

Western Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (WASHTO)
2009 Annual Conference - Seattle
July 14, 2009

Session 3: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Innovative Funding and Finance: a New Era?

Moderator: Jeff Doyle, Director of Public/Private Partnerships, WSDOT

Funding Challenges:

- Opposition to general tax increases
- Gas tax not calibrated to recover cost of maintenance & operation of highway system
- Gas tax not indexed to inflation
- Revenue yield per Vehicle Mile Driven will decline due to:
 - vehicle efficiencies
 - shift in transportation energy sources

Financing Challenges:

- Public Works-era financing model (30 year tax-exempt municipal bonds) still dominates transportation project finance
- Project costs far exceed our ability to finance using conventional revenue streams
- Public/Private Partnership financing in the U.S. has not taken hold as originally forecasted
- 2009 - : tighter access to credit and more stringent underwriting standards

Expert Panel:

Mr. Phillip E. Russell, Director for Innovative Project Development, Texas DOT

Ms. Winnie Shi, Director, Global Infrastructure & Projects Group, KPMG

Mr. Tom Rousakis, Vice President, Transportation & Project Finance Group, Goldman Sachs