

13th Annual National Workshop for State & Local Transportation Advocates

July 13-14

Ritz Carlton, Washington, D.C.

MONDAY, JULY 13

12:30-2 p.m.

Transportation Investment Advocates Council Meeting (Invitation Only).

A lunchtime working session focused on the latest tools and trends, state developments, and campaign strategies shaping transportation investment advocacy.

Contact Transportation Investment Advocacy Center (TIAC) Director Carolyn Kramer Simons: ckramer@artba.org

- Guest Speaker: Dr. Josh Hurwitz, ARTBA senior economist, will break down state transportation budget trends, how local funding affects transportation construction market conditions, and the impacts of federal investment.

2-2:15 p.m.

Welcome Remarks

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Temporary Turbulence or Permanent Transition? The Future of Transportation Funding

Who should pay for transportation—and how? Is it the end of the road for the federal Highway Trust Fund? This panel brings together state leaders and policy experts to examine the benefits and risks of general fund revenues versus transportation user fees. From revenue stability to public trust and political will, panelists will examine the tradeoffs of each approach, and why their states made the choices they did.

- Jennifer Kirchner, Executive Director, Kentuckians for Better Transportation
- Kathy Ruffalo, Principal, Ruffalo and Associates LLC
- (*invited*) Shawn Wilson, Senior Vice President - Subsector Leader, WSP
- Moderator: ARTBA Chief Economist Dr. Alison Premo Black

3:15-3:30 p.m.

Networking Break

3:30-4:15 p.m.

Building the Bridge: Earning Trust Through Strategic Engagement

Public support for transportation investment does not happen by accident—it is built through clear messaging and credible outreach. This session explores how effective communications, branding, and stakeholder engagement can strengthen trust, influence decisionmakers, and elevate the case for sustained transportation investment.

- Mindy Kimura, HiRUC Program Manager, Hawai'i Department of Transportation
- Amna Cameron, Deputy Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives & Program Support, North Carolina Department of Transportation

4:15-5 p.m.

Local Funding, Big Impact: Winning at the Ballot Box

Local initiatives can play a critical role in advancing transportation investment in communities across America. Hear directly from leaders behind two successful ballot measures as they share proven strategies for building coalitions, crafting persuasive messages, and navigating the path to voter approval.

- Matthew Panik, chief advocacy officer, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
- Lisa Hagins, CEO, Arizona Transportation Builders Association

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception

Dinner on your own.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

8-9:00 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00-9:45 a.m.

State Funding Legislation & 2026 Ballot Measures: Trends, Truths & Opportunities

A data-driven look at recent legislative activity and ballot measure outcomes, what the trends signal for future funding efforts, and how to effectively counter common myths surrounding transportation investment.

- Carolyn Kramer Simons, senior director of state funding policy, ARTBA

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Bridging the Transportation Funding Gap: Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

As infrastructure demands outpace traditional funding sources, P3s can play a key role in project delivery. This session highlights real-world project examples, key financing tools, and the opportunities—and challenges—states face when leveraging P3s.

- Speakers TBA, in partnership with ARTBA's P3 Division

10:45-11:00 a.m.

Networking Break

11:00-11:45 a.m.

Highway & Public Transit Reauthorization: What States Need to Know

Federal funding on average accounts for more than half of state highway and bridge capital investment. With Congress preparing the next surface transportation bill, ARTBA's government affairs team will provide a timely update on where things stand, what is at stake for states, and how advocates can shape the legislative outcome.

- Lauren Schapker, vice president of legislative affairs, ARTBA

- Dean Franks, senior vice president of congressional relations, ARTBA
- Moderator: Carolyn Kramer Simons, ARTBA

12-12:30 p.m.

Lunch

12:30-1:30 p.m.

State House Perspective: The Politics of Transportation Funding

One of the workshop's most popular sessions features top state legislators discussing the political dynamics shaping transportation funding decisions in their states.

- South Carolina Senator Sean M. Bennett (R- District 38)
- Michigan Representative Tom Kunes (R- District 100)
- Illinois Representative Eva Dina Delgado (D- District 3)
- Moderator: Lauren Schapker, vice president of legislative affairs, ARTBA

1:30-2:15 p.m.

Rethinking Transportation Funding: Preparing for What's Next

Gas tax revenues are shifting as vehicles become more fuel-efficient, while infrastructure demands are growing. This session examines emerging strategies—from tolling to road usage charges—and how states are planning for the next generation of investment.

- Brian Gould, Executive Director, Build Indiana Council
- Georgia state Representative Rick Jasperse (R- District 11)
- Reema Griffith, executive director, Washington State Transportation Commission

2:15-2:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks