Executive Summary

This Executive Summary is a brief description of the NCSL Foundation Partners Project on Public-Private Partnerships' educational session at NCSL’s Legislative Summit in July 2009.

- A detailed meeting summary is also available, which gives more information about each session as well as the presenters’ biographies. The detailed meeting summary is available at http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=18016, or upon request from jaime.rall@ncsl.org.

- More information about this meeting, including PowerPoints, is also available at http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=18016.

- For more information about the NCSL Foundation Partnership for PPPs for Transportation, see http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=17528.

- For more information about the previous meeting of the PPP Partners Project, see http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=17216.

The NCSL Foundation Partners Project on Public-Private Partnerships (P3s/PPPs) exists to link legislators, legislative staff and interested private entities to analyze legislators’ needs and to develop nonpartisan, balanced, useful materials to aid legislators’ decision-making regarding PPPs in transportation, both in their respective states and as they consider state-federal relationships.
One purpose of this 18-month Project is to develop and offer educational sessions. This session at NCSL’s Legislative Summit in Philadelphia built on previous meetings of the working group, including an extensive pre-conference meeting held at NCSL’s Spring Forum in April. The information gathered in these two meetings will inform the Partners Project working group in its ongoing analysis of PPPs, with the end goal of developing a “toolkit” of useful resources that legislators can use when considering PPPs as one possible transportation funding option.

After opening remarks from the project co-chairs, Representative Terri Austin of Indiana and Representative Linda Harper-Brown of Texas, Senator Pamela Gorman of Arizona—who presided at the April meeting in the co-chairs’ absence—provided a summary of that meeting.

This was followed by presentations on a variety of United States and international PPP efforts. Frank Rapoport (Council of Project Finance Advisors [CPFA] Working Group) first presented on Trends and Directions in Transportation PPPs. He addressed the role of PPPs in various sectors, and the CPFA Working Group’s advocacy for a national center of excellence and best practices to advise states and other entities about PPP business models. In the next session, Bringing the Private Sector into the Planning and Implementation Process, Miller Hudson (Legislative Consultant) reviewed the Denver, Colorado, transit model in which half the routes are run by private operators. This model achieves cost savings without cutting service. Also in this session, Rob Henry (Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association [GVF]) described transportation management associations (TMAs) and reviewed some of GVF’s experiences with transportation PPPs.

In the next session, International Perspectives on PPPs: The French Model, John Foote (Harvard Kennedy School of Government) presented an analysis of why the prices were so much higher for the Indiana Toll Road and Chicago Skyway concessions compared to three contemporary French deals. He pointed to how, in the U.S. deals, price was prioritized over other considerations—including some stakeholders’ interests. Nicholas Farber (National Conference of State Legislatures) then gave a State PPP Legislation Overview that focused on notable enacted, failed, and pending PPP-related state legislation from 2009. This was followed by a Legislator Roundtable in which Representative Austin, Representative Harper-Brown, Senator Gorman and Senator Scott Dibble of Minnesota shared their experiences with PPPs in their states. The session closed with a business meeting regarding the development of the “toolkit” report and the next Project meeting, which will take place at the NCSL Fall Forum in San Diego, California, from December 9 to 12, 2009.

NCSL thanks all of the public and private sector participants in the Partnership Project for their contributions to this event and to the ongoing work of the Project.

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