7th Infraday Texas
March 3-4

Advancing Innovative, Resilient, Efficient Infrastructure Projects in Texas

**Brazos Hall
204 E 4th St**

Austin, TX 78701

www.infraday.com/texas

Speakers include:

Abram VanElswyk, Structures and Project Delivery Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation, Waco District**
Adam Eaton, Senior Project Manager – Resiliency Lead, **Ardurra**
Adam Rosenfield, Program Manager, Workforce Outreach, **CapMetro**
AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua, Inc.**
Alence Poudel, Engineering Manager, **City of Sugar Land**
Alex Lee, Project Engineer, **Gresham Smith**
Amy Atchley, EV Equity Development Manager, **Austin Energy**
Andy Glasgow, Director of Engineering, **City of Celina**
Anthony Gonzales, Public Works WLM Supervisor, **Town of Flower Mound**
Antonio Martin, Technical Program/Project Manager II, CCED - Capital Construction Engineering Design, **CapMetro**
Benjamin King, Innovations Section Director, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Brad Cummings, Senior VP for Procurement, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Brad Dushkin, Director of Planning & Development Services, **City of Round Rock, Texas**
Carlos Gamarra, Vice President of Energy, Air and IT, Sr. Research Scientist, **HARC | Houston Advanced Research Center**
Caroline Mays, Senior Director of Planning and Modal Programs, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Casey Burack, EVP, Legal and Business Services, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Cesar Alvarado, Sales Director, **Aurigo Software Technologies**
Charles Benavidez, San Antonio District Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Chris Nelson, Chief Information Security Officer, **City of Lubbock**
Crystal Zhang, AI Lead, PEPS Division, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Dalton Rice, City Manager, **City of Kerrville**
Damian Pantoja, Community Engagement Specialist, **City of Austin**
Dan Rosenfield, Southern Regional Manager, Market Development, **Highland Fleets**
Darin Fredde, Security Operations Manager, **Dallas County**
Dawn Ashcraft, Senior Construction Manager, **City of Brownsville**
Enriqueta "Keta" Caballero, Outreach Specialist, Program Administration, **Texas Water Development Board**
Eric Bailey, Deputy Director of Capital Delivery Services, **City of Austin**
Eric Gallt, Director of Public Works, **City of Mesquite**
Gary French, Director of Information Technology, **Alabama-Coushatta Tribe**
Haris Khan, Sustainability Analyst, Environmental Services & Sustainability, **City of Frisco**
Heather Bishop, Associate Project Manager, **Austin Transportation and Public Works**
Howdy Lisenbee, City Manager, **City of Commerce, TX**
James Scott, Vice President of Project Development, **OCI Energy**
Jason JonMichael, Senior Strategist, Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence, **U.S. Department of Transportation**
Jennifer Pyne, EVP, Planning Community and Federal Programs, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Jonathan Flores, City Manager, **City of Pharr**
Jordan Cookston, Change Manager, Austin Technology Services, **City of Austin**

Joseph Goessling, Austin District | District Hydraulics Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Kelly Porter, Assistant Director -Transportation & Public Works - Regional Transportation and Innovation Division, **City of Fort Worth**
LaShaundra Shaw, Highway Workforce Development Program Administrator, **TxDOT**
Lindsay Wood, EVP, Design and Construction, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Marc Coudert, Climate Resilience & Adaptation Manager, Austin Climate Action & Resilience, **City of Austin**
Mark Johnson, Transportation Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Megan Fortson, Senior Director, Infrastructure Academy, **Workforce Solutions Capital Area**
Mike Hargis, Community Engagement Specialist, **Austin Transportation and Public Works**
Omar Elbagalati, AVP – Code, Construction & Survey, **Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport**
Rebecca Howe, Traffic Engineer, **Harris County Engineering Department**
Phil Green, IT Director, **City of Manor**
Robert Green, Environmental Engineer, **USDA**
Ryan Hopkins, Manager, Real Estate, **Recurrent Energy**
Sarvesh Dhakal, Assistant City Engineer, **City of Leander**
Sharmila Mukherjee, EVP, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer, **CapMetro**
Taha Ahmed, Manager of Project Controls, Executive Office, **Harris County Toll Road Authority**
Takasa Davis, Public Infrastructure Inspector, **City of Houston**
Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, **Texas811**
Travis Attanasio, Capital Engineering, Senior Capital Projects Engineer, **Burleson, TX**
Yunxiang (Phil) Fan, Practice Lead – Engineering, **San Antonio River Authority**
Zachary Ionadi, Product Development Lead – Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies, **Austin Energy**

INFRADAY TEXAS 2026 — DAY 1 (March 3)

8:30 AM
Panel: Texas 2030: AI as Infrastructure — Risks, Readiness & Market Opportunity

- Where AI can reduce delivery risk across transportation, water, energy, and drainage systems
- Growth corridors creating the strongest near-term demand for AI-driven design, modeling, and asset management
- Industrial expansion accelerating the need for AI in permitting, forecasting, and system optimization
- How Texas agencies will work with private partners to operationalize AI over the next decade

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

Panelists:
Crystal Zhang, AI Lead, PEPS Division, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Darin Fredde, Security Operations Manager, **Dallas County**

9:00 AM
Panel: Energy Infrastructure Under Pressure: Load Growth & Reliability

- Transmission, substation & transformer capacity constraints
- Managing extreme industrial load from fabs, data centers & hydrogen hubs
- Resilience strategies for extreme heat and weather volatility
- Private-sector innovations that accelerate grid expansion

Moderator:
Alex Lee, Project Engineer, **Gresham Smith**

Panelists:
Antonio Martin, Technical Program/Project Manager II, CCED - Capital Construction Engineering Design, **CapMetro**
Carlos Gamarra, Vice President of Energy, Air and IT, Sr. Research Scientist, **HARC | Houston Advanced Research Center**
Dan Rosenfield, Southern Regional Manager, Market Development, **Highland Fleets**
Ryan Hopkins, Manager, Real Estate, **Recurrent Energy**

9:30 AM
Panel: Mobility Infrastructure for a State Adding 1,400 Residents Per Day

- Highway, toll road & corridor modernization
- Transit, micro-mobility & first/last-mile integration
- EV/AV freight and connected corridor readiness
- Modeling, design & project delivery technologies improving outcomes

Moderator:
TBA

Panelists:
Caroline Mays, Senior Director of Planning and Modal Programs, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Charles Benavidez, San Antonio District Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Jason JonMichael, Senior Strategist, Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence, **U.S. Department of Transportation**
Sharmila Mukherjee, EVP, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer, **CapMetro**

10:00 AM
Panel: Water, Wastewater & Stormwater: Texas's Most Pressured Systems

- Water supply planning for cities and industrial users
- Wastewater treatment expansions for rapid-growth corridors
- Stormwater failures, basin planning & extreme rainfall adaptation
- Digital tools improving forecasting, permitting & risk modeling

Moderator
TBA, **Trimble**

Panelists:
Anthony Gonzales, Public Works WLM Supervisor, **Town of Flower Mound**
Howdy Lisenbee, City Manager, **City of Commerce, TX**
Robert Green, Environmental Engineer, **USDA**
Takasa Davis, Public Infrastructure Inspector, **City of Houston**

10:30 AM — Morning Break

11:00 AM
Panel: Innovative Approaches to Large-Scale Transportation Project Delivery

- Austin Transit Partnership Structure and Organizational Best Practices
- Light Rail Procurement Strategies and Overall Approach
- Construction Partnership Program

Moderator:
Kammy Horne, AICP, **Austin Transit Partnership Board Member**

Panelists:
Brad Cummings, Senior VP for Procurement, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Casey Burack, EVP, Legal and Business Services, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Jennifer Pyne, EVP, Planning Community and Federal Programs, **Austin Transit Partnership**
Lindsay Wood, EVP, Design and Construction, **Austin Transit Partnership**

12:00 PM
Panel: Data in the Critical Path: How Texas Infrastructure is Scaling Digital Delivery

AI is rapidly moving from experimentation to execution in infrastructure delivery. Forecasting, permitting, design coordination and project controls are increasingly AI-enabled, which now places data directly in the critical path of capital programs. The challenge is no longer whether to adopt AI, but how to scale it responsibly while maintaining accountability, transparency and public trust in the data that fuels it.

This panel brings together infrastructure leaders from city government, airport operations and toll road authorities to share how Texas agencies are approaching their data to accelerate decisions, integrate BIM and GIS, modernize digital project controls and secure critical systems. The discussion will focus on practical lessons learned, real constraints and clear priorities for expanding AI-driven digital delivery across complex public infrastructure portfolios.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua, Inc.**

Panelists:
Abhishek Rateria, Airport Strategy and Innovation Manager, **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)** (invited)
Chris Nelson, Chief Information Security Officer, **City of Lubbock**
Haris Khan, Sustainability Analyst, Environmental Services & Sustainability, **City of Frisco**
Omar Elbagalati, AVP – Code, Construction & Survey, **Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport**
Taha Ahmed, Manager of Project Controls, Executive Office, **Harris County Toll Road Authority**

12:30 PM
Presentation: Machine Learning Readiness in Wastewater Asset Management

This talk presents findings from our comparative study of traditional risk scores versus machine learning classifiers for wastewater pipelines for capital planning and delivery. Using Sugar Land's inspection and work order data, we tested whether ML could outperform established risk scoring frameworks under typical municipal data constraints. The results show that traditional risk scores remain more reliable until richer inspection and hydraulic datasets are available. The session provides a practical roadmap for utilities to assess their data maturity and readiness before investing in advanced AI tools.

Presenters:
Alence Poudel, Engineering Manager, **City of Sugar Land**
Jonathan Braun, Assistant City Engineer, **City of Sugar Land**
Robert Wilson, Assistant City Engineer, **City of Sugar Land**

1:00 PM — Lunch

2:00 PM
Panel: Public Works Modernization: Cities & Counties Under Surging Demand

- Upgrading roads, drainage, parks & civic facilities at scale
- Asset management technologies enabling lean teams
- Staffing challenges and PM/CM outsourcing strategies
- Funding high-impact community infrastructure

Moderator:
Damian Pantoja, Community Engagement Specialist, **City of Austin**

Panelists:
Eric Gallt, Director of Public Works, **City of Mesquite**
Mike Hargis, Community Engagement Specialist, **Austin Transportation and Public Works**

2:30 PM
Panel: Freight, Ports & Supply Chain Infrastructure Transformation

- Modernizing ports, inland hubs & intermodal connections
- Cold chain, warehousing & distribution center demands
- EV freight, charging & industrial fleet electrification
- Digital freight systems improving real-time visibility

Moderator:
TBA

Panelists:
Kelly Porter, Assistant Director -Transportation & Public Works - Regional Transportation and Innovation Division, **City of Fort Worth**

3:00 PM — Afternoon Break (30 Minutes)

3:30 PM
Panel: Project Delivery Innovation: Speed, Certainty & Collaboration

- Choosing DB, CMAR, Progressive or Accelerated Delivery
- Managing risk & controlling cost escalation
- Contracting models that serve fast-moving projects
- How owners procure partners, tech, and delivery expertise

Moderator:
TBA, **Procore**

Panelists:
Eric Bailey, Deputy Director of Capital Delivery Services, **City of Austin**
Gene Gamez, General Counsel, **DART** (invited)
Joseph Goessling, Austin District | District Hydraulics Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**
Mark Johnson, Transportation Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation**

4:00 PM
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**

4:00 PM
Presentation: Rising to the Challenge: Texas Infrastructure in 2035 and Beyond

Texas is America's fastest-growing state, with over a thousand people arriving every single day. This phenomenal rate of growth puts incredible strain on our existing infrastructure. Learn how TxDOT and its partner agencies are rising to the challenge. This session will cover upcoming megaprojects, long-range infrastructure plans, emerging transport modes, and the future of urban growth in Texas.

Presenter:
Abram VanElswyk, Structures and Project Delivery Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation, Waco District**

4:30 PM
Panel: Extreme Weather Engineering: A Hotter, Wetter Texas

- Basin-scale flood control and drainage modernization
- Heat impacts on roads, buildings and industrial assets
- Hardening utilities, grid infrastructure and data centers
- Materials & design standards for extreme conditions

Panelists:
Amy Atchley, EV Equity Development Manager, **Austin Energy**
Dalton Rice, City Manager, **City of Kerrville**

5:00 PM
Presentation: Auditing AI Hallucinations in Infrastructure Decision Support

This presentation introduces the concept of the "hallucination gap", where AI advice diverges from local evidence, and demonstrates a replicable audit framework that utilities can use to safeguard capital planning decisions. The session highlights lessons from Sugar Land's water utility case study and connects them to broader governance themes such as transparency, accountability, and responsible AI adoption.

Presenter:
Alence Poudel, Engineering Manager, **City of Sugar Land**

5:20 PM

Presentation: Accessing Infrastructure Funding Opportunities: Texas Water Development Board Financial Assistance Programs

The Texas Water Development Board administers an array of state and federal programs that offer a variety of cost-effective loan and grant programs, which provide for the planning, acquisition, design, and construction of water related infrastructure and other water quality improvements. This presentation will provide you with an overview of these programs, and their ability to assist you in planning and implement successful projects.

Presenter:
Enriqueta "Keta" Caballero, Outreach Specialist, Program Administration, **Texas Water Development Board**

INFRADAY TEXAS 2026 — DAY 2 (March 4)

8:30 AM
Panel: The 2026–2032 Capital Wave: What Every Infrastructure Partner Must Prepare For

- Growth corridors triggering multi-billion-dollar capital needs
- Industrial development accelerating utility, water and mobility demand
- Risks that will constrain public programs without private help
- Where engineering, tech & construction firms fit into the roadmap

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9:00 AM
Panel: Housing & Land Development Infrastructure: The New Frontline of Texas Growth

- Integrating utilities, drainage, broadband & mobility
- Infrastructure impacts of master-planned communities
- Cost pressures & financing models for developers
- City–county–developer coordination challenges

Panelists:
Andy Glasgow, Director of Engineering, **City of Celina**
Brad Dushkin, Director of Planning & Development Services, **City of Round Rock, Texas**

9:30 AM
Panel: Public Power & Utility Infrastructure for a Digital-Industrial Texas

- Substation, transformer & equipment shortages
- Planning for hyperscale industrial and data center load
- Utility–developer collaboration frameworks

- Regulatory pathways for accelerating interconnections

Panelists:
James Scott, Vice President of Project Development, **OCI Energy**
Zachary Ionadi, Product Development Lead – Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies, **Austin Energy**

10:00 AM
Panel: Water Supply, Reuse & Desalination: Securing Texas's Future

- Large-user water planning for industry and communities
- Desalination, reuse and aquifer storage technologies
- Planning for drought cycles and extreme variability
- Regional coordination for long-term water resilience

10:30 AM — Morning Break

11:00 AM
Presentation: Unlocking RFQ Success: Secret Insights from the Debriefs You Never Got

This presentation explores strategies for achieving success in Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) for professional engineering services under Texas Local Government Code. It outlines the RFQ process—from initial submittal to negotiation—and highlights common pitfalls and practical approaches to stand out in competitive selections. Key topics include compliance with Chapter 2254, understanding selection panel priorities, and leveraging trust, clarity, and differentiation as decision drivers. The session provides actionable insights for small and large firms, emphasizing structured proposals, local knowledge, and relationship-building. Attendees will learn how to interpret RFQ cues, prepare compelling interviews, and negotiate effectively while maintaining long-term partnerships. Ultimately, the discussion underscores that RFQ success depends not only on technical competence but on strategic positioning and communication.

Presenter:
Travis Attanasio, Capital Engineering, Senior Capital Projects Engineer, **Burleson, TX**

11:30 AM
Presentation: Collaborative Futures: Where Research and Innovation Meet Municipal Needs

Universities and local governments increasingly recognize the value of collaboration, yet many struggle to move beyond one-off projects toward durable, scalable research partnerships. This session presents a practical framework for building and sustaining a city–university research ecosystem using interlocal agreements (ILAs) as the backbone for collaboration. Drawing on real-

world experience leading a multi-institution municipal research program, the session will explore how cities can act as living laboratories while universities contribute disciplinary expertise, student talent, and applied research capacity. Attendees will learn how to design governance structures that balance academic freedom with public accountability; how to align research agendas with real operational needs; and how to manage data, intellectual property, and ethics in ways that support both public value and future commercialization. The session will also address common challenges—such as mismatched timelines, unclear outcomes, and post-project follow-through—and offer strategies for translating research into measurable impact after grant funding ends. Participants will leave with concrete lessons, adaptable templates, and a clearer understanding of how intentional partnership design can turn pilot projects into enduring research ecosystems that benefit universities, cities, and the communities they serve. Innovative and collaborative examples discussed will include AI projects for city planning, emergency management, and more.

Presenters:
Charles Purma, IT Manager, **City of Austin**
Heather Bishop, Associate Project Manager, **Austin Transportation and Public Works**

12:00 PM
Panel: Intelligent Transportation Systems & Smart Corridors

- Fiber, sensors, ITS & real-time analytics
- EV/AV readiness for commuter & freight corridors
- Connected vehicle pilots advancing safety & flow
- Digital infrastructure enabling corridor performance

Panelists:
Phil Green, IT Director, **City of Manor**

12:30 PM
Panel: Materials, Equipment & Long-Lead Constraints Across Sectors

- Electrical component shortages impacting timelines
- Concrete, steel & aggregates under extreme demand
- Climate-resilient materials for Texas conditions
- Procurement strategies reducing long-lead risk

Panelists:
Alejandro Miramontes, District Pavement Engineer, **Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio District**
Dawn Ashcraft, Senior Construction Manager, **City of Brownsville**
Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, **Texas811**

1:00 PM — Lunch

2:00 PM
Panel: Broadband & Fiber: Texas's Newest Critical Utility

- BEAD deployment & trenching coordination
- Fiber for industrial parks, neighborhoods & data centers
- Digital equity & economic mobility impacts
- Engineering, permitting & project delivery challenges

Panelists:
Gary French, Director of Information Technology, **Alabama-Coushatta Tribe**
Jonathan Flores, City Manager, **City of Pharr**
Peter Crary, Deputy Director of Technology Services, **Texas Association of Counties**

2:30 PM
Panel: Stormwater & Flood Control: Engineering for Extreme Weather

- Urban retrofits for older drainage systems
- Watershed-level planning for rapid development
- Funding major drainage & flood mitigation programs
- Data-driven design for resilience

Moderator:
Adam Eaton, Senior Project Manager – Resiliency Lead, **Ardurra**

3:00 PM — Afternoon Break (30 Minutes)

3:30 PM
Panel: Texas Infrastructure Workforce: Reshaping the Talent Pipeline

- Workforce shortages across transportation, water & energy
- Training, credentialing and apprenticeship programs
- Technology enabling leaner teams to do more
- Public–private strategies for long-term workforce supply

Panelists:
Adam Rosenfield, Program Manager, Workforce Outreach, **CapMetro**
LaShaundra Shaw, Highway Workforce Development Program Administrator, **TxDOT**
Megan Fortson, Senior Director, Infrastructure Academy, **Workforce Solutions Capital Area**

4:00 PM
Panel: AI, Automation & Robotics Across Infrastructure Delivery

- AI-enhanced project controls & predictive maintenance
- Robotics for utilities, drainage, transportation & industrial assets
- Integrating cross-agency data platforms
- Overcoming interoperability barriers

Panelists:
Jordan Cookston, Change Manager, Austin Technology Services, **City of Austin**

4:30 PM
Panel: Local Government Priorities: Infrastructure That Supports Daily Life

- Streets, drainage, water, parks & civic facilities
- Funding and staffing constraints in fast-growing communities
- Technology supporting smaller agencies
- Minimizing service disruption during construction

Panelists:
Marc Coudert, Climate Resilience & Adaptation Manager, Austin Climate Action & Resilience, **City of Austin**

5:00 PM
Panel: Texas Leadership Roundtable: Infrastructure in a High-Growth, High-Demand State

- Shared statewide challenges across all sectors
- Integrating growth, resilience & technology in 2030 plans
- Workforce and supply chain realities
- What public owners need most from private-sector partners

5:30 PM
Panel: Texas 2035: The Fully Integrated Infrastructure State

- What the future requires across grid, water, mobility & development
- New industries reshaping infrastructure priorities
- How technology will redefine operations and delivery
- The partnerships needed to build a resilient, competitive Texas