

6th Infraday Midwest

July 15, 2025

***Shaping the Future of Midwest Infrastructure: Innovation,
Resilience, Progress***

**City Hall - Recess
838 W. Kinzie
Chicago, IL 60642**



Infraday Midwest Agenda

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

Morning Sessions

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM | Opening Remarks

- Welcome and introduction to the day's discussions
 - Overview of major infrastructure challenges in the Midwest
 - Key themes: resilience, technology, workforce, and economic impact
 - Acknowledgment of speakers, sponsors, and attendees
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9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Panel 1: Rebuilding the Midwest – State and Local Infrastructure Investments

- State and municipal funding priorities for infrastructure
 - Public-private partnerships in infrastructure development
 - Addressing equity and accessibility in new projects
 - Strategies for maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure
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9:30 AM – 10:00 AM | Panel 2: The Future of Midwest Transportation – Highways, Transit & Rail

- Challenges in highway expansion and maintenance
 - Public transit investments and ridership trends
 - Passenger and freight rail modernization efforts
 - The role of emerging mobility solutions
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10:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Panel 3: Energy Transition – The Role of Renewables, Grid Resilience & Transmission Expansion

- Expanding wind, solar, and battery storage in the Midwest
- Grid modernization to support energy demand
- State policies shaping energy infrastructure
- Challenges in transmission development and permitting

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Morning Networking Break

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM | Stand-Alone Presentation 1: Water Infrastructure – Addressing Aging Systems & Climate Resilience

- The state of aging water infrastructure in the Midwest
 - Strategies for modernizing water and wastewater systems
 - Climate resilience and flood mitigation efforts
 - Funding opportunities for municipalities and utilities
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11:20 AM – 11:40 AM | Stand-Alone Presentation 2: The Supply Chain & Infrastructure Construction – Costs, Delays & Workforce Challenges

- Rising costs of materials and labor shortages
 - Supply chain disruptions impacting project timelines
 - Workforce development strategies for skilled trades
 - Innovations in construction methods and materials
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11:40 AM – 12:10 PM | Panel 4: Smart Cities & Technology-Driven Infrastructure

- Role of AI and big data in infrastructure planning
 - Smart transportation systems and digital highways
 - 5G expansion and its impact on urban planning
 - Cybersecurity challenges in connected infrastructure
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12:10 PM – 12:40 PM | Panel 5: Freight & Logistics – Strengthening Midwest's Role as a National Hub

- Challenges in rail, trucking, and port logistics
- Infrastructure upgrades for supply chain efficiency
- Impact of automation and AI in freight operations
- Policy and funding updates for logistics networks

12:40 PM – 1:40 PM | Networking Lunch

Afternoon Sessions

1:40 PM – 2:00 PM | Stand-Alone Presentation 3: The Midwest's Role in U.S. Semiconductor & Manufacturing Resurgence

- Infrastructure needs for semiconductor and advanced manufacturing
 - Site selection challenges and workforce readiness
 - State incentives and industrial policy shifts
 - Long-term economic impact on Midwest communities
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2:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Panel 6: Climate Resilient Infrastructure – Preparing for Extreme Weather & Disasters

- Flood prevention and stormwater management strategies
 - Strengthening roads, bridges, and utilities for resilience
 - Disaster relief funding and mitigation efforts
 - Case studies from cities investing in climate adaptation
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2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Panel 7: Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) & Financing the Next Era of Infrastructure

- Role of private investment in infrastructure projects
 - Emerging financing models for roads, bridges, and transit
 - Case studies of successful P3 initiatives in the Midwest
 - Balancing public interest with private sector goals
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3:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Afternoon Networking Break

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Panel 8: Data & AI in Infrastructure – Predictive Analytics & Project Efficiency

- How AI is transforming project planning and management
 - Predictive maintenance for roads, bridges, and utilities
 - Real-time data analytics for infrastructure resilience
 - Case studies of AI-driven decision-making
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4:00 PM – 4:20 PM | Stand-Alone Presentation 4: The Future of Infrastructure Policy – What’s Next for the Midwest?

- Legislative updates and potential funding opportunities
 - Shifts in regulatory frameworks for major projects
 - Role of infrastructure in economic competitiveness
 - Long-term vision for Midwest infrastructure investment
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4:20 PM – 4:50 PM | Panel 9: The Workforce Crisis – Addressing the Skilled Labor Shortage in Infrastructure

- Challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled workers
 - The role of trade schools, apprenticeships, and workforce training programs
 - Technology's impact on labor demand and productivity
 - How companies and governments are responding to labor shortages
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4:50 PM – 5:00 PM | Closing Remarks

- Key takeaways from the day’s discussions
 - Actionable insights for industry leaders and policymakers
 - Looking ahead to future infrastructure challenges and solutions
 - Acknowledgments and final thoughts
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5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Networking Reception