



**5th Infraday  
Mountain States  
June 2-3**

***Where Public and  
Private Sector Leaders  
Advance Infrastructure  
Across the Mountain  
West***

**Mile High Station  
2027 W Colfax Ave**

**Denver, CO 80204**

**[www.infraday.com/mst](http://www.infraday.com/mst)**

**Please note: Information is subject to modification. Last revised on 5/1/2026 9:50 AM.**

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DAY 1 — June 2 (9:00 AM – 5:30 PM)

9:00 – 9:30 AM

**Panel: The Mountain West Surge — Growth, Load & System Constraints**

Population growth across Colorado, Arizona, and Utah is accelerating infrastructure demand across transportation, energy, water, and digital systems at an unprecedented pace. AI-driven data centers, electrification, and industrial development are creating new load profiles that existing infrastructure was not designed to handle. This session examines where systems are already constrained and how public agencies are prioritizing capital investment under pressure.

Panelists:

Joseph Rasmussen, Manager of Water, Wastewater, and Gas Infrastructure Planning, **Colorado Springs Utilities**

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9:30 – 10:00 AM

**Panel: Managing Capital at Scale — From Projects to Portfolios**

Public agencies are now managing multi-billion-dollar capital programs across fragmented systems, requiring new approaches to program controls, forecasting, and portfolio-level visibility. Legacy tools and siloed data are creating risk across cost, schedule, and delivery performance. This panel explores how leading organizations are integrating program management platforms, real-time dashboards, and enterprise systems to improve decision-making and execution.

Moderator:

Cesar Alvarado, Sales Director, **Aurigo Software Technologies**

Panelists:

Elly Watson, Assistant Director- Finance and Capital Planning, Public Works, **City of Aurora**

JoyAnn Ruscha, Director — District B, Board of Directors, **RTD**

Mark Baker, Director of Facilities, **Denver Art Museum**

Patrick Riley, Vibrant Bond Program Manager, Department of Finance, **City and County of Denver**

Thomas Zoellner, Capital Projects Manager, **Aurora Housing Authority**

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10:00 – 10:30 AM

**Panel: Transportation, Freight & Regional Mobility Systems**

Regional mobility systems across the Mountain West are under pressure from population growth, freight demand, and evolving economic activity. Transportation agencies are balancing highway expansion, transit investment, and freight corridor upgrades while aligning infrastructure with land use and housing development. This discussion focuses on funding constraints, interagency coordination, and delivery challenges shaping transportation infrastructure today.

Panelists:

Amy Ford, Executive Director, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, **City and County of Denver**

Chris Nicholson, Director — District A, Board of Directors, **RTD**

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10:30 – 11:00 AM

**Morning Break**

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11:00 – 11:30 AM

**Panel: Water, Scarcity & Western Resilience**

Water scarcity remains one of the most critical infrastructure challenges across the Mountain West, driven by drought, climate variability, and competing demand. Utilities and water agencies are investing in groundwater management, reuse systems, storage infrastructure, and long-term resilience strategies. This session explores how cities, utilities, and regional authorities are planning for sustained water stress while supporting growth.

Panelists:

Kim Swearingen, Senior Engineer, Water and Wastewater Vertical Design, **Colorado Springs Utilities**

Russ Sands, Director of Local Climate Solutions, **Colorado Energy Office**

Scott Tait, Senior Water Wastewater Project Manager, Water - West, **AECOM**

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11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Panel: Power, Transmission & Industrial Load Growth**

Electric grid infrastructure is facing unprecedented strain from electrification, data center development, and large-scale industrial load growth. Transmission constraints, interconnection delays, and aging infrastructure are becoming key bottlenecks to economic expansion. This panel examines how utilities and developers are planning transmission upgrades, grid modernization, and energy reliability in high-growth regions.

Panelists:

James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate and Energy, **Colorado Energy Office**

Lori Bird, Director II, US Energy - Polsky Center for the Global Energy Transition, **World Resources Institute**

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12:00 – 12:20 PM

**Presentation: Digital Delivery at Scale — Connecting the Infrastructure Stack**

BIM, GIS, and program controls platforms are increasingly being integrated to provide real-time visibility across capital programs. Agencies and contractors are moving away from siloed systems toward connected data environments that improve forecasting and execution. This session explores how digital delivery is reducing risk and enabling better decision-making across infrastructure portfolios.

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12:20 – 1:20 PM

**Lunch**

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1:20 – 1:40 PM

**Presentation: AI in Infrastructure — Real Applications in the Field**

Artificial intelligence is being deployed across scheduling, inspections, and asset management to improve infrastructure delivery outcomes. Real-world applications are emerging across transportation, utilities, and municipal operations. This session focuses on where AI is delivering measurable ROI today.

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1:40 – 2:10 PM

**Panel: Housing Growth vs. Infrastructure Reality**

Housing development across the Mountain West is increasingly constrained by infrastructure capacity limitations in water, power, and transportation systems. Cities and developers are struggling to align land use planning with infrastructure delivery timelines and funding realities. This panel explores how public and private stakeholders are addressing the disconnect between housing demand and infrastructure readiness.

Panelists:

Jared Coleman, Project Engineer II, **Aurora Water**

Jeannine Rustad, Planning and Business Development Director, **City of Aurora**

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2:10 – 2:40 PM

**Panel: Broadband, Fiber & Digital Infrastructure**

Digital infrastructure is becoming foundational to economic development, with broadband, fiber networks, and data connectivity driving regional competitiveness. Middle-mile and last-mile deployment challenges persist across urban and rural markets, requiring coordination across public agencies and private providers. This session focuses on infrastructure deployment models, integration with transportation and utility corridors, and investment strategies.

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2:40 – 3:10 PM

**Panel: Industrial Development, Site Selection & Infrastructure Readiness**

Industrial growth, including manufacturing, logistics, and data centers, is increasingly driven by access to power, water, and broadband infrastructure. Site selection decisions are now heavily influenced by infrastructure capacity, permitting timelines, and utility coordination. This panel explores how regions are competing for investment and how infrastructure readiness is shaping economic development outcomes.

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3:10 – 3:40 PM

**Afternoon Break**

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3:40 – 4:10 PM

**Panel: Alternative Delivery — What Actually Works Now**

Alternative delivery models such as design-build, CM/GC, and progressive delivery are being widely adopted to manage risk, accelerate schedules, and control costs. However, procurement complexity, contract structures, and risk allocation remain key challenges for public owners and

contractors. This session examines what delivery strategies are working in practice across infrastructure sectors.

Panelists:

Tatiana Parfenova, Sr. Project Manager, **City of Longmont**

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4:10 – 4:40 PM

**Panel: Robotics, Automation & Field Execution**

Construction and infrastructure delivery are being transformed by robotics, automation, and AI-driven field technologies. From inspection and monitoring to autonomous equipment and digital site data, these tools are improving productivity, safety, and project outcomes. This panel highlights real-world deployments and their impact on workforce and execution.

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4:40 – 5:10 PM

**Panel: Materials, Supply Chain & Cost Pressure**

Infrastructure projects continue to face cost escalation driven by material pricing volatility, supply chain disruptions, and procurement challenges. Steel, concrete, and equipment availability remain key risks impacting delivery timelines. This session explores how organizations are managing procurement strategies and cost control in a volatile market.

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5:10 – 5:30 PM

**Closing Remarks**

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5:30 – 7:00 PM

**Networking Reception**

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DAY 2 — June 3 (9:00 AM – 3:30 PM)

9:00 – 9:30 AM

**Panel: The Next Capital Cycle — Funding Infrastructure in the Mountain West**

Infrastructure funding is entering a new phase as federal programs mature and state and local budgets face increasing pressure. Institutional capital, public funding, and private investment are being combined in new ways to finance large-scale infrastructure programs. This panel examines where capital is flowing, how projects are being prioritized, and what funding strategies are emerging.

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9:30 – 10:00 AM

**Panel: Power, Water & Wire — The Data Center Reality**

The rapid expansion of data centers is creating unprecedented demand for power, water, and connectivity infrastructure. Utilities, municipalities, and developers are facing capacity constraints that directly impact site selection and project feasibility. This session explores how infrastructure availability is shaping the digital economy and influencing regional growth.

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10:00 – 10:20 AM

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**Presentation: AI + Program Controls — The New Operating System**

Artificial intelligence is being embedded into capital program management platforms to improve forecasting, risk detection, and scheduling accuracy. Agencies and contractors are leveraging predictive analytics to enhance decision-making. This session highlights real applications across infrastructure delivery.

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10:20 – 10:50 AM

**Morning Break**

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10:50 – 11:20 AM

**Panel: Utilities, Cities & Developers — Who Actually Coordinates Growth**

Infrastructure delivery is often misaligned across utilities, municipalities, and private developers, leading to delays and inefficiencies. Planning timelines, permitting processes, and capital investment cycles frequently operate independently. This panel focuses on improving coordination and creating integrated approaches to growth.

**Panelists:**

Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez, **Denver City Council, District 7**

Steven Younkin, Interim Deputy Director Public Works/Chief Engineer, **City of Greeley**

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11:20 – 11:50 AM

**Panel: Grid Resilience, Climate Risk & System Hardening**

Extreme weather, wildfire risk, and climate-related events are increasing the need for resilient infrastructure systems across the Mountain West. Utilities and agencies are investing in grid hardening and system redundancy to improve reliability. This session examines resilience strategies and long-term capital planning.

**Panelists:**

Tyler Stein, Energy Code Plans Reviewer, Community Planning and Development, **City and County of Denver**

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11:50 AM – 12:20 PM

**Panel: Airports, Logistics & Regional Economic Infrastructure**

Airports, logistics hubs, and freight systems are critical infrastructure assets supporting economic growth and regional competitiveness. Investment in airport expansion and cargo infrastructure is accelerating across the Mountain West. This panel explores how these systems are being modernized and integrated into broader infrastructure strategies.

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12:20 – 1:20 PM

**Lunch**

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1:20 – 1:40 PM

**Presentation: From Projects to Platforms — The Future of Delivery**

Infrastructure delivery is shifting toward integrated platforms that connect planning, design, and construction data across the asset lifecycle. Owners and contractors are adopting unified technology stacks to improve visibility and performance. This session explores how digital platforms are reshaping infrastructure delivery.

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1:40 – 2:10 PM

**Panel: Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Risk**

Critical infrastructure systems are increasingly exposed to cybersecurity threats targeting utilities, transportation networks, and digital systems. Protecting operational technology and ensuring system resilience is now a top priority. This panel examines threat landscapes and risk mitigation strategies.

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2:10 – 2:40 PM

**Panel: Workforce, Labor & the Delivery Bottleneck**

Labor shortages across engineering, construction, and skilled trades are creating significant constraints on infrastructure delivery. Workforce development and automation strategies are being deployed to address these gaps. This session explores how organizations are adapting while maintaining project timelines.

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2:40 – 3:10 PM

**Panel: What Actually Gets Built — Decision-Making in a Constrained World**

Infrastructure demand is outpacing available funding, requiring difficult decisions about project prioritization and capital allocation. Public agencies are balancing political, financial, and operational pressures. This panel provides insight into how decisions are being made and where opportunities exist for private sector participation.

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3:10 – 3:30 PM

**Closing Discussion + Final Networking**