

# **6th Infraday Texas April 2, 2025**

**AT&T Hotel and Conference Center  
1900 University Ave, Austin, TX 78705**



## Subject To Change – Last Update 2-28

Infraday Texas – Dual Track Program Agenda

Date: April 2, 2025

Location: AT&T Hotel and Conference Center, Austin, Texas

Speakers include:

- AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua, Inc.**
- Amy Atchley, EV Equity Development Manager, **Austin Energy**
- Anil Mirmira, Deputy Director, Tolling Operations, **Harris County Toll Road Authority**
- B.J. Carpenter, Airport Environment & Sustainability Officer, **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**
- Brandon Thomas, Water Treatment & Compliance Assistant Manager, **New Braunfels Utilities (NBU)**
- Brendon Wheeler, Program Manager, Transportation, **North Central Texas Council of Governments**
- Caroline Mays, Director of Planning and Modal Program, **Texas Department of Transportation**
- Cesar Alvarado, Sales Director, **Aurigo Software Technologies**
- Dakota Shaw, Project Manager, Aviation, Planning & Programming, **TxDOT**
- Dalton Rice, City Manager, **City of Kerrville**
- Darryl Spencer, Vice President Engineering & Technical Services, **Dallas Area Rapid Transit**
- David Olson, Assistant City Manager, **City of Temple, TX**
- Diana Ramirez, County Administrator, **Harris County Office of County Administration**
- Diane Cook, Chief Operating Officer, **Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area**
- Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, **City of San Antonio**
- Gadimi Hilton, Transportation & Public Works, Regional Transportation and Innovation, **City of Forth Worth**
- Gardner Tabon, EVP, Systemwide Accessibility & Chief Safety Officer, **CapMetro**
- Heather Bishop, Associate Project Manager, Transportation and Public Works, **City of Austin**
- Jacob Barrett, TDM Program Manager, **City of Austin**
- James Earp, City Manager, **City of Hutto**
- Jason Deckman, Principal Planner, Planning & Development, **City of Temple, TX**
- Jay Brown, Director, Policy & Origination | Co-Founder, **Pressure Core**
- Jesal Shah, Chief Project Delivery Officer, **Harris County Flood Control District**
- John Hall, President/CEO, **HARC | Houston, Advanced Research Center**
- Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director, **Deep East Texas Council of Governments & Economic Development District**
- L'Oreal Stepney, Board Chairwoman, **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)**
- Marc Coudert, Climate Adaptation & Resilience Manager, Office of Climate Action & Resilience, **City of Austin**
- Michael Ramsey, Executive Director, Workforce Development Office, **City of San Antonio**
- Michele Bryant, Plant Engineer, **Austin Energy**
- Mike Trimble, Director, Transportation & Public Works, **City of Kyle, TX**
- Richard McHale, Director, Austin Resource Recovery, **City of Austin**
- Robert Puente, President/CEO, **San Antonio Water System**
- Ryan McCutcheon, **Dallas Area Rapid Transit**
- Sarah Garza, Director of Mobility Industry Partnerships, **Workforce Solutions Capital Area**
- Sharmila Mukherjee, EVP, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer, **CapMetro**
- Shirley Aldana, Business Process Specialist, Planning & Evaluation, **Austin Public Health**
- Sirwan Shahooei, Senior Traffic Engineer, **City of Lewisville**
- Sunday Odiyeye, CIP Manager (I), Department of Aviation, **City of Dallas**
- Thomas Hunter, Assistant City Manager, **City of Pflugerville**
- Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, Dallas Office, **Damage Prevention Council of Texas**
- Zach Dell, Co-Founder and CEO, **Base Power Company**

**Pre-Event Reception – April 1, 2025**

Time	Location: TBA
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	

**Morning Sessions – April 2, 2025**

Time	Track 1	Track 2
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	<p><b>Registration and Networking Breakfast</b>                      Details: Start your day by connecting with Texas’ top infrastructure leaders over coffee and breakfast. Build meaningful relationships and spark collaborations that could shape the future of infrastructure in the Lone Star State.</p>	
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	<p><b>Keynote Panel: Texas Cities in Transition: Mayors Leading the Infrastructure Revolution</b></p> <p>As Texas experiences rapid urban growth, increasing climate challenges, and shifting economic landscapes, city leaders are at the forefront of shaping the future of infrastructure. This panel brings together mayors from across the state to discuss how they are addressing critical challenges in transportation, energy, water management, and resilience while embracing AI, smart city solutions, and sustainable development. Hear firsthand how Texas' top municipal leaders are driving bold initiatives, securing funding, and navigating the complexities of building future-ready cities.</p>	
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM	<p><b>Panel: Texas' Infrastructure Renaissance</b></p> <p>The panel will highlight the transformative projects and policies shaping the future of the state’s infrastructure. Industry leaders and public officials will discuss major investments, technological advancements, and strategies driving resilience, sustainability, and economic growth across Texas.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Caroline Mays, Director of Planning and Modal Program, <b>Texas Department of Transportation</b>                      John Hall, President/CEO, <b>HARC   Houston, Advanced Research Center</b>                      Michele Bryant, Plant Engineer, <b>Austin Energy</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: The Future of Smart Infrastructure in Texas</b></p> <p>As Texas continues to experience rapid population growth and economic expansion, smart infrastructure is becoming essential for efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. This panel will explore how emerging technologies—such as AI, IoT, and digital twins—are transforming transportation, energy, and urban planning to create smarter, more connected cities.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>James Earp, City Manager, <b>City of Hutto</b></p>

<p>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Panel: Building Resilient Communities – Infrastructure Solutions for Texas' Climate Challenges</b></p> <p>From flood mitigation and rural infrastructure planning to urban climate adaptation, Texas must address a wide range of resilience challenges. This panel will bring together experts leading efforts in flood control, regional development, and climate adaptation to discuss how communities can prepare for extreme weather, power grid stress, and long-term environmental shifts. Panelists will explore innovative project delivery strategies, regional collaboration, and funding mechanisms that strengthen Texas’ infrastructure against future disruptions.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, <b>City of San Antonio</b>  Jesal Shah, Chief Project Delivery Officer, <b>Harris County Flood Control District</b>  Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director, <b>Deep East Texas Council of Governments &amp; Economic Development District</b>  Marc Coudert, Climate Adaptation &amp; Resilience Manager, Office of Climate Action &amp; Resilience, <b>City of Austin</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: The Role of AI and Data in Infrastructure Planning</b></p> <p>AI and data analytics are revolutionizing infrastructure planning by enabling smarter decision-making, predictive maintenance, and improved project efficiency. This panel will explore how advanced technologies—such as machine learning, digital twins, and real-time data integration—are optimizing transportation networks, energy grids, and urban development for a more resilient future.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Anil Mirmira, Deputy Director, Tolling Operations, <b>Harris County Toll Road Authority</b>  Jason Deckman, Principal Planner, Planning &amp; Development, <b>City of Temple, TX</b>  Sirwan Shahooei, Senior Traffic Engineer, <b>City of Lewisville</b></p>
<p>10:10 AM – 10:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Presentation: Securing Texas’ Water Future: Innovation &amp; Resilience in Water Management</b></p> <p>As Texas faces increasing water challenges from population growth and climate variability, innovative strategies are essential to ensure long-term water security. Robert Puente will discuss how San Antonio Water System is leveraging advanced conservation practices, infrastructure investments, and public-private partnerships to enhance resilience and sustainability in water management.</p> <p>Presenter:  Robert Puente, President/CEO, <b>San Antonio Water System</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation: DART Resilient Strategies – Addressing Texas’ Climate Challenges in Transportation</b></p> <p>As climate change intensifies, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system is implementing resilient strategies to safeguard DART’s assets (rail infrastructure and vehicles) within Texas' transportation infrastructure. This session will explore innovative solutions, including extreme weather response planning, and strategies to combat challenges during Severe Weather, maintaining Service Reliability, address component Obsolescence. Learn how DART and innovative practices are leveraging technology and innovative practices to ensure long-term reliability and adaptability in the face of evolving climate challenges.</p> <p>Presenter:</p>

		Darryl Spencer, Vice President Engineering & Technical Services, <b>Dallas Area Rapid Transit</b>
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Mid-Morning Networking Break (30 min)	
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<p><b>Panel: Future-Ready Transportation: Expanding Access, Infrastructure, and Mobility</b></p> <p>As technology continues to reshape mobility, strategic regional planning is crucial to accommodate rapid population growth and evolving transportation needs. This panel brings together experts from Austin Energy, CapMetro, and NCTCOG to explore how EV equity initiatives, transit electrification, and long-range transportation planning are shaping the future of mobility. From addressing the demographic boom in DFW and its strain on infrastructure to high-speed rail expansion and innovative transit solutions, our panelists will discuss how to create a more sustainable, accessible, and forward-thinking transportation network.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Amy Atchley, EV Equity Development Manager, <b>Austin Energy</b>  Brendon Wheeler, Program Manager, Transportation, <b>North Central Texas Council of Governments</b>  Sharmila Mukherjee, EVP, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer, <b>CapMetro</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: Future-Proofing Texas Airports – Expanding Infrastructure for Growth and Sustainability</b></p> <p>As Texas airports experience record passenger growth and increasing cargo demand, investing in resilient and efficient infrastructure is critical. This session will explore how major airports are expanding terminals, modernizing runways, and integrating sustainable solutions like electrification, reclaimed water systems, and smart technology. Industry leaders will discuss the challenges and opportunities in scaling airport infrastructure to meet future mobility needs while enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and passenger experience.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>B.J. Carpenter, Airport Environment &amp; Sustainability Officer, <b>Austin-Bergstrom International Airport</b>  Dakota Shaw, Project Manager, Aviation, Planning &amp; Programming, <b>TxDOT</b>  Sunday Odiyeye, CIP Manager (I), Department of Aviation, <b>City of Dallas</b></p>
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	<p><b>Presentation: SMART Grant: Intelligent Micro-Weather Network for Transportation, Autonomous Vehicles and Advanced Air Mobility</b></p> <p>The City of Fort Worth is using a SMART Grant to deploy advanced road weather sensors, enhancing real-time weather monitoring for safer roads and improved traffic management. These sensors detect hazards like ice, flooding, and low visibility, winds, integrating with the city's intelligent transportation system.</p>	<p><b>Presentation: The Future of Mobility in Suburban Texas through Public Private Partnerships</b></p> <p>The McKinney Urban Transit District – a recently designated FTA grant subrecipient – has partnered with DART Mobility Service (a Local Government Corporation) to manage the Collin County Transit Program. This innovative and unique public service provides transportation to seniors, riders with a disability, and low-income riders in one of the fastest growing areas of the state.</p>

	<p>This presentation will explore how data-driven insights support safer mobility, automated vehicles, emergency response and transportation management. We'll also cover deployment challenges, funding strategies, goals and desired impacts of this technology. Ideal for transportation leaders and tech innovators, this session highlights scalable solutions for smart, resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Presenter: Gadimi Hilton, Transportation &amp; Public Works, Regional Transportation and Innovation, <b>City of Forth Worth</b></p>	<p>This eligibility-based service is a shared ride program that utilizes the Spare Labs platform to optimize service of the dedicated and non-dedicated (TNC) fleets, book trips, and monitor the fiscal health and community benefit of the program. Recent innovations include distance-based fares. The goal of this partnership is to connect eligible residents with economic opportunities and enhance their quality of life with a private sector "customer first" approach.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ryan McCutcheon, Manager of Special Projects, Service Planning &amp; Scheduling, <b>DART</b></p>
<p>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: Texas High-Speed Rail: Accelerating Connectivity and Economic Growth</b></p> <p>As Texas continues to experience rapid population growth and increasing congestion on its highways, the demand for efficient, sustainable, and high-capacity transportation solutions has never been greater. This session will explore the future of high-speed rail in Texas, focusing on the proposed Dallas-Houston bullet train, expansion possibilities, and the economic and environmental benefits of a modern rail network. Experts will discuss funding challenges, regulatory hurdles, and innovative partnerships driving the project forward, while also examining how high-speed rail could reshape mobility, enhance workforce connectivity, and position Texas as a leader in next-generation transportation.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Gardner Tabon, EVP, Systemwide Accessibility &amp; Chief Safety Officer, <b>CapMetro</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: Water Infrastructure - Managing Texas' Most Critical Resource</b></p> <p>With growing population demands and intensifying drought conditions, managing Texas' water infrastructure is more critical than ever. This panel will explore innovative solutions for water conservation, sustainable supply management, and infrastructure upgrades to ensure long-term resilience for communities and industries across the state.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Brandon Thomas, Water Treatment &amp; Compliance Assistant Manager, <b>New Braunfels Utilities (NBU)</b> Dalton Rice, City Manager, <b>City of Kerrville</b> David Olson, Assistant City Manager, <b>City of Temple, TX</b> L'Oreal Stepney, Board Chairwoman, <b>Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)</b></p>
<p>12:40 PM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: The Digital Transformation of Infrastructure: From Conception to Operations</b></p> <p>As infrastructure projects grow in complexity, the integration of digital tools is revolutionizing the way capital programs are designed, managed, and delivered. This panel will explore the transformative impact of</p>	<p><b>Presentation: Mobility Hubs – Addressing Austin's Multimodal Challenges with Innovation</b></p> <p>Austin is using mobility hubs to pilot solutions for transit deserts and to plan for first/last mile transit connections. The presentation will explore mobility hubs as a strategy to address multiple transportation challenges</p>

	<p>digital solutions on infrastructure projects, from initial conception to long-term operations. Industry experts from Kahua, Quiddity Engineering, and Project Surveillance Inc. will discuss how engineering, project management, and technology intersect to enhance efficiency, collaboration, and decision-making.</p> <p>Key topics include the role of a project management solution vendor in streamlining workflows, a prospective customer's journey in adopting digital tools across capital projects, and a consultant's perspective on guiding large-scale software evaluations.</p> <p>Panelists will share real-world insights, best practices, and lessons learned from implementing cutting-edge solutions to drive project success. Whether you're evaluating new technologies or looking to optimize existing processes, this session will provide actionable strategies for embracing digital transformation in infrastructure development.</p> <p>Moderator: AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, <b>Kahua, Inc.</b></p>	<p>including expanded access to opportunities and congestion mitigation. The presentation will also explore how Transportation Demand Management strategies (TDM) can be coupled with mobility hubs and other physical infrastructure investments to encourage greater transit use.</p> <p>Presenters: Heather Bishop, Transportation and Public Works, <b>City of Austin</b> Jacob Barrett, Transportation and Public Works, <b>City of Austin</b></p>
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Networking Lunch (1 Hour)	

Afternoon Sessions

Time	Track 1	Track 2
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<p><b>Panel: Ports &amp; Logistics - Improving Supply Chain Efficiency</b></p> <p>As global trade and e-commerce continue to expand, optimizing port and logistics operations is essential to maintaining a resilient supply chain. This panel will explore strategies for enhancing port infrastructure, leveraging technology for real-time tracking, and improving intermodal connectivity to reduce bottlenecks and increase efficiency in freight movement.</p>	<p><b>Panel: The Future of Data Center Infrastructure – Innovation, Scalability, and Sustainability</b></p> <p>As demand for data storage and processing power continues to surge, the evolution of data center infrastructure is at the forefront of technological and operational advancements. This panel will explore how emerging innovations—including AI-driven cooling systems, modular and edge data centers, and renewable energy integration—are shaping the future of the industry. Experts</p>

		<p>will discuss strategies for improving efficiency, scaling infrastructure to meet growing digital demands, and ensuring sustainability in an era of increased environmental and regulatory pressures.</p> <p>Moderator: AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, <b>Kahua, Inc.</b></p>
<p>2:40 PM - 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Presentation: Strengthening Texas’ Workforce and Infrastructure Through Community Health Planning</b></p> <p>A resilient workforce is key to Texas’ economic growth, yet challenges like healthcare access, housing, and transportation impact worker retention and productivity. The Austin-Travis County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) use a data-driven approach to align workforce development with community well-being, helping businesses and policymakers remove barriers to economic mobility.</p> <p>This presentation will explore how integrating community health into infrastructure planning can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen Workforce Participation – Address factors that affect reliability and retention.</li> <li>• Enhance Public-Private Collaboration – Drive practical, long-term solutions.</li> <li>• Increase Infrastructure Resilience – Align investments with workforce stability.</li> <li>• Boost Economic Growth – Use local data to create targeted strategies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Shirley Aldana, Business Process Specialist, Planning &amp; Evaluation, <b>Austin Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation The Role of Blockchain in Infrastructure Contracting</b></p> <p>Blockchain technology is transforming infrastructure contracting by enhancing transparency, reducing disputes, and streamlining payment processes. This session will examine how smart contracts, decentralized ledgers, and automated compliance mechanisms can improve efficiency and trust in large-scale infrastructure projects.</p>
<p>3:00 PM - 3:30 PM</p>	<p>Mid-Afternoon Networking Break (30 min)</p>	
<p>3:30 PM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: Building a Resilient Power Grid for Texas</b></p> <p>As extreme weather events and rising energy demands challenge Texas’ power grid, resilience and reliability have become top priorities. This panel will explore strategies for modernizing the grid, integrating renewable</p>	<p><b>Navigating the Future: Public Sector Strategies for Texas Transportation</b></p> <p>As Texas' population and economy continue to grow, public sector planners must develop innovative transportation solutions to keep pace. This panel will explore strategies for funding, technology integration, and</p>



	<p>energy sources, and leveraging advanced technologies like AI and battery storage to enhance stability. Experts will discuss policy initiatives, grid-hardening measures, and innovative approaches to ensuring Texas' energy infrastructure can withstand future disruptions.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Zach Dell, Co-Founder and CEO, <b>Base Power Company</b></p>	<p>sustainable infrastructure development. Experts will discuss how state and local agencies are addressing congestion, equity, and climate resilience. Attendees will gain insights into the policies and projects shaping the future of mobility in Texas.</p>
<p>4:10 PM - 4:40 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: Workforce Development - Training the Next Generation</b></p> <p>The rapid evolution of infrastructure demands a skilled workforce equipped with emerging technologies and modern best practices. This panel will explore strategies for workforce development, including apprenticeship programs, upskilling initiatives, and public-private partnerships that bridge the talent gap. Experts will discuss how to attract, train, and retain the next generation of industry professionals to ensure a resilient and future-ready workforce.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Diane Cook, Chief Operating Officer, <b>Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area</b>  Michael Ramsey, Executive Director, Workforce Development Office, <b>City of San Antonio</b>  Sarah Garza, Director of Mobility Industry Partnerships, <b>Workforce Solutions Capital Area</b>  Thomas Hunter, Assistant City Manager, <b>City of Pflugerville</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: Public Infrastructure Policy - What's on the Horizon?</b></p> <p>With Texas experiencing rapid growth and increasing infrastructure demands, policymakers are shaping new strategies to address funding, resilience, and modernization. This panel will explore upcoming legislative priorities, regulatory changes, and innovative policies that will impact transportation, energy, water, and digital infrastructure. Experts will discuss how public and private sector collaboration can drive smarter, more sustainable infrastructure development across the state.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Diana Ramirez, County Administrator, <b>Harris County Office of County Administration</b>  Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, Dallas Office, <b>Damage Prevention Council of Texas</b></p>
	<p><b>Presentation: Helping Central Texas's Communities Thrive Amid Rapid Growth Through Leadership Investment</b></p> <p>Join us to learn how Pflugerville is managing growth, ensuring a high quality of life, and preparing for the future through strategic policy actions, infrastructure development, and innovative solutions. Moreover, this session will demonstrate how the key to all of this is the City's commitment to grow and train the next generation of municipal leaders</p>	

	<p>to handle growth challenges through mentorship, education, and hands-on experience. Discover how Pflugerville balances growth pressures with community well-being, creating adaptive organizational structures and fostering leadership to ensure Central Texas remains a vibrant and thriving region.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Thomas Hunter, Assistant City Manager, <b>City of Pflugerville</b></p>	
<p>4:50 PM - 5:20 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: Data-Driven Project Delivery - Smarter, Faster, Better</b></p> <p>As Texas continues to expand its infrastructure footprint, data-driven project delivery is transforming how projects are planned, executed, and maintained. This panel will explore how technologies like AI, digital twins, and predictive analytics are improving efficiency, reducing costs, and minimizing risks in major infrastructure developments. Experts will share real-world applications and best practices for leveraging data to deliver smarter, faster, and more resilient projects across the state.</p>	<p><b>Panel: Circular Economy in Infrastructure - Reducing Waste &amp; Costs</b></p> <p>The circular economy is redefining infrastructure development in Texas by prioritizing sustainability, resource efficiency, and cost reduction. This panel will explore innovative strategies such as material reuse, sustainable procurement, and lifecycle design to minimize waste and maximize long-term value. Experts will discuss how public and private sectors can collaborate to implement circular economy principles, reducing environmental impact while improving project economics.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Jay Brown, Director, Policy &amp; Origination   Co-Founder, <b>Pressure Core</b> Richard McHale, Director, Austin Resource Recovery, <b>City of Austin</b></p>
<p>5:30 PM - 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel: The Next Decade of Texas Infrastructure - A Call to Action</b></p> <p>Texas is embarking on a transformative decade for its infrastructure, marked by unprecedented investments and strategic initiatives. The Texas Department of Transportation has unveiled a record \$148 billion 10-year plan to enhance transportation systems, aiming to improve safety, reduce congestion, and boost economic development. Additionally, the state is focusing on sustainable energy infrastructure, exemplified by the approval of the Permian Basin Reliability Plan to expand power grid capacity for the oil and gas industry. This</p>	<p><b>Panel: The Infrastructure Investment Outlook - What's Next for Texas?</b></p> <p>With billions in federal and state funding flowing into Texas, the next decade presents significant opportunities for infrastructure expansion and modernization. This panel will examine upcoming investment priorities across transportation, energy, water, and broadband, highlighting key projects and funding mechanisms. Industry leaders and policymakers will discuss how Texas can maximize these investments to drive economic growth, improve resilience, and meet the demands of a rapidly growing population.</p>

	<p>panel will discuss these developments and emphasize the critical need for collaborative efforts among government entities, private sector partners, and communities to ensure that Texas' infrastructure meets the demands of its growing population and economy.</p>	<p>Panelists: Tina Sanders, Damage Prevention Manager, Dallas Office, <b>Damage Prevention Council of Texas</b></p>
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