

# <u>Agenda</u>

	June 13
7:00am	Main Event
	Location: Hotel Chicago Downtown (4 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
	Registration Opens
7:50-8:00	Opening Remarks
	Speaker: Elbert Walters, Director, <b>Powering Chicago</b>
8:00-8:40	Keynote Panel: Infrastructure Investment – State of the Market
	The Midwest needs significant infrastructure investment to support economic growth and improve the quality of life for its residents. The region's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit systems, is aging and in need of repair and modernization. Additionally, the region has opportunities to invest in green infrastructure, such as renewable energy and EV infrastructure. Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to develop comprehensive plans and funding mechanisms to support infrastructure investment in the Midwest. This investment will not only improve the region's economic prospects but also ensure a more sustainable future. This panel will frame the event in a conversation on key infrastructure projects across the Midwest across the entire ecosystem.
	Moderator: Phillip Rizzo, Area Vice President, Oracle Construction and Engineering
	Panelists: Bill Fluhler, VP Engineering & Smart Grid, ComEd Lerry Knox, Partner, Climate Infrastructure Group James Coston, Executive Chairman, Corridor Rail Development Lafayette Crump, Commissioner, Department of City Development, City of Milwaukee
8:40-9:30	Panel: Project Delivery – Delivering Projects More Efficiently and Cost-Effectively
	The Midwest region is facing significant challenges in infrastructure project delivery due to funding constraints, aging infrastructure, and evolving regulatory landscapes. To overcome these obstacles, it is crucial for the region to adopt innovative project delivery methods that can expedite the completion of vital infrastructure projects. Public-private partnerships (PPP), design-build approaches, and other alternative delivery methods offer the potential to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. These methods necessitate robust collaboration between public and private entities, fostering creativity and improving project outcomes. By embracing new delivery

	models and cultivating collaborative partnerships, the Midwest can effectively address its infrastructure needs, supporting regional economic growth. In this panel, public sector leaders will discuss their utilization of these innovative project delivery models.
	Moderator: Shawn Thompson, Lead Innovative Project Delivery Manager, Jacobs
	Panelists: Jim Shaw, Vice President/IL State Leader, RS&H Michael Wicks, Deputy Chief of Program Implementation, Illinois Tollway Authority Mike Stirk, Bureau Chief of Innovative Project Delivery, Illinois Department of Transportation
	Neil Adams, Office of Planning & Programming, Bureau of Innovative Project Delivery, Illinois Department of Transportation Russell Pietrowiak, Senior Analyst, Capital Programming, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
9:30-9:50	Presentation: Kansas City – Sustainable Projects
	Kansas City is making significant strides in becoming a national leader for sustainable cities. The development of a large-scale solar array at the new Kansas City airport has the potential to generate up to 500 MW of clean energy on otherwise undevelopable land. The city's adoption of a municipal fleet policy mandating 100% zero-emissions electric vehicles, including street sweepers and buses, reduces harmful air pollution. Converting all 100,000 streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs significantly reduces energy consumption and maintenance costs, while the implementation of progressive building energy codes promotes efficiency in homes and businesses. Additionally, Kansas City's tree-planting initiative contributes to environmental conservation. With these bold actions, Kansas City is at the forefront of sustainable urban development and plays a significant role in the fight against climate change.  Presenter:  Brian Platt, City Manager, City of Kansas City, MO
9:50-10:15	Morning Break
	Sponsored by Globalstar
10:15-10:30	Presentation: Proposed MEGA Project: Chicago Hub Improvement Program (CHIP)
	CHIP is Amtrak's top National Network priority. It will provide faster, safer, and more reliable service to support the Midwest's growing ridership. CHIP will transform regional and long distance passenger rail service, connect job centers, reduce our carbon footprint and more. Amtrak and its partners' \$1.1 billion Federal/ State Partnership grant application is supported by a broad coalition of regional government and industry leaders including IDOT, MDOT, Metra, City of Chicago, and

Cook County along with labor, business, and environmental groups. This phase represents an \$873 million FRA investment supported through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Amtrak and its partners have committed an additional \$218 million investment, and are working closely with local, state, and federal stakeholders to bring attention to this important program. The program is divided into three categories of improvements: Chicago Union Station, Chicago Area Infrastructure, Chicago to Michigan Infrastructure.

### Speaker:

Ismael Cuevas, Government Affairs Manager, Midwest Region, Amtrak

#### 10:30-10:50

# <u>Presentation: Business classification and supplier diversity: How to account for</u> your organization's capital construction projects

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is top of mind for many organizations. Where is your organization's maturity in this initiative? Regarding your organization's capital construction projects, how can your organization collect this information for your external contractors and suppliers? This session will explore how construction project owners can collect DEI information on their projects while at the same time mitigating financial and legal risk around construction payments and ensure that compliance requirements are met.

#### Presenter:

Jeff Marsh, Principal Consultant, Oracle

#### 10:50-11:30

## **Panel: Equity in Public Infrastructure**

Equity in public infrastructure is a critical issue in the Midwest, as historically marginalized communities have been disproportionately impacted by the lack of investment in public infrastructure. To promote equity, policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize investments in underserved communities and ensure that infrastructure projects address the unique needs of these communities. This includes access to affordable and reliable transportation, clean water and air, and green spaces. Additionally, it is essential to involve these communities in the planning and decision-making process to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met. By prioritizing equity in public infrastructure investment, the Midwest can create a more just and inclusive society for all. This panel will feature public sector leaders in a conversation on how they are looking at infrastructure projects through an equity lens.

### Moderator:

Ron Deverman, Vice President, National Environmental Planning Leader, STV, Inc.

#### Panelists:

Elizabeth Kocs, Program Manager, Hydrogen Technology Center, **GTI Energy** John Law, Assistant Commissioner, **City of Chicago | Department of Planning and Development (DPD)** 

# Norman Ruano, Deputy Director, Illinois Works, **Illinois Department of Commerce** and Economic Opportunity

Odalo Ohiku, Deputy City Attorney, **City of Milwaukee, Office of the City Attorney** Shannon Stokes, Deputy General Counsel/Ethics Officer, **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services** 

# 11:30-12:10 Panel: EV Infrastructure in the Midwest

The Midwest is working to expand its electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and charging stations. Initiatives such as the Midcontinent Transportation Electrification Collaborative and utility company investments aim to develop a comprehensive network of EV charging stations throughout the region, including in rural and disadvantaged communities. However, more investment and comprehensive plans are needed to fully support the growth of the electric vehicle market and reduce the region's carbon footprint. Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to develop public-private partnerships, government incentives, and other financing mechanisms to support the expansion of charging infrastructure in the Midwest.

### Moderator:

Elbert Walters, Director, Powering Chicago

#### Panelists:

Ana Isabel Mendoza, GIS Specialist, McLean County Government
Andrew Burnham, Principal Environmental Scientist, Argonne National Laboratory
Jack Cruikshank, Transportation System Planner, Office of Intermodal Project
Implementation, Illinois Department of Transportation

Reggie Greenwood, Director of the Supply Chain Innovation Center, **Governors State University** 

Sean Neuert, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)

# 12:10-12:40 Panel: Tools, Tips, and Tech for ESG - Best Practices for Managing and Measuring Your Environmental, Sustainability, and Governance Goals

Managing and measuring environmental, sustainability, and governance (ESG) goals can be enhanced using technology. Software solutions and digital platforms enable organizations to streamline data collection, analysis, and reporting processes. Environmental impact assessment tools help measure carbon footprint, energy usage, and waste generation. Sustainability management systems facilitate tracking and monitoring of resource efficiency, supply chain sustainability, and environmental certifications. Governance frameworks can be supported by governance software, which aids in compliance monitoring, risk assessment, and stakeholder engagement. Additionally, emerging technologies like blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) enable transparent data tracking and verification, ensuring accuracy and credibility in ESG reporting. Leveraging technology enhances efficiency, accuracy, and accountability in managing and measuring ESG goals.

# Moderator:

	Nicholas Johnson, Chief Evangelist, <b>Kahua, Inc.</b>
	incholas Johnson, Chief Evangenst, <b>Kanua, Inc.</b>
	Panelists: Ashish Sharma, Climate and Urban Sustainability Lead Discovery Partners Institute, University of Illinois System Stephen Sproul, Director Solutions Delivery, OnIndus
12:40-1:40	<u>Lunch</u>
	Sponsored by OnIndus
	Remarks: Sid Shah, President, <b>OnIndus</b>
1:40-2:00	Presentation: Leveraging Spectrum Innovation to Bridge the Digital Divide in South  Bend
	In 2020, 23.5% of South Bend families lacked an internet subscription. Another 11% relied exclusively on mobile data for internet access. As classes moved online at the start of the pandemic, our community mobilized to bring mobile hotspots to unconnected households. However, as emergency funding neared expiration, the connectivity needs of families continued to grow. Leaning on the expertise of Notre Dame's Wireless Institute, our community invested one-time grant funding into an innovative, long-term solution: a private LTE network using CBRS shared spectrum. Owned and operated by the South Bend Community School Corporation, this network provides families unlimited data capacity with stronger connections and lower recurring costs than traditional carrier networks. We in the City of South Bend are also leveraging the network to support smart city solutions where fiber is unavailable. In this session, I will introduce the innovations at the heart of this solution, review key lessons and recommendations for future implementations, and explore the unique partnerships that have made this project possible.  Presenter:  Patrick McGuire, Technology Equity Manager, City of South Bend
2:00-2:20	Presentation: Multi-State Corridor Infrastructure: Transforming Northwest Indiana with Trains, Trails, and Terabytes
	After experiencing decades of disinvestment in some of its once-vibrant cities, the southern shore of Lake Michigan is seeing a dramatic economic turnaround tied directly to significant infrastructure investments in commuter rail, transit-oriented development, regional trail connections, and high-speed data transmission. The Marquette Greenway, propelled by a \$17.8 million RAISE grant and a \$2 million state investment, will make for a seamless bicycle and pedestrian experience from Chicago to New Buffalo, Michigan, while enhancing access to the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Double-Tracking of the South Shore Line currently under construction will shave approximately a half-hour from commuting travel time to jobs in Chicago, while the West Lake Commuter Rail project will bring commuter rail

service to Chicago along the Illinois-Indianan border. Both rail projects are supported by the Indiana General Assembly's provision of Transit Development Districts at all accompanying station locations to incentivize Transit Oriented Development, bringing new housing options and economic development potential. Meanwhile, momentum is building to develop a very-high-speed computing corridor using buried fiber in the Indiana Tollway and South Shore rights-of-way between Chicago and South Bend for quantum computing and communications along this "crossroads of America." While the heavy lifting lies in Northwest Indiana, these projects connect three states and many municipalities through multi-jurisdictional collaboration on infrastructure investment on a scale not seen for several generations.

### Presenter:

Ty Warner, Executive Director, NIRPC (Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission)

# 2:20-2:50

# <u>Presentation: Chicago Department of Housing (DOH) Single Family and Multi-</u> <u>Family Decarbonization Efforts</u>

The Chicago Department of Housing (DOH) is actively engaged in decarbonization efforts for both single-family and multi-family properties. Recognizing the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change, the DOH has implemented various initiatives to promote energy efficiency and sustainability. These efforts include providing financial incentives and grants to property owners for energy-efficient upgrades and retrofits, such as insulation, HVAC system upgrades, and solar panel installations. Additionally, the DOH offers educational programs and resources to raise awareness about the benefits of decarbonization and assist residents in making environmentally friendly choices. By prioritizing decarbonization, the DOH aims to create healthier, more sustainable housing options for the residents of Chicago.

#### Presenters:

Gavin Bowman, Climate and Energy Project Manager, **City of Chicago**Jim Horan, Deputy Commissioner, Construction and Compliance Bureau, **Chicago Department of Housing (DOH)** 

Matt Stern, Senior Recovery Team Program Manager, Chicago Department of Housing (DOH)

## 2:50-3:10

## **Afternoon Break**

#### 3:10-3:40

# <u>Panel: Watch Your Assets: Exploring Technology Strategies to Improve Project Performance</u>

This panel will explore how technology and data strategies are helping construction owners transform the way they manage their assets from planning through operations. Our panelists will dig into the challenges construction owners face when developing a technology strategy and examine the risks and rewards of deploying them. From out of the box to home grown solutions we'll discuss the pros and cons, and what owners should keep in mind when working toward a solution that meets

their needs as well as those who they collaborate with. Attendees will gain valuable insight into how technology can enhance infrastructure project performance and ensure the long-term success of construction projects.

#### Moderator:

Nick Caravella, Director of Thought Leadership, **Avicado Construction Technology Services**, **LLC** 

#### Panelists:

Guenther Preuhs, Executive Vice President - Program Controls, **Anser Advisory**Sean Guzik, Quality Assurance Manager, **CDOT - Division of Engineering**Curtis Witek, Project Director, **Cook County Government** 

# 3:40-4:20 Panel: Can Technology Meet the Moment? Build Public Trust & Improve Outcomes with Asset Lifecycle Management

Historic levels of public funding are driving many large projects in the Midwest as funding from the Infrastructure Bill comes to fruition. Yet equally historic shortages of housing and labor--plus rising costs--threaten to delay needed infrastructure improvements. How can new technologies address these challenges and put budgets and schedules on track? This panel explores Asset Lifecycle Management - the integration of digital technologies to manage the delivery of capital projects and the ongoing maintenance and operations of physical assets.

## Moderator:

Joe Cartin, Partner Sales Manager, e-Builder, Trimble

### Panelists:

Eben Smith, Director of Planning & Design, Chicago Public Schools
Kathryn Martin, Deputy Director of Operations, Illinois Capital Development Board
Robert Christlieb, Executive Director Facilities Operations, Chicago Public Schools
Sid Shah, President, OnIndus

## 4:20-5:00 Panel: Climate and Infrastructure

Climate infrastructure in the Midwest is becoming increasingly important as the effects of climate change continue to impact the region. Infrastructure projects that address climate change, such as renewable energy, green buildings, and EV infrastructure, are essential to reducing the region's carbon footprint and improving resilience to climate-related risks such as flooding and extreme weather events. The Midwest has the potential to lead in climate infrastructure development, given its significant agricultural resources and potential for renewable energy. To support climate infrastructure investment in the Midwest, policymakers must prioritize funding for these projects and encourage public-private partnerships that can support innovative solutions. This panel will look at the how climate related issues are impacting the development of new infrastructure projects.

# Moderator:

Bethany Bennick, Deputy Team Lead for Water & Wastewater Technologies | Global Environmental Technology Team, **U.S. Department of Commerce** 

## Panelists:

Deb Kutska, Environment & Sustainability Initiatives Program Manager, Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

Gavin Bowman, Climate and Energy Project Manager, City of Chicago
James Jennings, Deputy Director, Illinois EPA Waste Reduction and Compliance
Section

Mohammed Elahi, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Development, **Cook County Government** 

## 5:00-5:40 **Panel: Stormwater Infrastructure**

Stormwater infrastructure in the Midwest is critical for preventing flooding and protecting public safety. The region is prone to heavy rainfall events, which can overwhelm aging stormwater systems and cause significant damage to property and infrastructure. To address these challenges, the region must invest in modernizing stormwater infrastructure to improve resilience to climate change and reduce the risk of flooding. This includes using green infrastructure solutions such as permeable pavements and rain gardens, which can absorb and store stormwater runoff. It also requires collaboration between public and private partners to develop innovative solutions and secure funding for infrastructure investments. By investing in stormwater infrastructure, the Midwest can improve public safety and support economic growth in the region. This panel will feature public sector leaders in a discussion on stormwater infrastructure project across the region.

### Moderator:

Joshua Herchl, Director, Municipal Markets, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.

#### Panelists:

Khurshid Hoda, Director, Engineering Programs and Services, Village of Orland Park Patrick Kane, Systems Administrator, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Tim Kingsland, Hobart Storm Water District/MS4 Coordinator, **City of Hobart, IN** Troy Lambert, Environmental Analyst, **City of Sioux Falls, SD** 

# 5:40-6:00 Presentation: StormStore™ – a market-based approach to building green stormwater infrastructure and nature-based solutions

The Chicago region faces escalating impacts from increasingly frequent urban flooding. Excess stormwater degrades our river systems' water quality and imposes significant burdens across the region, with lower-income individuals and communities of color disproportionately bearing the brunt of these effects. StormStore™ is an environmental marketplace where developers, engineers, and public/private landowners converge to meet stormwater requirements and mitigate flood risks. This session will present the need for StormStore, status of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's 5-year trading pilot,

	case studies of early adopters, and a How-to Get Started for public and private stakeholders. StormStore™ is a partnership of the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is the result of nearly a decade of collaboration, research, and advocacy by a wide range of stakeholders in the Chicago region and beyond.
	Presenter:
	Ryan Wilson, Senior Manager, Metropolitan Planning Council
6:00	Event Close and Closing Reception