

Second Arizona Conference Highlights Need for Highway P3s

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Ila Halai

Industry officials gathered for the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships (NCP3P) annual convention in Phoenix almost two weeks ago (Nov. 18-20) to discuss the state's P3 opportunities.

Speakers at the NCP3P conference, the second in Arizona in two months, included:

- Arizona Governor Janice Brewer;
- David Crane, State of California;
- David Ehrhardt, Castalia;
- Jim Good, Veolia;
- John Halikowski, Arizona Department of Transportation;
- Steve Howard, Barclays Capital;
- Neil McMonagle, Grant Thornton UK;
- Joseph Pavona, State of Michigan;
- Payson Peabody, Dykema;
- Tim Philpotts, Ernst & Young;
- Stephen Sorett, McKenna Long & Aldridge;



Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is a month away from issuing final rules to comply with a new law setting parameters for ADOT to enter P3s for construction, financing, operation and maintenance of transportation projects, including toll roads.

The law signed in July allows ADOT to enter concessions of up to 50 years, although they may be extended, and to grant other units of government the authority to develop P3s. ADOT is also approaching the point when it can advertise for technical, legal and financial experts to manage the partnerships.

High on the list of priorities for highway improvements are HOT lanes on the heavily-congested I-10 in Phoenix.

John Halikowski at ADOT has said public support is key because conversions would mean that motorists will be asked to pay tolls on a road they already paid for through their gas and sales taxes.

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