



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)

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**

Ian Rock, Chief Technology 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

Panelists:

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

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**

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

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**

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

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**

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:

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**

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**

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:

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

Panelists:

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

Dan Davis, Mayor, **Manvel, TX**

Eric Galt, 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

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** (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**

4:20 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**

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

5:10 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**

5:45 PM – 7:45 PM

Reception:

Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que

217 Congress Ave

Sponsored by:



— Alliance Partner —

INFRADAY TEXAS 2026 — DAY 2 (March 4)

8:30 AM

Panel: The Next Capital Cycle — Funding, Sequencing & Delivering Infrastructure at Scale

- Aligning transportation, energy, water, and drainage programs across overlapping capital plans
- Managing growth shocks from industrial expansion, housing demand, and hyperscale data centers
- De-risking delivery: funding gaps, permitting bottlenecks, supply chain & workforce constraints
- Using digital delivery, asset intelligence & real-time project data to protect cost and schedule

Moderator:

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

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, Vice President, Land Development, **Doucet & Associates, Inc.**

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**

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

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

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

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

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

TBA, **GridBeyond**

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

Panelists:

Americus Mitchell, Vice President of Industrial Water, **EPCOR**

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

Melanie Ferguson, Director, **Dallas Water Commons** (invited)

Sonny Campbell, City Manager, **City of Anson, Texas**

10:30 AM — Morning Break

Sponsored by:

SALTO WECOSYSTEM

11:00 AM

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

- Where robotics and AI are securing funded, multi-year infrastructure contracts across transportation, utilities, and industrial systems
- Scaling from pilot projects to enterprise-wide deployment within public agencies and critical infrastructure owners
- Integrating AI, OT cybersecurity, and cross-agency data platforms to enable secure automation at scale
- Navigating procurement, interoperability, and vendor selection to accelerate real-world deployment

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

Angelo Kirchon, Head of Operations, **Terrafirma Inc.** (invited)

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

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**

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

11:30 AM

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**

11:50

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

12:10 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:

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

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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

2:30

Panel: Industrial Mega-Projects & Advanced Manufacturing Infrastructure — Building Texas's Next \$10B Facilities

- Site readiness: power, water, broadband, and transport capacity at scale
 - Permitting and interagency coordination for accelerated delivery
 - Utility partnerships and long-lead infrastructure planning
 - Risk, capital alignment, and execution across public-private stakeholders
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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:

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**

4:00 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**

4:20 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:

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

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

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

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