

Practice Area Summit

InterContinental Houston– Houston, TX | February 26-27, 2026

Thursday, February 26

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Kickstart Breakfast: Meet Your Coalition Community
9:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Coalition Executive Committee Meetings (Closed) Executive Committee meetings (CASE, COPS, GEO, LDC, MEP) by Invitation Only.
9:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Morning Connection Lounge: Coffee with Sponsors & Speakers
11:45 AM – 1:15 PM	Luncheon Keynote: Inside the Digital Engine of the Houston Airport System Darryl Daniel, Deputy Director & Chief Technology Officer, Houston Airport System and Matthew Meiers, Aviator Project Manager, Burns Engineering
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Transition Break
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Professional Practice Sessions
Geopprofessionals	Recruiting and Retention for Firms of All Sizes Mark Dornak, Senior Materials Training and Development Specialist, Terracon and Gabriel Ornelas, COO, Raba Kistner
Land Development	What Tomorrow's Land Developers Expect from Today's Engineers Speaker TBD
MEP Engineering	Leading the MEP Firm of the Future: Strategy, Structure & Success Speaker TBD
Surveyors	What's Next for Surveying Professionals Paul Carey, RPLS, Medina Valley Surveys
Structural Engineers	The Contract Language Every Structural Firm Should Master Karen Erger, SVP, Director of Practice Management, Lockton Companies
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Coalition Leadership Roundtables and Education
Geopprofessionals	Addressing the Impacts of the Shrinking Geopprofessional Workforce with Automation and Artificial Intelligence Paxton Anderson, CEO, Strata, Victor Donald, Senior Principal, Terracon, Andrew Pennoni, Regional VP, Pennoni
Land Development	Houston: A Case Study on Housing Economics Lawrence Dean, President and CEO, Community Builders Advisory Services
MEP and Structural	Leadership Roundtable: Practice Trends & Firm Strategy
Surveyors	Leadership Roundtable: Practice Trends & Professional Outlook



Thursday, February 26 – continued

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Coffee Break and Networking
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Professional Practice Sessions
Geopprofessionals	Lessons From the Field: Real Cases, Real Consequences Victor Donald, Senior Principal, Terracon
Land Development	Leadership Roundtable: Practice Trends & Market Outlook
MEP Engineering	The Future of MEP Practice: Tools, Trends, and Opportunities Leading MEP Practitioner
Surveyors	LiDAR & Reality Capture: Turning Data into Decisions Bill Swope, Geospatial Technical Expert, Olsson
Structural Engineers	AI & Digital Delivery: What's Next for Structural Practice Jim Jacobi, Managing Principal & CIO Emeritus, Walter P. Moore
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Evening Reception

Friday, February 27

7:30 AM – 8:15 AM	Breakfast & Networking
8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	What's Happening in Washington: An Advocacy Update Nando Gomez, Senior Vice President of Energy and External Affairs, ACEC
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Transition Break
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Higher Professional Liability Limits and What They Mean for Engineering Firms Roger Guilian, Senior Vice President, Greyling Insurance
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Sponsor Presentation
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Driving Value & Performance Through Pragmatic Solutions. Josh Polittle, President & CEO, ACT Velocity
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Closing Program Session & Remarks
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	CASE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS - CLOSED *CASE Subcommittee members only*

