About the Forum

The theme of this year’s Forum is Sustainable Infrastructure for Michigan. The Forum will be held live online via zoom on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 10:00 am to 1:15 pm.

The Forum is a dialog-oriented conference focusing on current issues of interest to members of Michigan’s utility regulatory policy community, including regulators, state legislators, consumer and environmental advocates, and utility industry representatives. The Forum is sponsored by the Institute of Public Utilities (IPU) and developed in collaboration with the Commissioners and staff of the Michigan Public Service Commission. Forum panels feature MPSC commissioners, members of the professional staff, and leading stakeholders representing a broad spectrum of public, private, advocacy, and academic perspectives.

Registration

This year’s Forum is offered free of charge to everyone. To register, please visit ipu.msu.edu or contact us at ipu@msu.edu or 517.355.1876.

IPU joins the Michigan Electric and Gas Association in supporting the Empowerment Plan. To learn more and make a donation, please visit https://www.empowermentplan.org. Contributions in support of IPU and MSU are also welcome at any time.

About the Institute

The Institute of Public Utilities supports informed, effective, and efficient regulation of the infrastructure-intensive network industries providing vital utility services. We fulfill our mission by providing to the regulatory policy community integrative and interdisciplinary educational programs and applied research on the institutions, theory, and practice of modern utility regulation. The Institute is an independent, nonprofit educational and research unit of Michigan State University.
Preliminary agenda

10:00 to 10:10 am  **Introduction and Welcome**
Janice Beecher, Prof. and Director, Institute of Public Utilities, MSU
Chairman Dan Scripps, Michigan PSC

10:10 to 11:05 am  **Panel One**
*Opportunities and Challenges in Infrastructure Assessment and Planning*
- What are the key findings and recommendations of the Michigan Infrastructure Council, the Asset Management Champion Program, and the tenets of a holistic 30-year integrated infrastructure plan and strategy?
- How will Michigan entities deploy asset readiness assessment, strategic asset management ("Champions"), the "Dig Once" Coordination Tool, and even multi-utility tunnels?
- What and where are Michigan’s infrastructure investment needs, and what equity issues arise in addressing them?
- How is policy evolving to consider the objectives of sustainability, security, reliability, and resilience?
- How are interdependencies and scale factored into infrastructure decision-making?
- How can infrastructure spending address affordable access to essential infrastructure services?
- How can infrastructure planning and design help manage dynamic supply and demand conditions and technological risks?

11:10 to 12:05 pm  **Panel Two**
*Community, Utility, and Stakeholder Perspectives*
- How is Michigan’s infrastructure evolving to become smarter and sustainable, including utility and nonutility projects?
- How will federal infrastructure policy and funding impact Michigan utilities and ratepayers?
- How should infrastructure projects be prioritized and funded, especially given the challenges of aging infrastructure and legacy cities?
- What measures are communities and utilities taking to ensure prudent infrastructure investment and asset management?
- How can on-bill financing and other tools expand affordable access to household energy efficiency upgrades?
- What measures are being taken to ensure affordable access to essential energy, water, and broadband services in urban and rural communities?
- How are communities and utilities engaging affected stakeholders in infrastructure planning and decision-making – and are all voices heard?
12:10 to 1:05 pm  **Panel Three**  
**Role of Economic Regulation in Infrastructure Investment**
- How can the PSC ensure infrastructure investment is prudent and useful from both the efficiency and equity perspectives?
- What role can integrated resource planning play in asset management and infrastructure optimization?
- What cost allocation issues arise in blending public and private funding for infrastructure?
- Are utility incentives for coordination and optimization sufficient, particularly across sectors?
- How are climate impacts and policies factored into infrastructure decision-making?
- Who should bear the risk of standards-based plant obsolescence, and how can securitization and alternative policy options address retirement costs?
- Are new structural and institutional models needed for coordinated infrastructure governance and regulation?

1:05 to 1:15 pm  **Closing Remarks**  
Janice Beecher, Prof. and Director, Institute of Public Utilities, MSU