



## Infrastructure Advancement Institute Strategic Plan

The Infrastructure Advancement Institute (IAI) board held a retreat in order to begin the process of developing a strategic plan. The process created a draft mission, a set of Institute goals and a number of actions for both short and long term to help provide direction for the future. The following is the drafted plan.

### Why a New Organization

The IAI is unique in that it is a collaboration of three major transportation infrastructure sectors: Contractors, Consultants and Owners. It provides a venue for partnering between these three sectors who often work independently and do not commonly share best practices, concerns or solutions. The organization is focused on developing and sharing information, techniques and solutions to support providing better value to infrastructure projects. It will also allow for improving the feedback mechanism to inform issues, changes and improvements from field to design.

The organization is poised to be a change agent. It is looking for ways to overcome the challenge of “resistance to change” in our industry and help promote the adoption of innovative thinking and implement new ideas within the profession. As part of the forward looking view, we want to help include and inspire the next generation of leaders and improve the public view and expectations from our nation’s infrastructure. To accomplish this we will include younger members in the organization development, planning and leadership roles. We will also keep any membership costs to a minimum.

Finally, we will focus on getting stronger involvement of the public sector in the activities and career opportunities of the organization. Approaches like affordable membership and opportunities to enhance your career will help drive our success.

### Vision Statement

***Incite collaboration and innovation between contractors, designers and owners to improve project value, stimulate professional growth and advance best practices in transportation infrastructure.***

**Tagline:** Advance: Processes, People, Infrastructure



## Organizational Goals

In order to achieve the vision, the organization has developed four goals:

**Goal 1 – Critical Thinking & Technology:** Promote the use of critical thinking and use of technology to challenge the status quo and improve infrastructure.

The infrastructure and the professionals who build and maintain it are often viewed as less innovative and forward thinking as say the tech sector. Yet our structures are viewed with awe and become destinations for travel. The profession must embrace new technology and processes to overcome our slow pace of adoption of new methods, code and standards. It is clear that we must share experiences, tools and software in order to improve our delivery of infrastructure. These efforts are critical for our members to get a better understanding of the future needs and directions for our industry.

We will strive to challenge the status quo for better results and stimulate critical thinking. This will be accomplished through collaboration and supporting the next generation of leaders. We will be the leaders in understanding the future of infrastructure and welcomed advisors to decision makers on meeting our nation’s transportation infrastructure needs.

**Goal 2 – Share Best Practices:** Share best practices, lessons learned and management improvements across groups, organizations and with other industries.

IAI provides a unique forum to provide a platform for sharing ideas and issues between the three sector members (Owner, Consultant and Contractor). They can accomplish this by building trust and sharing understanding of each other’s needs and requirements, develop shared lessons learned and ways to improve, and share and develop best collaboration and management practices for infrastructure projects.

They can also provide a forum for sharing ideas and best practices across infrastructure types (building, roads, bridges, airports, drainage, etc.). Finally, they can promote sharing ideas from other industries. This could include the Technology sector or even medicine.

**Goal 3 – Collaboration & Trust:** Promote an environment of collaboration and trust between Designers, Contractors and Owners.

Critical to success is the development of trust and sharing across the sectors. Working together to build a shared understanding and a willingness to change and adjust practices to support another sector will help achieve the vision. Infrastructure projects are complicated, long in duration and costly and collaboration is our best approach to improving results.

Collaboration will also allow us to help the industry move towards a best value outcome and deliver faster and better results. It will create an environment for us to help develop new talent and professionals and allow them to gain insight and experience faster than their predecessors.



**Goal 4 – Professional Development:** Enhance our efforts to promote, enable and encourage professional development for our members.

IAI strives to create new and forward thinking professional development activities and opportunities. This is a clear benefit to our members. Our current educational programs generally do not provide sufficient experience in soft skills necessary for our member’s success. Areas like presentations, soft project management and negotiation, not to mention people management and running a business.

The Institute plans to take advantage of our unique three sector membership to create learning opportunities that provide hands on, direct experience at developing ideas and best practices and creating white papers on industry directions and methods for improving our collaboration in accomplishing infrastructure projects. These outcomes will then be converted into pilots and actions for improvement.