Letter from the Executive Director

In the FPC, the Work Groups are where the real work happens. They're where we engage in the sometimes difficult, but necessary, dialogue to move faster payments forward.

They're where we identify the best options to solve specific problems. They're where we create the tools to support industry understanding and adoption. And the more we are able to do this, the closer we get to achieving our mission of ubiquitous faster payments in the United States.

That's why I am so excited about the launch of our newest Work Groups: Financial Inclusion and Real-Time Recurring. These two Work Groups can play a significant role in helping to advance adoption and use of faster payments.

Take Financial Inclusion first. According to the Federal Reserve, 22 percent of American adults are unbanked or underbanked. Many of these individuals rely on alternative financial products like payday loans, check cashing services, and more to make ends meet, which can cost consumers an average of $3,000 annually. Faster payments can offer these consumers an alternative to costly financial products. And our Work Group plans to create a blueprint for leveraging faster payments to accelerate access to the financial system for those unbanked and underserved Americans.

The Real-Time Recurring Work Group will also be a significant force in advancing faster payments. Recurring transactions continue to climb in use, with estimates that recurring debit and credit payments in the United States will reach $473 billion this year. Consider that growth in light of an expected increase in Internet of Things (IoT) payments, many of which could be recurring, and other subscription-based payments, and the volume will multiply. For businesses, consumers, and financial institutions, being able to better manage this volume via real-time processes would be a big win. It could minimize manual efforts, increase straight-through processing, and improve cash flow. As such, the Real-Time Recurring Work Group will explore the development and adoption of real-time recurring payment solutions for these audiences.

We are eager to begin work on these new initiatives, and I invite you to consider joining one of these new Work Groups. The work will be rewarding and meaningful as we shape future faster payments offerings.

If you have questions about the Work Groups, please feel free to reach out to FPC Member Services. We are more than happy to provide you with more information and

details so that you can help us drive this important work forward. We look forward to collaborating with you to move the industry forward.

Reed

Register Today: FPC Virtual Spring Conference, April 14-15

The FPC Spring Conference is less than two months away! Registration for the virtual event on **April 14-15, 2021** is now open and can be accessed on the [FPC Spring Conference](#) website. Please note that this is a free event for FPC members so make sure to select the member ticket while registering. Highlights of the Spring Conference include:

Wednesday, April 14
·   Meeting kick-off at 10:00 a.m. CT
·   Panel discussion on the rise of Central Bank Digital Currencies.
·   Update on what's happening on the RTP Network.
·   Deep dive on the benefits of an interoperable directory for faster payments.
·   Presentation of a payroll use case in response to challenges of the pandemic.
·   Discussion on how to turn faster payments into faster products.
·   Faster payments fraud panel discussion on latest trends and research.
·   Evening Happy Hour with fun networking opportunities.

Thursday, April 15
·   Day 2 kick-off at 10:00 a.m. CT
·   Presentation by Glenbrook on their latest qualitative research on interoperability.
·   Roundtables to discuss research and next steps in interoperability.
·   Discussion on cross border aspects of faster payments.
·   Education & Awareness WG showcase of the Faster Payments Knowledge Center.
·   Panel discussion on smart, faster payments value-added services.
·   Financial Inclusion panel discussion on challenges and opportunities in the U.S.
·   Update on the Faster Payments assessment tool coming soon.

We'll continue to share updates on the agenda, speakers, and additional info on how to join the virtual conference as we get closer to the event!

Register for the Spring Conference

New Opportunities to Shape the Future of Payments in FPC Work Groups

The FPC [recently announced the launch](#) of two new Work Groups: **Financial Inclusion** and **Real-Time Recurring**.

The Financial Inclusion Work Group will provide a blueprint for leveraging faster payments to accelerate access to the financial

system for unbanked and underserved Americans. **The Real-Time Recurring Work Group** will promote the development and adoption of real-time recurring payment solutions to be used by business end-users and financial institutions.

Both of these Work Groups are currently seeking members. If you are interested in advancing the efforts of either Group, please complete the [FPC Work Group Interest Form](#).

We also have an exciting new opportunity to help accelerate our work streams by sponsoring one of our Work Groups. To learn more about the FPC Accelerating Sponsorship, please download the [sponsorship prospectus](#) for more details or contact us at memberservices@fasterpaymentscouncil.org.

FPC Launches "Off the Rails" Podcast: First Episode Now Live!

We're thrilled to share that the FPC launched the "Off the Rails from the U.S. Faster Payments Council" podcast this month!

In our first episode, FPC Executive Director Reed Luhtanen chats with guest **Steve Ledford**, SVP at **The Clearing House**, on the latest trends and headlines in faster payments as well as a few fun topics unrelated to payments.

The new "Off the Rails" podcast is accessible on the [FPC website](#) as well as available for download from your favorite apps including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Audible from Amazon](#), among others. Please take a listen and subscribe to stay up to date with future episodes featuring FPC members. Our next guest in March will be **Joe Casali**, EVP at **NEACH**.

FPC Welcomes New Member

The FPC would like to welcome **MainStreet Bank** as its newest business member.

Our members are the reason the FPC exists. Your contributions, passion, and support allow us to advance our efforts and make progress on our goal of ubiquitous faster payments in the United States. We thank you for making the commitment to the Faster Payments Council and helping make our vision a reality.

As a reminder, the current [list of FPC Members](#) is available for review on our website at any time.

FPC Board Election - May 2021

The FPC will be holding an election for several seats on the Board of Directors in May 2021, with the new board members seated by June 1. FPC Board members elected by their segments serve staggered three-year terms, with a single seat open for election in each segment annually.

The Call for Nominations will begin in late March (watch for separate communications on specifics), and members can submit nominations from **March 29** – **April 16**. Ballots will be distributed on April 19, and votes will be accepted until May 7.

In addition to the newly elected board members in 2021, who will serve 3-year terms, three additional At-Large Directors are selected by the Board of Directors to represent the three largest segments for a term of one year. Currently the three largest segments are Financial Institutions, Technology Providers, and Others.

2021 Member Invoices: Deadline for Renewals is Quickly Approaching

The deadline to renew FPC memberships for 2021 is March 31, 2021. Thank you to those who have renewed your membership, and for those who haven't, this is a friendly reminder to please do so promptly.

If you did not receive your invoice, if you have questions about it, or revisions to make to your membership tier/primary representative, please contact us at memberservices@fasterpaymentscouncil.org.

We thank you for your membership in the FPC and your continued commitment to advancing faster payments!

FPC Work Groups Advance Efforts

Our FPC Work Groups have been hard at work this month, focusing on tangible actions and results, summarized below.

Cross Border Payments Work Group – The Group finalized the draft of its "Cross-Border Faster Payments" white paper and received approval from the full work group. The paper was presented to the Operations committee for review and approval. The white paper is structured to identify the interoperability approaches, along with associated settlement schemes necessary to create a world-class cross-border payment system. Publication of the public-facing deliverable is targeted for April.

Education and Awareness Work Group – The Group's Solution Provider subgroup has finalized its industry survey and received approval from the full EAWG work group. Next, the subgroup will put forth the survey draft and overall project concept to the Operations committee for review and approval. The other subgroups including Faster Payments Glossary of Terms, Faster Payments FAQs, and Faster Payments Use Cases, continue to make great progress on upcoming deliverables and will be presenting at the FPC Spring

Conference.

Fraud Information Sharing Work Group – The Group continues to work on the development of a survey on faster payments fraud and plans to produce a report summarizing the final results with recommendations to address faults or gaps. The Group's two subgroups have been focused on the definition and design of the survey as well as international and domestic research for this new deliverable.

QR Code Interface Work Group – The Group is currently in the analysis phase of their roadmap with a focus on industry research on specifications, identifying gaps, and making a recommendation. As part of this process, the Group recently conducted a standards and specifications review with EMVCo and ASC X9. The Group has also created a QR Code scope document and started development of guidelines and industry best practices. The Group's first deliverable is targeted for completion in Q2.

Regulatory Work Group – The Group has approved its first deliverable, **an overview of the legal and regulatory landscape as it may relate to faster payments**. The Members-only deliverable advanced to the Operations Committee for review and approval. Scheduled for release in April, the main sections of the resource include authentication, consumer protection, consumer disclosures, error resolution, eligibility, financial crime – compliance, funds availability, funds transfer, privacy, and risk management.

Directory Models Work Group – The Group's economic impact subgroup has completed the draft of its Members-only white paper, "The Economic Benefits of an Independent, Interoperable Directory for Faster Payments," and presented it to the Operations Committee for review and approval. The paper is scheduled for release in April. The beneficial characteristics subgroup also continues to make significant progress on its deliverable that will visually depict the key characteristics and benefits of an interoperable directory capability.

Member contributions in our FPC Work Groups are key to our progress. If you haven't joined a Work Group, we encourage you to do so. Also, remember that anyone from your organization can join work groups and contribute, so spread the word internally.

You can find more information about FPC Work Groups and join here. We are also always looking for new work group ideas! If there is something happening in the industry that the FPC can help with – an FPC Work Group is the way to make that happen.

We Value You as an FPC Member!

Thank you for your engagement and commitment to advancing faster payments.

If you have any questions, please contact us at memberservices@fasterpaymentscouncil.org and visit fasterpaymentscouncil.org.

Thank you to the FPC's 2021 Accelerating Sponsors – The Clearing House and NEACH — The New England ACH Association.

Faster Payments Council

Contact Us