

2025 BUSINESS >> of AIRPORTS



June 23 - 25, 2025 // Arlington, TX // Loews Arlington Hotel

FINANCE TRACK AGENDA

All sessions and events will take place at the Loews Arlington Hotel.

Updated: June 16, 2025

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Registration
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Networking Breakfast
8:15 AM - 4:30 PM	Finance Committee Workshop
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Marge Basrai , <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i> , Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; <i>2025 Chair, ACI-NA Finance Committee</i>
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM <i>1 CPE Credit</i>	Strategic Planning and Performance Management Working Group Chaired by Ronda Chu , <i>Managing Director, Finance</i> , San Francisco Airport Commission, San Francisco International Airport Speakers: Ronda Chu , <i>Managing Director, Finance</i> , San Francisco Airport Commission, San Francisco International Airport John (J.T.) Knadler , <i>Executive Director</i> , J.P. Morgan Dafang Wu , <i>Director</i> , DWU Consulting
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM <i>1 CPE Credit</i>	Accounting and Financing Working Group Chaired by Abel Palacios , <i>Vice President, Finance</i> , Dallas Fort Worth International Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none">Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Update

- **Pamela Hill**, *Partner*, Plante & Moran
- Government Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC) Update
 - **Abel Palacios**, *Vice President, Finance*, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport
- Bond Ratings for Industry – Doug Kilcommons
 - **Douglas Kilcommons**, *Managing Director, Public Finance*, KBRA
- Q&A

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM **Networking Break**

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM **Financial Regulations and Policy Working Group**

1.5 CPE Credits

Chaired by **Kathleen Sharman**, CFO, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

- Legal overview - key changes in regulatory language, compliance obligations, and potential legal risks for airports with an emphasis on grant assurances, grant agreements, and new provisions in federal funding programs
 - **Steven L. Osit**, *Attorney at Law*, Kaplan Kirsch
- Facilitated discussion with **Jesse Carriger**, *Deputy Director, Planning and Programming*, Office of Airports, Federal Aviation Administration
- Q&A

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM **Networking Lunch**

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM **Airport Business Working Group**

1.5 CPE Credits

Chaired by **Tony Conza**, *Vice President, Finance*, Tampa International Airport

Michael Garnier, *Assistant Director Finance & Administration*, San Antonio Airport System

Tim Simon, *Chief Financial Officer*, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Airports Commission

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM **Networking Break**

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM **Finance Committee Meeting**

1.5 CPE Credits

Chaired by **Marge Basrai**, *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; *2025 Chair*, ACI-NA Finance Committee

- Welcome and Opening Remarks (5 minutes) – **Basrai**
- State of the economy (25 minutes)
 - **Kenneth D. Simonson**, *Chief Economist*, *The Associated General Contractors of America*
- Capital Market Overview (25 minutes)
 - **Ira Smelkinson**, *Managing Director, Investment Banking Division – Public Finance*, Loop Capital Markets
- Canadian Update (5 minutes)
 - **Chris Phelan**, *Senior Vice President, Policy, Industry and Government Affairs*, Canadian Airports Council
- ACI World Economics Committee Update (10 minutes)
 - **Slava Cheglatonyev**, *Director, Economic Policy & Sustainability*, Airports Council International (ACI) World
- Open Discussion and Announcement of 2025-2026 Event Schedule (remaining time)

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM **Finance Committee Steering Group Meeting**

Steering Group members only

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM **Welcome Reception**

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Registration**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
1 CPE Credit

General Session 1

A globally recognized innovation strategist, Shawn Kanungo works at the intersection of creativity, business, and technology—including cutting-edge developments in generative AI—to help companies and individuals move boldly into the future. Formerly an Innovation Expert for Deloitte, Shawn is a Partner with Queen & Rook, where he advises leading organizations and executives on disruptive trends, and actively invests in early-stage ventures.

Keynote speaker: **Shawn Kanungo**, *Disruption Strategist, Bestselling Author, Former Innovation Expert for Deloitte*

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Networking Break

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1 CPE Credit

Session 2A/B: Striking the Balance: How Chief Financial Officers and Chief Commercial/Revenue Officers Drive Airport Projects Together (Joint Session with Commercial Management Committee)

Airport development projects succeed when financial stewardship and commercial strategy are aligned from the start. This session brings together Chief Financial Officers and Chief Commercial/Revenue Officers from two airports to explore how they approach joint decision-making, analyze data differently (or similarly), and co-lead projects that meet both financial and passenger experience goals. Each project will be presented as a case study by the airport's CFO and CCO/CRO, offering attendees practical insights into cross-functional collaboration, data-driven planning, and shared accountability.

Moderated by **Brandy James**, *Chief Financial Officer, Charleston County Aviation Authority*
Tracy Borda, *Chief Financial Officer, Philadelphia International Airport*
Jason Mehl, *Chief Commercial Officer, Syracuse Regional Airport Authority*
Kate Sullivan, *Chief Commercial Officer, Philadelphia International Airport*
Robin Watkins, *Chief Financial Officer, Syracuse Regional Airport Authority*

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Networking Lunch

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
1.5 CPE Credits

Session 3A: Navigating Economic Vertigo: Airport Finance Resilience Planning

Does the unprecedented turbulence in the economy and airport funding landscape have your head swirling? You're not alone. Hear what economists and traffic forecasters think will happen next and how airport managers are developing strategies from back-to-basics to innovative approaches to weather the storm until things start to settle down. Airport managers can't control tariffs or executive orders but can control how well they execute and run their business.

Moderated by **Kathleen Shaman**, *CFO, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority*
Michael Brisson, *Director - Economic Research, Moody's Analytics*
Damian Brooke, *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Tampa International Airport*
Earl Heffintrayer, *VP - Senior Credit Officer, Americas Project Finance, Moody's*
Eric Sprys, *Executive Vice President & CFO, Allegheny County Airport Authority*

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Networking Break

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM
1.5 CPE Credits

Session 4A: The Strategic Capital Improvement Program Financial Planning – Challenges and Solutions to Volatile Capital and Operating Environment

As existing airport infrastructure continues to age and traffic volumes continue to recover, airport operators face decisions about how much they must invest to maintain physical assets, renovate facilities, and/or build new facilities. This session will look at ways to make those decisions strategically, share best practices and lessons learned from different size airports, and explore tools to help airports get there.

Moderated by **Bryan Benefiel**, *Deputy General Manager & CFO, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport*
Speakers:
Tammy Huddleston, *Vice President of Design, Code and Construction, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport*
Ronald Kapocius, *Chief Financial Officer, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority*
Abel Palacios, *Vice President, Finance, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport*
Rob Schultz, *Chief Financial Officer, Spokane International Airport, Felts Field & Airport Business Park*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Networking Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>1 CPE Credit</i>	General Session 2
10:25 AM - 12:30 PM <i>2.5 CPE Credits</i>	<p>Airport Finance Roundtables by Hub Size</p> <p>This session is an opportunity to discuss with counterparts at similar sized airports. The first part will be open to all registered attendees and the 2nd part will be open to airport members only. The session will be in a casual discussion format with no topic off limit. Please come with any questions or topics you want to discuss.</p> <p>Large Hub Airport Finance Roundtable Brian Butler, <i>Airport Chief Financial Officer, Finance, Salt Lake City Department of Airports</i> Julia Hodge, <i>Vice President, Supply Chain Management, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority</i></p> <p>Medium Hub Airport Finance Roundtable Dave Amdor, <i>Deputy Executive Director - CFO, Southwest Florida International Airport</i> Brandy James, <i>CFO, Charleston International Airport</i></p> <p>Small / Non-Hub Airport Finance Roundtable Kim Allison, <i>Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Tucson Airport Authority</i> Marsha Johnson, <i>Deputy Director, Airport Finance and Administration, Tallahassee International Airport</i></p>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Networking Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM <i>1.5 CPE Credits</i>	<p>Session 7A/B: Roundtable with Airlines</p> <p>Join us for an insightful Airlines Roundtable where airline representatives share crucial updates with airport stakeholders. Discover trends, insights, and collaborative strategies to navigate challenges and enhance airport-airline relations. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable perspectives and forge meaningful connections with airline representatives.</p> <p>Moderated by Donnell Harvey, <i>Vice President, Aviation Real Estate, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport</i> Jeff Schulthess, <i>Executive Vice President, Landrum & Brown, Inc.</i></p> <p>Speakers: David (DJ) Anderson, <i>Director, Airport Affairs and Properties, American Airlines</i> Garry Jones, <i>Sr. Director Airport Affairs, Spirit Airlines</i> Julian Low, <i>VP, Corporate Development, Porter</i> Brian Mattingly, <i>Director, Corporate Real Estate, Delta Air Lines</i></p>
2:45 PM - 3:15 PM	Networking Break
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM <i>1.5 CPE Credits</i>	<p>Session 8A/C: How to Manage Disruptions – Supporting Workforce and Financial Implications (Joint Session with HR Committee)</p> <p>In an increasingly unpredictable world, businesses face a range of disruptions - natural disasters, cyberattacks, and shifts in government leadership—that challenge both operational continuity and employee well-being. This session, in collaboration with the Finance Committee, will examine the financial implications of these crises and how organizations can plan and respond effectively.</p> <p>Moderated by Marsha Johnson, <i>Deputy Director, Airport Finance and Administration, Tallahassee International Airport</i></p> <p>Speakers: Lew Bleiweis, <i>President & CEO, Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority</i> Katie Gerard, <i>Senior Director, Human Resources, Port of Seattle</i> Annie Russo, <i>Chief Political and Congressional Strategy Officer, ACI-NA</i></p>
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	<p>Awards Gala Reception</p> <p><i>Business or cocktail attire suggested</i></p>
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Awards Gala Dinner

Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Information

Conference workshops are all Group-Live.

Not all of the sessions at this conference are eligible for CPE credits. Please check the individual session you wish to attend to ascertain the number of credits available.

Conference Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

- Determine business practices favorable to an airport's business relationships with airlines.
- Identify potential accounting rule changes and implications to financial reporting.
- Identify financial impacts of existing and proposed federal policies.
- Determine potential impacts due to capital market changes.
- Apply global best practices in airport management.
- Apply strategic planning methods and identify performance management improvements.

Course Level: The course level is intermediate. Conference workshops are designed for individuals with a basic understanding of airport industry concepts and issues.

Prerequisite: Basic knowledge about airport business and financial management.

Advance Preparation: None

Conference participants are eligible to receive up to 18 hours of Finance CPE credits.



ACI-NA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through its website:

www.nasbaregistry.org.

For more information regarding administrative policies such as refunds, cancellation and complaints, please contact Liying Gu at lgu@airportscouncil.org.

Business or cocktail attire suggested