



# Infraday

5TH EDITION

# INFRADAY MOUNTAIN STATES



**JUNE 2-3, 2026**

📍 MILE HIGH STATION | DENVER, COLORADO

**REAL CONVERSATIONS.  
REAL SOLUTIONS.**

Where public agencies, utilities, AEC, and investors come together to tackle the infrastructure challenges shaping the Mountain West.

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS



### GROWTH & LOAD MANAGEMENT

- Population growth
- Economic development
- Load forecasting
- System constraints
- Innovative solutions



### WATER SCARCITY & RESILIENCE

- Water supply challenges
- Infrastructure resilience
- Drought planning
- Conservation strategies
- Regional collaboration



### ENERGY & GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

- Energy affordability
- Grid reliability
- Electrification
- Transmission planning
- Emerging technologies



### TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

- Multimodal solutions
- Transit expansion
- Corridor development
- Safety & reliability
- Future of mobility



### CAPITAL PROGRAMS AT SCALE

- Funding strategies
- Program delivery
- Procurement & risk
- Workforce development
- Project innovation



### ENGAGING FORMAT

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS | PANEL DISCUSSIONS | WORKING SESSIONS  
ROUNDTABLES | NETWORKING | PRIVATE MEETING SUITES



PUBLIC AGENCIES | UTILITIES  
AEC | INVESTORS



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**Please note: Information is subject to modification. Last revised on 5/29/2026 8:25 AM.**

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DAY 1 — June 2

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.

Moderator:

Dave Hardy, VP of Power Marketing & Business Development, **Valverde Power Solutions**

Panelists:

Akanksha Singh, Principal Engineer - Power Conversion, **DNV Energy USA Inc**

Deborah Metzger Mulvey, Council Member, District I, **City of Castle Pines**

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

Michael Barg, Partner, **PA Capital**

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9:30 – 10:15 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:

Hector Ayala, Infrastructure Specialist, **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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10:15 – 10:45 AM

**Morning Break**

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10:45 – 11:30 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.

Moderator:

Natalie Stiffler, Senior Vice President, Colorado Transportation Lead, **WSP**

Panelists:

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

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

Jacob Riger, Division Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, **Denver Regional Council of Governments**

Sam Guarino, Transportation Director, **Town of Snowmass Village, CO**

Shoshana Lew, Executive Director, **Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)**

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11:30 – 12:00 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.

Moderator:

Kevin Bergschneider, Vice President, Water Program Leader, **HDR**

Panelists:

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

Patti Mason, Climate Action Strategist, **DLR Group**

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

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

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12:00 PM – 12:30 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.

Moderator:

Akshat Kasliwal, Managing Consultant, Power M&A and Strategic Advisory, **PA Consulting**

Panelists:

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

Jordan Ratliff, GIS Technician II, **City of Fountain**

Lori Bird, U.S. Director, Polsky Center for the Global Energy Transition, **World Resources Institute**

Courtney Fieldman, Utility Program Director, **Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)**

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12:30 – 1:00 PM

**Panel: AI is Ready, Your Data Isn't**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly entering the AEC space, promising faster decisions, improved outcomes and predictive insights. But across projects, many teams are discovering a difficult truth: AI is only as effective as the data foundation it's built upon.

This panel dives deep into real-world lessons from projects where data fragmentation, inconsistent processes and misaligned systems limit the impact of advanced technologies. More importantly, we will highlight how leading teams are addressing these challenges by aligning data strategies with program and project management best practices.

Attendees will learn how early collaboration, clear data ownership and integrated platforms can improve decision-making, reduce risk and unlock the full value of AI across the project lifecycle. This session moves beyond theory to provide practical, actionable steps for creating AI-ready project environments that support the future of project delivery.

Whether you are an Owner evaluating a program, a contractor executing projects or an advisor supporting delivery, this session will provide a clear framework to ensure your data foundation is ready before AI enters the conversation.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Jay Etchings, GTS Global Architect, AI, ML, Performance Computing Architect, **Cisco Systems, Splunk**

Nick Osborne, Implementation Manager, **Procon Consulting**

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1:00 – 2:00 PM

**Lunch**

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2:00 – 2:20 PM

**Presentation: Strong Opinions, Loosely Held: A Mindset for the Future of Construction**

In a fast-changing construction industry, holding tightly to outdated beliefs can be a silent killer of innovation. This session challenges attendees to reexamine what they “know” to be true and introduces the transformative mindset of “Strong Opinions, Loosely Held.” Through thought-provoking examples and real-world tech insights, Kahua’s AJ Waters dismantles common industry

myths, advocates for humility over hubris and proposes actionable strategies for navigating paradigm shifts.

Walk away with a fresh perspective and an actionable plan to foster adaptive leadership, question assumptions and model the mindset needed for tomorrow's challenges.

Presenter:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

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2:20 – 2:50 PM

**Panel: 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.

Moderator:

Manuel Alejandro Mata, Sr. Manager, Digital Data, AI & Analytics, **The AES Corporation**

Panelists:

Anthony Nwachukwu, Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator I, **University of Denver**

Trevor Mayes, Digital Delivery Lead, BIM Lead, **Stantec**

Josh Zeeb, Project & GIS Manager, **Town of Snowmass Village**

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2:50 – 3:30 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.

Moderator:

Susana Lopez-Baker, Executive Director, **Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA)** and Director, **Boulder County Housing Department**

Panelists:

Cece Cervantes, Housing Investment Manager, **City of Greeley**

Erin Clark, Chief Real Estate Investment Officer, **Denver Housing Authority**

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

Martin Petrov, Director of Housing Development, **Aurora Housing Authority**

Seth Brown, Affordable Housing Program Manager, **City of Englewood**

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3:30 – 4:00 PM

**Afternoon Break**

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4:00 – 4:40 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.

Moderator:

Tracy Davis, Partner, **Kaplan Kirsch**

Panelists:

Cory Miller, Procurement Division Manager, **El Paso County, Colorado**

Dole Grebenik, City Engineer, **The City of Castle Pines**

Heath Therrien, Vice President, Regional Alternative Delivery Director, Senior Project Manager, **STV**

Heather Brickey, Sr. Director, Transmission Capital Delivery, **Xcel Energy**

Roch Labossiere, Civil Engineer IV, Public Works, **City of Greeley**

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

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4:40 – 5:10 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.

Moderator:

Kelsey York, Solutions Specialist, **Procore**

Panelists:

Artem Ivushkin, SCADA Instrumentation & Control Supervisor, **City of Aurora | Aurora Water**

Brian Vos, Senior Engineering Manager – Simulation, **TORC Robotics, Inc.**

Michael Koslow, City Traffic Engineer, **City of Arvada**

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5:10 – 5:40 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.

Moderator:

Mike Mitchell, Senior Project Manager, **Plummer Associates, Inc**

Panelists:

Cheffren Canady, Co-founder & CEO, **Canady Advisors LLC**

Daniel Ryley, VP of Economic Development, **Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation**

Michael Landes, Senior Economic Development Manager, **Aurora Economic Development Council**

Mike Cerbo, Director of Real Estate, **Denver International Airport - City & County of Denver Dept of Aviation**

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5:40 – 6:00 PM

**Presentation: Bridging the Capital Gap: Connecting Project Developers with Investors, Lenders & Philanthropic Capital**

Distributed solar, storage, and infrastructure projects often stall due to financing challenges. The Community Power Accelerator (CPA), a free online platform originally developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Laboratory of the Rockies and now operated by the Milken Institute's Community Infrastructure Center is designed to help close that gap.

This session will introduce attendees to the CPA/CIC platform and how it connects developers with investors, lenders, and philanthropic capital providers. We'll highlight key features including matchmaking profiles, project pipeline tools, credit-readiness resources, weekly deal rooms, and free technical assistance and financing courses. Attendees will also learn how the platform's recent expansion now supports a broader range of infrastructure projects, including water, energy, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure.

Whether you are seeking project funding, investment opportunities, or new ways to support community infrastructure, this session will demonstrate how the CPA can help move projects forward.

Presenter:

Trevor Mitchell-Lipton, Accelerated Deployment and Decision Support (ADDS) Center, **National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)**

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6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Networking Reception**

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DAY 2 — June 3

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.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Jackson Brockway, Capital Planning and Budget Manager, **City and County of Denver**

John Anttonen, Associate Director, **Kiewit Development Company**

Shane O'Neill, Director of Budget and Capital Finance, **City & County of Denver**

Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, **Denver Regional Council of Governments**

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9:30 – 10:10 AM

**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.

Moderator:

Ruben Vasquez, Telecom & Geospatial Area Leader | Telecommunications Practice Leader |

Principal-in-Charge, **Plummer Associates, Inc.**

Panelists:

Jim Cannon, CEO, **Pivot-Tech Development, Inc.**

Ken Demlow, Senior Project Manager, **HR GREEN, INC.**

Lori Adams, VP, Broadband Policy & Funding Strategy, **Nokia**

Mayank Goel, Strategic Business Development, Government Programs & Product Strategy, **Zayo Group**

Spencer Hankin, Senior GIS Manager, **ikeGPS**

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10:10 – 10:40 AM

**Morning Break**

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10:40 – 11:20 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.

Moderator:

David Wooldridge, Transportation Leader, Industry Strategy Group, **Aurigo Software Technologies**

Panelists:

Alex Jadrich, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, Office of Emergency Management, **City and County of Denver**

Daniel Kolb, Business Resilience and Continuity Manager for Technology Services, **City and County of Denver**

Justin Jones, Cybersecurity Lead - Cyber Threat Intelligence, Engineering, and Architecture, **The Aerospace Corporation**

Ladd Epp, Cybersecurity & Compliance Administrator / System Engineer, **Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA)**

Robert Biestman, GM, Cyber Systems Analysis | Cybersecurity Research Center, **National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)**

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11:20 – 11:50 AM

**Panel: 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.

Moderator:

Kelsey York, Solutions Specialist, **Procore**

Panelists:

Jonah Bollinger, Town Manager, **Rangely, CO**

Orjinta Orji, Sr. Associate Director, Infrastructure/Cloud Architecture - Global Security and Resiliency Practice, **Kyndryl**

Vasdev Gullapalli, Senior Manager, Engineering & Infrastructure Services, **Qualcomm**

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11:50 – 12:20 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.

Moderator:

Stephanie Phippen, Vice President, Operations Manager, **Tetra Tech**

Panelists:

Brett Cavanagh, Director - Oil & Gas Energy, **Weld County Government**

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

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

Zach Jacob, City Council Member District 3, **City of West Jordan**

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12:20 PM

**Closing Discussion + Final Networking**