



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

INFRADAY TEXAS 2026 — DAY 1 (March 3)

7:00 AM

Registration Opens

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:

Cray Crouse, CIO, **City of Bryan**

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**

Jon Parrella, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, **Terraflow Energy**

Ryan Hopkins, Manager, Real Estate, **Recurrent Energy**

9:30 AM

Panel: Mobility Infrastructure for a State Adding 1,000+ 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:

Joseph Black, Senior Vice President - Director of Rail Operations, Service Planning, and Corridor Development, **WSP**

Panelists:

Ananth Prasad, CEO, **SH 130 Concession Company**

Charles Benavidez, San Antonio District Engineer, **Texas 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

Joe Cartin, Partner Advisor, Owner & Public Sector, **Trimble**

Panelists:

Amit Sengupta, Vice President | Regional Manager, Texas Water Business, **Parsons**

Felicia Muniz, Engineering & Stormwater Technician, **City of Seguin**

Robert Green, Environmental Engineer, **USDA**

Takasa Davis, Public Infrastructure Inspector, **City of Houston**

10:30 AM — Morning Break

Sponsored by:

SALTO  **WECOSYSTEM**

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**

11:50 PM

Presentation: Moving Texas Forward: Transportation Solutions for a Growing and Prosperous State

Texas' rapid growth and strong economy are increasing demands on the state's transportation network, intensifying congestion and safety challenges. TxDOT's multimodal approach—integrating highways, transit, aviation, ports, and rail—advances mobility for people and goods while supporting long term economic vitality. This session highlights key challenges, priorities, and solutions shaping the future of transportation in Texas.

Presenter:

Caroline Mays, Senior Director of Planning and Modal Programs, **TxDOT**

12:10 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:

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**
Todd Smith, CTO - Technology Properties Group, **Transwestern**

12:40 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**
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:

Krista McDermid, President, **Zara Environmental LLC**

Panelists:

Dan Davis, Mayor, **Manvel, TX**
Eric Gallt, Director of Public Works, **City of Mesquite**
Max Johnson, Director of Public Works, **City of Abilene**
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:

Patrick Norton, Application Sales Manager: Construction and Engineering Global Industry Unit, **Oracle**

Panelists:

Bruce Mann, Vice President Operations and Government Relations, **RCR Rail Co.**

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:

Travis Escoffery, Senior Product Marketing Manager, **Procore**

Panelists:

Christie Gotti, Senior Program Manager, Transportation Project Programming Area, **North Central Texas Council of Governments**

Eric Bailey, Deputy Director of Capital Delivery Services, **City of Austin**

Gene Gamez, General Counsel, **DART**

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**

4:20 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**

4:40 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

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

Amy Atchley, EV Equity Development Manager, **Austin Energy**

Dalton Rice, City Manager, **City of Kerrville**

Daniel Millikin, Executive Director, **Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy**

Paula Paciorek, Water & Energy Efficiency Services Team Leader, **Plummer**

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

5:20 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**

5:40 PM
Day 1 Close

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Reception:
Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que
217 Congress Ave

Sponsored by:



INFRADAY TEXAS 2026 — DAY 2 (March 4)

7:00 AM
Registration Opens

8:20 AM
Panel: The Next Capital Cycle — Delivering Local Infrastructure Under Pressure

- Aligning transportation, drainage, water & environmental capital programs at the municipal level
- Managing rapid growth, housing demand & industrial expansion impacts
- Sequencing funding, permitting & compliance to avoid project delays
- Protecting cost and schedule through practical, city-level delivery strategies

Moderator:
Joe Cartin, Partner Advisor, Owner & Public Sector, **Trimble**

Panelists:
Dewey Stoffels, Environmental Manager, Public Works Department, **City of Grapevine**
John Knight, Assistant Economic Development Director, **City of Red Oak**
Mike Arismendez, City Manager, **Kermit, TX**
Sarvesh Dhakal, Assistant City Engineer, Floodplain Administrator, **City of Leander**
Stephen Kuhr, Consulting Director, **Black & Veatch**

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

Moderator:

Tracy Bratton, Land Development Practice Leader, **Kleinfelder**

Panelists:

Brad Dushkin, Director of Planning & Development Services, **City of Round Rock, Texas**

Brandon Thomas, Land Development Engineer II, **Stiver Engineering**

Craig Farmer, President, **Municipal Planning Services, LLC**

David Sougstad, Land Development Coordinator, **Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport**

Netanya Jamieson, Program Officer Supportive Housing, **LISC San Antonio**

9:40 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

Moderator:

Alissa Nixon, Director, Government and Industry Relations, **TerraFlow Energy**

Panelists:

David Kezell, Director, Weatherization and Inspection, **ERCOT**

James Scott, Vice President of Project Development, **OCI Energy**

Samaksh Kr. Sharma, Operations Engineering Manager- Solar, Battery Energy Storage & Electrical Systems, **RWE**

Tyler Zorn, Sr. Business Development Manager, **GridBeyond**

Zach Ionadi, Product Development Lead – Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies, **Austin Energy**

10:20 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

Moderator:

Melissa Beaudry, Senior Resilience Planner, **Halff**

Panelists:

Michael Irlbeck, Director of Business Development, **EPCOR Water**

Jeremy Mazur, Director of Infrastructure & Natural Resources Policy, **Texas 2036**

Melanie Ferguson, Founding Director and Strategic Consultant, **Dallas Water Commons**

Mike Turco, General Manager, **Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and Fort Bend Subsidence District**

10:50 AM — Morning Break

Sponsored by:

SALTO WECOSYSTEM

11:10 AM

Panel: Scaling Robotics & AI in Public Infrastructure — From Pilot to Programmatic Deployment

- Deploying robotics in live environments — from construction sites and municipal facilities to industrial and energy assets
- Bridging R&D to field operations: turning advanced robotics and machine vision into deployable infrastructure solutions
- Securing automation at scale — OT cybersecurity, system integration, and critical infrastructure risk management
- Workforce transition, change management, and training pathways for robotics-enabled public systems

Moderator:

Stacy Stephens, Senior VP of Sales - RAD-M, **Robotic Assistance Devices**

Panelists:

Blake Bradley, Application Specialist - Machine Vision & Robotics, **KEYENCE CORPORATION**

Blake Gilson, OT Cybersecurity Engineering Manager, **ExxonMobil**

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

Lynne Randolph, Institute Engineer, Intelligent Systems Division, **Southwest Research Institute**

Omid Karimpour, Senior Product Manager, **Appronik**

Patricia McManus, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Professor and Program Coordinator, **Houston City College**

11:50 AM

Presentation: Regional Water Solutions: Leveraging Public Utility Agencies (PUAs) in Texas

As Texas communities confront rapid growth, infrastructure constraints, and increasing regional interdependence, governance structure has become central to long-term water security. Senate Bill 1169 strengthens the statutory framework for Public Utility Agencies (PUAs), positioning them as a practical platform for coordinated regional water and wastewater delivery. This session explores how PUAs can align jurisdictions, support strategic capital deployment, enhance access to state financing, and reduce fragmentation. Attendees will gain insight into the policy implications of SB 1169 and the role PUAs can play in delivering scalable, resilient water solutions across Texas.

Presenters:

Carlos Rubinstein, Senior Water Policy Advisor, **Accenture**

Lanita McCauley Bates, SVP, **Accenture**

12:10 PM

Presentation: Collaborative Futures: Where Research and Innovation Meet Municipal Needs

Universities and local governments increasingly see the value of collaboration, yet many struggle to move beyond one-off projects to durable, scalable research partnerships. This session outlines a practical framework for building and sustaining a city–university research ecosystem, using interlocal agreements (ILAs) as the structural backbone. Drawing on real-world experience leading a multi-institution municipal research program, the discussion will show how cities can serve as living laboratories while universities contribute disciplinary expertise, student talent, and applied research capacity.

Attendees will learn how to design governance models that balance academic freedom with public accountability; align research agendas with operational priorities; and manage data, intellectual property, and ethics to support both public value and potential commercialization. The session will also address common barriers—mismatched timelines, unclear outcomes, and limited post-project follow-through—and provide strategies for translating grant-funded pilots into sustained, measurable impact. Examples will include collaborative AI initiatives in city planning, emergency management, and related municipal applications.

Presenters:

Charles Purma, IT Manager, **City of Austin**

Heather Bishop, Associate Project Manager, **Austin Transportation and Public Works**

12:30 PM

Panel: Scaling Smart Corridors: EV, ITS & Secure Digital Infrastructure

Smart corridors are moving from pilot projects to operational reality. As EV charging expands, fiber and sensor networks grow and connected vehicle systems mature, transportation corridors are becoming their own fully digital environments. The challenge is scaling these systems reliably while aligning utilities, municipal IT, traffic operations and cybersecurity.

This discussion brings together leaders from automotive charging, city IT and transportation engineering to discuss corridor-scale EV reliability, smart corridor design, cross-agency integration

and the transition from pilots to sustained deployment. Expect practical insight into what it actually takes to build and operate intelligent corridors at scale.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Iké Onukogu, FPC Charging Systems Engineer, **Ford Motor Company**

Neil Mehta, Engineering Associate, ITS & Traffic, **AtkinsRéalis**

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

Victor De la Garza, Vice President, Traffic / ITS / Planning / Technology Division Manager, Gulf Coast Region, **AECOM**

1:00 PM — Lunch

2:00 PM

Presentation: Overview of the Traffic and Safety Analysis Procedures Manual (TSAP)

This session provides an overview of the Traffic and Safety Analysis Procedures (TSAP), TxDOT's standardized framework for evaluating traffic operations, safety performance, and cost-benefit outcomes across transportation projects statewide. TSAP aligns national best practices with Texas-specific design and policy requirements to ensure consistent, transparent, and performance-based decision-making from early planning through final design. Attendees will gain insight into how TSAP supports project prioritization, operational analysis, safety evaluation, and documentation—strengthening both technical rigor and accountability across the project development lifecycle.

Presenter:

Sara Urbina, Traffic Engineer, Highway Safety and Operations – Design Division, **Texas Department of Transportation**

2:20 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

Moderator:

Chuck Gill, Associate Partner - Materials Management & Digital Enablement Solutions, **ReVisionz Inc.**

Panelists:

Dawn Ashcraft, Senior Construction Manager, **City of Brownsville**

Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, **Texas811**

2:50 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

Moderator:

Eddie Shamp IV, Manager of Broadband & Utility, **Graybar**

Panelists:

Catherine Krantz, Area Director for Broadband, **Communities Unlimited**

Edward Barrett, President - Broadband, **HR Green, Inc.**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, **City of Pharr**

Lillian Painter, Broadband and Mobility Manager, **City of Forth Worth**

Peter Crary, Deputy Director of Technology Services, **Texas Association of Counties**

3:30 PM — Afternoon Break

3:50 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

Moderator:

Phillip Rizzo, Area Vice President, **Oracle**

Panelists:

Lainey Cie Corliss, Program Manager, **Texas Space Commission**

LaShaundra Shaw, Highway Workforce Development Program Administrator, **TxDOT**

Megan Fortson, Senior Director, Infrastructure Academy, **Workforce Solutions Capital Area**

Shirley Aldana, Business Process Specialist, **City of Austin**

4:20 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:

Jesse Milonovich, Assistant Director of Program Administration & Reporting, Water Supply & Infrastructure, **TWDB**

4:40 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

Moderator:

Ken Bauco, CEO, **Infraday**

Panelists:

John Naron, City Manager, **Hondo, Texas**

Katy Reiss, Customer Engagement Manager, **Fort Worth Water**

Max Johnson, Director of Public Works, **City of Abilene**

5:10 PM

Conference Concludes
