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Permitting Council
**Infrastructure
Developers** ²⁰/₂₄
SUMMIT



[Eric Beightel](#), [Permitting Council Executive Director](#); [Laura Daniel-Davis](#), [Acting Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior](#); [David Turk](#), [Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy](#)

Highlights from the Infrastructure Developers Summit

Our team is still riding high after the inaugural Infrastructure Developers Summit! It was a fantastic day for showcasing the collaboration and coordination that is at the core of the FAST-41 permitting assistance process. From White House and agency leadership to subject matter experts and project developers across sectors, over 200 people joined together at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's headquarters on October 8th in Washington, D.C. The summit gave participants a venue to make new connections,



The day included panel discussions focused on the challenges and successes of federal permitting, with some of the best minds in the field taking the stage to highlight how the benefits of FAST-41 can play a game changing role for infrastructure projects. Speakers included Lael Brainard, Director of the National Economic Council, David Turk, Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy, Xochitl Torres Small, Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Laura Daniel-Davis, Acting Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior. State and industry leaders from South32, Tradepoint Atlantic, the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority and Orsted also joined as panelists, in addition to agency leaders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

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The summit was the perfect opportunity for the Permitting Council to make two big announcements, starting with the news that it will invest \$15 million in a new contracting tool to help federal agencies leverage surge support to get environmental reviews done with efficiency. The Permitting Council also announced that it recently launched a Permitting University, which will offer federal agencies access to no cost quality training to help address skills gaps and advance best practices across the permitting community.

These announcements are just two highlights of an exciting gathering of project developers and permitting experts as they joined together to strategize how to bring next generation infrastructure to life. See below for more highlights from the day's events. Watch the livestream of the Summit [here](#).



Eric Beightel, Permitting Council Executive Director

“We can’t afford to rely on outdated systems and inefficient procedures or siloed thinking with parochial interests. For us to achieve our infrastructure goals, to grow an economy that is resilient and serves all Americans, we have to be able to build the infrastructure that will move us forward.” - Eric Beightel



“We know we can’t build the best infrastructure in the world, we can’t be the leader in the industries of the future, we can’t have fabs constructed on time to do leading edge semiconductor production and we are not going to be able to build data centers fast enough to retain global preeminence in AI without having fast and streamlined permitting processes.” - Lael Brainard



Laura Daniel-Davis, Acting Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior

“The work with the Permitting Council is a partnership, it’s a collaboration, you know us, you know how we work, you saw with your own eyes what we needed.” - Laura Daniel-Davis



Xochitl Torres Small, Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

“There’s a reason that we do it, there is a reason we invest so much time in it. And the big reason is that permitting is for the public good. It is worth investing in. And we’re living in a special time when the investments are so big and things have gotten really exciting but also maybe a little challenging because of all the work there is to do.” - Xochitl Torres Small



David Turk, Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy

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be investors, its got to be entrepreneurs, its got to be developers who are unleashed. That doesn't mean you get to do anything you want and everywhere you want, but it also doesn't mean that you get bogged down for years and years and years when there are good projects to be had. And so we need to do our job with both ambition and humility and make sure that we are doing the appropriate checks and consultations, doing them early with communities, Tribes and all the key stakeholders, but we need to have humility to make sure we are doing our job at the pace and scale of which we all need to be doing to build out the clean energy future going forward." - David Turk



Pilar Patterson, Head of Mid-Atlantic and P2X Permitting at Ørsted

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the ability to change processes, but what they do to make sure that when we hit an issue of a problem that those issues are raised, talked about, and discussed. They help us make sure that the right people are in the room and they are talking about the right topics. And just having that advocate in there to make sure that all of these issues are raised and talked about and followed through has just been extremely helpful for us.” - Pilar Patterson



Lynn Mostoller, Executive Director at the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA).

“With the dashboard and everyone committed to an initial schedule not everyone is going to perform 100% and hit every milestone, but you don’t know that the day before it is due, you know it fairly far in advance and the FAST-41 folks have been able to step in and get the right access to the right people to figure out what is causing the delay and really get things unstuck.” - Lynn Mostoller



Judy Brown, Head of External Affairs, Americas South32

“We still run into problems, but there is a faster way to come to a decision and then move on. And it doesn’t cause those delays. And some of that is the nexus between what’s happening on the field and what is happening at the agencies, from DC to the region to the local.” - Judy Brown

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[Tom Caso, Vice President Tradepoint Atlantic](#)

“To really have that forum that FAST-41 creates to play these ideas around collaboratively and come up with the best solution for something that is very nuanced has been incredibly helpful for us.” - Tom Caso



[Shamina Dillard, Deputy Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

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shared accountability for permitting agencies for a small subset of priority projects and that prioritization has been critical.” - Shamina Dillard



Steve Tryon, Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer/Director of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) at the U.S. Department of Interior

“I like the dashboard. I think it’s sort of a Goldilocks website for the federal government, it’s just right, it has just enough information about milestones to communicate to the public what to expect for a FAST-41 project, but not too much.” - Steve Tryon

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[Jill Springer: Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer /Senior Policy Advisor for Permitting in the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth/Federal Preservation Officer at the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\).](#)

“On all levels we have seen a really great benefit, and we appreciate the partnership and the collaboration that is enhanced with our fellow federal agencies.” - Jill Springer

Thank you to everyone who participated in this inaugural summit! Learn more about the work of the Permitting Council at permitting.gov.



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