



DESIGN-BUILD FOR TRANSPORTATION/AVIATION CONFERENCE

April 26-28, 2027
Denver, CO



Call for Presentations Guidelines

Submission Deadline: Sept. 18, 2026

Design-build represents 42% of construction spending, with projections nearing half by 2028. This growth, particularly in the transportation/aviation sectors, stems from its cost and schedule benefits and flexible procurement approaches, such as Best-Value and Progressive Design-Build. Understanding best practices, challenges and opportunities is vital and sharing practical techniques and success factors is key.

DBIA seeks cutting-edge topics from experts for the Design-Build for Transportation/Aviation Conference, April 26-28, 2027, in Denver, CO. This is an exclusive opportunity to share your design-build insights on optimizing Design-Build Done Right® for triple bottom line success or provide valuable lessons learned. DBIA invites experts — Owners, practitioners and other professionals — to contribute. Join over 1,000 AEC professionals to learn and network and consider submitting a session proposal to influence the future of design-build.

What We're Looking For: At a Glance

Priority consideration will be given to submissions adhering to these guidelines.

Quality submissions that address and/or align with the below:

- The right presenters are as important as the right topic:
 - One or more presenters holds a DBIA credential.
 - One or more presenters holds a DBIA membership.
 - One or more presenters is an emerging leader, incorporating perspectives from the next generation of leadership.
 - Owner's involvement in the presentation.
 - Panels that include multiple project team members (e.g., design-builder, designer, Owner or Owner Advisor, trade partners) to share the whole-team experience and provide diverse perspectives that deliver broad value to attendees.
 - Presentations and panels/speakers that incorporate broad perspectives — such as experience levels, firm sizes, market sectors, geographic regions — while also highlighting efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and Underrepresented Business Enterprises (UBEs) in Design-Build.
- Presentations that are educational with crisp instruction and clear takeaways on the “how to” of Design-Build Done Right®
- We encourage presentations that move beyond success stories to candidly share the realities of project delivery — including challenges encountered, competing priorities, difficult decisions, course corrections and lessons learned. The most impactful sessions provide practical insights, tools and resources that attendees can immediately apply to their own work.
- Presentations that speak to one or more of the following:
 - Best practices with a focus on practical application of key practices, and lessons learned to guide future success.
 - Managing risk and expectation
 - Collaboration/teaming successes
 - Application of Virtual Design & Construction (VDC)
 - Making the essential mental shift for success and the all-important facets of developing a successful acquisition strategy

Content that will not be considered:

- Self-congratulatory presentations on a project.
- Presentations that provide a sense of commercial/brand promotion. Please note presentations that serve to promote a specific product or service will not be accepted.
- Anything that does not precisely relate to the Design-Build delivery method.

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Topics of Interest for 2027

How the Industry Is Evolving

- Ever-Changing Collaboration and Co-Location
- Ever-Changing Engineering
- Ever-Changing Contracting
- Ever-Changing Pricing and Supply Chain Management

Potential Tools/Future of Design-Build

- Progressive Design-Build: What Have We Learned So Far? What Is Working and Why and What Can We Improve Upon?
- Virtual Design & Construction (VDC), Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Innovative Technologies
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Design-Build Innovative Financing Solutions
- Design-Build to Achieve Sustainability and Resiliency Goals (i.e., EVs, Charging Stations)
- Design-Build in Times of Crisis/Disaster

Procurement and Contracting Best Practices

- What New Lessons Have We Learned?
- Small Project Successes
- Risk Management Techniques, Identifying, Monitoring and Balancing Risk in Design-Build
- From the Design-Build Team Perspective
- From the Owner's Perspective

Project Challenges

- Design-Build for Resiliency and Emergency Response
- Instances Where Significant Issues Occurred and How Those Challenges Were Overcome
- Teaming
- Changes in Scope
- Value of the Right People in the Right Roles as Contractors, Designers and Owner

Owners and Design-Build

- Positioning Your Agency to Be an Owner of Choice
- Owner Considerations in Choosing a Collaborative Delivery Model
- Evaluating Procurement Methodologies
- Balancing the Role of the Owner's Advisor; Considerations for Aviation Owners
- What Methods Are Owner's Using to Evaluate Design-Build

Highly Effective Design-Build Teams

- Structuring a Dynamic and Resilient Design-Build Team
- The How/Why of Early Engagement of the Team (Designer, Specialty Trades, Owner, etc.)
- Integration Tools and Techniques
- Workforce Development: How Can the Industry Attract, Induct and Retain the Most Qualified Talent?
- Innovative Mentorship and Internship Practices

Infrastructure Investment and Design-Build

- Can Design-Build Assume a Leadership Role in Rebuilding Our Infrastructure?
- Challenges Facing Our Public Agencies and Their Design-Build Programs

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Submitting Your Presentation Idea

All submissions must be completed [online](#). Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. You must answer “yes” to the following questions to be considered. If selected, I/we:

1. Agree to have our draft presentation submitted to DBIA no later than **Feb. 19, 2027**.
2. Agree to collaborate with the Transportation/Aviation Conference Planning Committee to refine and finalize our presentation, having our final presentation submitted to DBIA no later than **Apr. 2, 2027**. DBIA will withdraw session presenters from the program if we do not receive final presentations by the **Apr. 2** deadline.
3. Should circumstances dictate the need to transition to a virtual event, agree to pre-record your session approximately two weeks prior to the event for use during the conference.
4. Commit to be available **IN PERSON** in Denver, CO, at a time slot determined by DBIA between **Apr. 26–28, 2027**.
5. Any plans for polling or other special requests are subject to approval by DBIA.

Presentation Overview

1. **Presentation Title** – Title should capture the essence of the topic to be discussed and should not exceed 10-12 words.
2. **Presentation Summary** – Please provide an overview of the session intent and why the topic is relevant to successful integrated delivery. The summary statement should not exceed 200 words and may be used for marketing purposes should your presentation be selected.
3. **Four Major Presentation Points** – A learning objective is an explicit statement that clearly expresses what the attendee will be able to do after taking a course. Learning objectives should be concise and open to limited interpretation. An example of a learning statement is as follows: Define best practices for effective collaboration using technology. Suggested behavioral verbs to use when writing learning objectives include the following: acquire, analyze, apply, assess, build, clarify, compare, define, demonstrate, describe, determine, differentiate, discover, etc.
4. **Project Size (Required for Case Study Presentations)** – If your presentation is a project case study, please indicate the total construction value of the project:
 - Less than \$10 million
 - \$10 million – \$25 million
 - \$25 million – \$100 million
 - \$100 million – \$200 million
 - \$200 million – \$500 million
 - \$500 million – \$1 billion
 - Greater than \$1 billion
5. **Presentation Level** – Based on your judgment what is your content level? Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced?
6. **Full Team Perspective** – How does your presentation or panel incorporate broad perspectives — such as experience levels, firm sizes, market sectors, geographic regions — while highlighting efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and underrepresented businesses in design-build?
7. **Differentiation Strategies** – Based on the presentation level you indicated in #4, how do you plan to differentiate your presentation content to address the diverse learning needs of your audience to ensure all learners leave with meaningful takeaways?

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8. **Intended Audience** – What is the intended primary audience for this presentation? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Owners (Procurement/Pre-Award Professional) | ☐ General Contractors |
| ☐ Owner Advisor | ☐ Specialty/Subcontractors |
| ☐ Design Professionals | ☐ Other (please specify) |

Speaker Overview

1. **Logistical Contact** – This person must be prepared to serve as DBIA's main point of contact if selected, including coordination with co-presenters, where applicable. If the logistical contact is also a presenter, please include their information below.

- Name
- Title
- Company
- Role/Job Function
- Email
- Phone

2. **Panels are limited to five (5) presenters.**

NOTE: There is a maximum of 5 panelists permitted for each session, inclusive of the moderator, with no exceptions. Panels should include representation from across the full design-build team, ideally spanning from the Owner through design and construction to the trade level.

The following information will be used in conjunction with the presentation summary above to determine the relevance and balance of your session proposal. This information is critical to the committee review process. Later in this process you will be asked to provide full contact information. For review purposes, however, only the following information will be requested.

Presenter names, titles and credentials will be listed exactly as submitted if selected, so please confirm this information with fellow panelists.

- Presenter Name
- Presenter Licenses/Credentials (DBIA, Assoc. DBIA, PE, AIA, etc.)
- Presenter Company, City, State
- Experience Presenting the Topic – Has the presenter conducted a similar topic at a DBIA or any other industry event? If so, please indicate when and where.

A committee of design-build industry experts will review and make decisions on submissions. You will be notified of the decision **no later than Oct. 2, 2026.**

All selected presenters will receive a discounted registration to the full Design-Build for Transportation/Aviation Conference. Submit your proposal **online** by **Sept. 18, 2026.**

Questions regarding the submission process should be directed to:

Courtney Zsitek, Director, Conference Programming
Voice: (202) 454-7521
E-mail: conferenceabstracts@dbia.org