

Subject Line: Sightlines: Scaling for the Grid Build-Out

Preheader: As grid work scales, infrastructure leaders are looking for ways to protect productivity, control cost exposure and improve schedule reliability.

SIGHTLINES

INSIGHTS FOR GREATER SAFETY

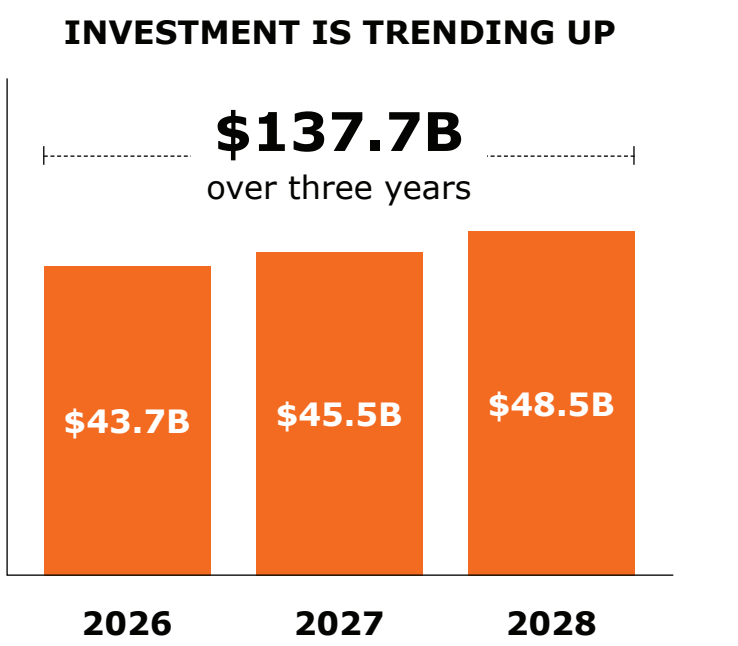


Third Quarter 2026

Welcome to [Sightlines](#) — leadership insights on infrastructure safety and traffic control. In this issue: grid investment continues to accelerate, infrastructure companies adapt how they manage work at scale, and AWP Safety’s Tyler Koontz explains how earlier traffic control planning can improve utility program safety, consistency and productivity.

WHAT’S TRENDING: THE GRID BUILD-OUT IS ACCELERATING

Utilities and transmission developers are investing at record levels as thousands of line and substation projects move into service.



Source: Edison Institute data reported in 2026 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook



Source: FERC Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment

Why it matters: Grid expansion means more concurrent projects across more locations. For infrastructure leaders, the challenge is to increase capacity without allowing gaps in planning, scheduling or execution to erode productivity and profitability.

INSIGHT: SCALE CHANGES HOW WORK GETS DONE

58%

of utility infrastructure contractors increased headcount in the previous 12 months

Source: AGC/NCCER, 2025 Workforce Survey — Utility Infrastructure Results

54%

of construction firms plan to add or replace project management technology in the next 12-24 months

Source: Wipfli, 2026 State of Technology in the Construction Industry

RISK OR OPPORTUNITY?

Rising project volume brings new pressure, along with opportunities to improve how work is planned, coordinated and measured across an enterprise.

Variation can raise costs

Your next move: Standardize the parts of the process that should stay consistent while giving teams room to respond to local conditions.

Late coordination can disrupt schedules

Your next move: Bring the right partners into planning earlier and make ownership clear before work reaches the field.

Program data can reveal reoccurring problems

Your next move: Look across projects, not only at individual jobs, to identify where risk and performance issues keep showing up.

FEATURED PERSPECTIVE: MOVING TRAFFIC CONTROL UPSTREAM



As utilities take on more work across more locations, managing traffic control one job at a time creates greater risk and inconsistency. Tyler Koontz, AWP Safety vice president, South Division — commercial, explains how earlier, program-level planning can help leaders improve schedule reliability and give field teams a more consistent starting point.

[Read Full Article](#)

RELATED RESOURCE

[Watch the Safety Readiness for Changing Work Zones](#) webinar replay for practical guidance on recognizing risk earlier and responding as field conditions change.

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