

The logo for the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is displayed in white text on a teal background. The letters 'ice' are in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a horizontal line underneath the letters 'e' and 'c'.

ice
Institution of Civil Engineers



Enabling Better Infrastructure International Conference

Friday, 10 October 2025, London

One Great George Street
Westminster
London, SW1P 3AA
United Kingdom

E: events@ice.org.uk

Enabling Better Infrastructure International Conference

Infrastructure decisions made today will shape our world for decades to come. Governments play a significant role in creating a future where people and the planet can thrive. Well-planned, purposeful infrastructure lies at the heart of this vision.

This event creates a platform for a global conversation on how to drive purpose, certainty, and pace in infrastructure planning at the country level. It includes a focus on strategic infrastructure planning and its role in delivering on national policy objectives, improving investor and public confidence, building climate resilience, and meeting society's needs.

Drawing on the ICE-convened Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme and its principles, speakers will share international best practice and first-hand insights on the strategies, policies, and approaches they have used to create a pipeline of stable, sustainable, and investable infrastructure projects.

The event will be of interest to any global policymaker, strategic planning leader, and international infrastructure expert who is interested in learning more about strategic infrastructure planning, meeting their peers working on similar topics, and learning more about available tools and case studies for strengthening planning at the country level.

Participants will benefit from:

- Being among the first to explore EBI's updated strategic infrastructure planning guidance for governments.
- Hearing first-hand accounts of how governments can strengthen how they plan and prioritise infrastructure.
- Finding out about leading international examples and case studies to support benchmarking.
- Meeting the global network of country-level governments using the EBI guidance and engaging in peer-to-peer collaboration.
- Engaging with EBI's leading international experts on how to create an adaptive strategy of policy and investment interventions.
- Networking with strategic infrastructure professionals from around the world

Conference Speakers



Jim Hall

President, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE);
Chair, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme



Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, New Zealand Government



Kerry Bobbins

Head of Programme, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI)



Janet Young

Director General, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)



Virgínia de Ângelis Oliveira de Paula

National Secretary of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Budget of Brazil



Dr Jenifer Baxter

Deputy Chair, National Infrastructure Commission Wales; CEO, Industry Wales



Haward Wells

Director, National Integrated Planning and Programme Unit, Saint Lucia Government



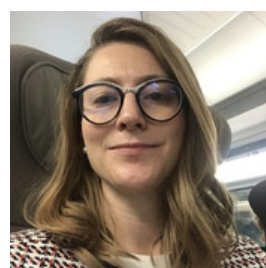
Dr Simon Lucas

Head of Profession, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)



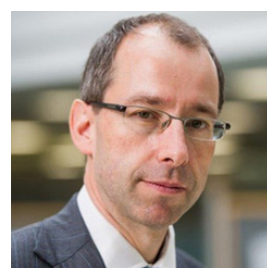
Geoff Cooper

Chief Executive, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga



Jagoda Egeland

Steering Group Member, Enabling Better Infrastructure Programme



Richard Threlfall

Chair, Engineers Against Poverty; Steering Group Member, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme



Jane Jamieson

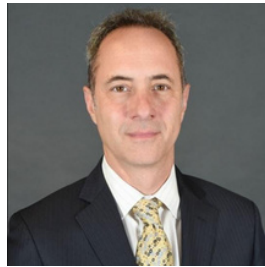
Program Manager for the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility and the Quality Infrastructure Investment Partnership, World Bank

Conference Speakers



Paulo Magina

Head, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD



Jordan Schwartz

Executive Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)



Hon Lisa Raitt

Former Minister of Transport, Labour and Natural Resources, Government of Canada



James Heath

Former Chief Executive, National Infrastructure Commission (NIC); Partner, Flint Global



Sean Keenan

Director General, Economic Analysis and Results, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada



Sam Gould

Director of Policy and External Affairs, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)



Bernardo Guillamon Sanz

CEO Founder, Teros Global, Former SpAd, Inter-American Development Bank



Frankie Yiu-man Fung

Principal Assistant Secretary for Development, Development Bureau of Hong Kong



Ignacio Araya Areyuna

Head, Institutional Management Department, Ministry of Public Works of Chile



Liesbeth Casier

Lead, Public Procurement and Sustainable Infrastructure, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Agenda

8:45	REGISTRATION & COFFEE
9:30	OPENING REMARKS Professor Jim Hall , Chair, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme & President, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
9:40	KEYNOTE: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A CHANGING WORLD: BUILDING PURPOSE, CERTAINTY AND PACE Hon. Chris Bishop , Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Minister of Transport, New Zealand
9:55	EXPLAINER: UNDERSTANDING EBI – A GUIDE TO STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING Dr. Kerry Bobbins , Head, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme
10:05	PANEL DISCUSSION I: SETTING A CLEAR VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE <p>Governments need a clear, long-term vision to guide infrastructure planning and ensure it meets economic, social, and environmental goals. This session will focus on how such a vision can be developed and implemented in practice. It will also explore how frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can guide infrastructure planning to deliver a broad range of social and environmental benefits, including greater inclusivity and equity.</p> <p>Chaired by Dr. Janet Young, Director General, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Hon. Chris Bishop, Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Minister of Transport, New Zealand-Virgínia de Ângelis Oliveira de Paula, National Secretary of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Budget, Brazil-Dr. Jennifer Baxter, CEO, Industry Wales; Deputy Chair, National Infrastructure Commission for Wales-Haward Wells, Director of the National Integrated Planning and Programme Unit, Department of Finance, Government of Saint Lucia-Dr. Simon Lucas, Head of Profession, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
11:00	COFFEE BREAK

**Please note that the EBI International Conference agenda is subject to change and further updates.*



Agenda

11:30

IN-CONVERSATION I: SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ZEALAND

This session will feature a case study from New Zealand, highlighting its collaboration with the EBI Programme. It will examine how EBI principles were applied to develop its 30-year plan for infrastructure, offering practical insights and lessons for other countries.

Professor Jim Hall, EBI Chair and ICE President

Geoff Cooper, Chief Executive of Te Waihangā, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission

11:40

PANEL DISCUSSION II: GOVERNING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Effective governance is key to planning and delivering infrastructure that meets long-term national needs. This session will explore how countries have implemented ambitious infrastructure plans by engaging diverse stakeholders, aligning policies and investments, set up a project pipeline, and drawn on international best practices.

Chaired by **Jagoda Egeland**, EBI Steering Group Member

-Richard Threlfall, Chair, Engineers Against Poverty; Steering Group Member, Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme

-Geoff Cooper, Chief Executive of Te Waihangā, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission

-Jane Jamieson, Program Manager for the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) and the Quality Infrastructure Investment Partnership (QII), World Bank

-Dr Paulo Magina, Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD Public Governance Directorate

12:30

LUNCH

13:30

KEYNOTE: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Jordan Schwartz, Executive Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

13:45

STRATEGIC PLANNING – A LONG-TERM PROJECT

Strategic infrastructure planning is an ongoing process that requires regular refinement and review. This session features in-depth case studies from countries where efforts to plan infrastructure have spanned more than one decade. Speakers will reflect on their experiences of infrastructure planning and delivery, sharing what has worked, what hasn't, and some of the lessons learned along the way.

Chaired by **Professor Jim Hall**, EBI Chair & ICE President

-Hon. Lisa Raitt, Former Minister of Transport, Labour and Natural Resources, Government of Canada; Vice-Chair, Global Investment Banking, CIBC Capital Markets

-James Heath, Former Chief Executive, National Infrastructure Commission (NIC); Partner, Flint Global

-Jordan Schwartz, Executive Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

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Agenda

14:20

COFFEE BREAK

14:50

IN-CONVERSATION II: SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

This session will feature a case study from Canada, highlighting how the country applied the EBI principles, offering practical insights and lessons for other countries.

Sean Keenan, Director General, Economic Analysis and Results at Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada

Sam Gould, Director of Policy and External Affairs, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)

15:00

PANEL SESSION III: USING DATA AND ANALYSES TO STRENGTHEN OUTCOMES

Strong infrastructure decisions rely on robust evidence. This session explores how governments use data and analyses to guide investment choices and strengthen infrastructure outcomes. Touching on cost-benefit assessments, assessing affordability, and building systems that support data use, speakers will highlight practical approaches to making infrastructure planning, including pipeline development, more effective and accountable.

Chaired by **Bernardo Guillamon Sanz**, CEO and Founder of Teros Global, former Chief of the Office of the President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

-Frankie Yiu-man Fung, Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Project Capability and Strategy), Development Bureau, HKSAR Government

-Ignacio Araya Areyuna, Head of the Institutional Management Department, Planning Directorate, Ministry of Public Works, Government of Chile

-Sean Keenan, Director General, Economic Analysis and Results at Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada

-Liesbeth Casier, Lead, Public Procurement and Sustainable Infrastructure, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

16:00

CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Jim Hall, EBI Chair & ICE President

16:10

NETWORKING DRINKS

17:30

EVENT CLOSE

Kendall's Café will be open for an after-event gathering.

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About the Enabling Better Infrastructure Programme

The Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) Programme is a programme convened by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). It helps governments see beyond the uncertainties of the day to develop stable, sustainable and investable infrastructure project pipelines that meet people's current and future needs.

The EBI programme brings together independent specialists with deep, wide-ranging experience to support governments in putting EBI's principles for strengthening strategic infrastructure planning into practice.

The programme is working towards a vision of a world where people can live safe, healthy and productive lives, supported by sustainable and resilient infrastructure that meets everyone's needs.

[Learn more about the Programme:](#)

