ICOET 2027 Theme

Across the world, communities are confronting rapid ecological change, aging infrastructure, shifting social dynamics, and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. These challenges highlight the importance of adaptive systems– ecosystems, infrastructure systems, and social systems that are able to recover from and adjust to changing conditions– and how resilience in these systems is critical to sustainable futures. Adaptivity at the intersection of transportation and ecology includes designing infrastructure that can withstand extreme conditions, integrating natural processes into engineering solutions, supporting positive community outcomes, and preserving the ecological integrity that sustains our natural and human communities. With shifting weather patterns and increasing land use pressures transforming landscapes, innovative science, adaptive management techniques, and collaboration that includes communities are key to safeguarding the ecological, infrastructure, and social systems needed for thriving futures.

The landscapes of the Pacific Northwest are shaped by dramatic transitions, from temperate coastal rainforests to fertile valleys, over the volcanic peaks of the Cascades, and into the sagebrush plateaus of the high desert. Watersheds flow from mountains to estuaries, fish and wildlife movement spans state lines, and transportation corridors cut across forests, valleys, and rangelands, connecting people and economies. These regions support a mosaic of systems that are influenced by the interplay of natural processes, dynamic human communities, and diverse stewardship, and are increasingly stressed by changing conditions. The theme of ICOET 2027 focuses on building adaptive systems for thriving futures. Adaptivity requires acknowledging that ecosystems, infrastructure systems, and social systems are interdependent, and collaborative planning across organizations, disciplines, and political boundaries is essential. By sharing lessons learned, building partnerships, and thinking beyond our individual disciplines, we can better develop solutions that strengthen all systems– not just the systems we build, but also the ecosystems we all rely on.

The vision for ICOET 2027 is to celebrate adaptivity in action and highlight how colleagues across the US, North America, and over a dozen countries from around the world are advancing technology, improving ecological connectivity, bolstering infrastructure systems, and more intentionally designing, managing, and restoring systems to better endure and adapt to change. The Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation and Departments of Fish and Wildlife invite you to Portland, OR, for the 14th biennial

International Conference on Ecology and Transportation. The conference will include trainings, workshops, panels, contributed talks, technical posters, and sponsoring exhibitors to create an engaging and educational atmosphere. We invite you to come to ICOET 2027 to improve your technical and scientific knowledge, learn about new practices, and build relationships that will help your organization think boldly, collaborate widely, and invest in adaptivity as a shared responsibility. See you there!