1:15 PM – 1:45 PM | Panel: Smart Cities in the Southwest – Technology, Mobility & Equity**

- IoT and data platforms in desert and suburban environments
  - Expanding broadband and EV infrastructure in underserved areas
  - Resilient design and public engagement through digital tools
  - Cybersecurity concerns in smart infrastructure rollouts
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#### **1:45 PM – 2:15 PM | Panel: Cross-Border Infrastructure & Binational Collaboration**

- Arizona, California, Texas infrastructure partnerships with Mexico

- Shared energy, water, and transit systems at the U.S.-Mexico border
  - Coordinating federal, state, and local priorities across jurisdictions
  - Managing geopolitical risk and border resiliency
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**2:15 PM – 2:45 PM | Panel: Workforce Development – Filling the Infrastructure Talent Gap**

- Addressing shortages in skilled trades, engineers, and planners
  - Partnering with tribal colleges, community colleges, and unions
  - Adapting curricula to renewable energy, resilience, and tech needs
  - Industry and government action to grow and retain talent
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**2:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Panel: Risk, Resilience & Recovery – Planning for Natural Disasters**

- Wildfire protection for transmission, housing, and transportation
  - Heat-resilient pavement, cooling infrastructure, and shelters
  - FEMA coordination and long-term recovery models
  - Resilient design as a baseline, not an add-on
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**3:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Networking Break**

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**3:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Panel: Legal & Regulatory Landscape – Unlocking Regional Projects**

- NEPA reform, permitting timelines, and local opposition
  - Navigating tribal sovereignty and government-to-government agreements
  - Water rights, land use, and energy siting challenges
  - How legal frameworks are evolving in the Southwest
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**4:15 PM – 4:45 PM | Panel: Megaprojects in Motion – What's Next for the Region**

- Updates on high-profile projects in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada
- Lessons learned from delivery delays and successes

- The Southwest as a testing ground for innovation and scale
  - How large-scale infrastructure is shaping economic development
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#### **4:45 PM – 5:00 PM | Closing Remarks**

Recap of insights, appreciation for attendees and sponsors, and next steps in the conversation.

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#### **5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Networking Reception**

A relaxed close to the day's conversations.