

InfrastructureUSA

Guest on THE INFRA BLOG

Dr. Rae Zimmerman, Director, the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS)

Conversation with Steve Anderson, Managing Director, InfrastructureUSA

Dr. Rae Zimmerman

Taking Infra for Granted

I think one of the reasons is the lack of attention. Primarily because there's really no constituency for infrastructure, it's usually all put together in the same basket, if you will, so people can't see the differences. It's unseen; it's usually underground. People want it to just be there when they need and not particularly pay attention to it, and those are some of the things that are creating the problems. I think investment is absolutely critical and I think it's unfortunately being done after the fact. We need the planning to be very proactive in designing and developing infrastructure.

Strengthening Infra Against Nature

I think that a lot of investment needs to be done to make infrastructure much more resilient for extreme events like the one we just had, and have had, and are likely to have again. But now we have to think in terms of them coming together, not only to save money but to avoid conflict. I think we have a good starting point, but I think a lot more has to be done.

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