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The Case of Public-Private Partnerships in the New Obama Administration Of the United States

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PPPs in the U.S. Today: A Fragmented PPP Environment

- Unlike many countries, the U.S. federal government has no central PPP unit to oversee PPP policy and programs. Each major department has its own unique statutory and regulatory framework for contemplating, evaluating, and implementing PPPs, with general guidance provided by the Office of Management and Budget. As a consequence, participation in PPPs varies greatly from department to department.
- At the state and local level, PPP policy is similarly fragmented. For example, today 23 states have legislation in place authorizing PPPs for transportation infrastructure, while 27 do not. Existing laws vary from state to state.
- This fragmented environment makes it difficult to identify the full extent of PPP activity.

Sectors Where PPPs Have Been Used Include:

- Transportation
- Waste/Wastewater
- Urban Development
- Utilities
- Schools
- Healthcare
- Municipal Facilities

Completed PPP Projects (U.S.)



Union Station, Washington, DC



JFK International Terminal 4, New York



Las Vegas Monorail, Nevada



Port of Galveston, Texas

Completed PPP Projects (U.S.) cont.



James F. Oyster School, Washington, DC



Fredericksburg, VA Parking Lot



Hancock Geriatric Treatment Center, Williamsburg, VA



Tolt Water Plant, Seattle, WA

Why Public-Private Partnerships

- Demand for infrastructure and services exceeds available government funding
- PPPs can:
 - Attract new capital to develop infrastructure
 - Accelerate infrastructure development, spurring economic growth
 - Streamline processes
 - Reduce project time and cost

The Obama Administration

 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has appointed a Special Representative for Global Partnerships, Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley.



- The Federal Highway Administration has created a nine-person Expert Task Group to develop innovative ways to enable highway PPPs.
- Other Federal agencies are building their PPP capability, a trend mirrored at the state government level.