U.S. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: OBJECTIVES AND EVIDENCE

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1 ABSTRACT

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3 Effective public-private partnership (P3) policy evaluations must acknowledge the multiple and varied 4 reasons why public agencies pursue alternative procurement approaches. While economic efficiency and private sector funding typically rank high among evaluation criteria, they rarely represent a public agency's 5 sole or primary P3 objectives. As a result, the research reported here conducted six U.S. surface 6 7 transportation P3 case studies to identify the objectives pursued and the evidence available for effectiveness 8 evaluations. The case findings demonstrate that the studied agencies pursued 1) private sector funding and 9 financing; 2) private sector expertise and innovation; 3) accelerated project delivery; 4) cost, schedule, and 10 quality certainty; 5) risk transfer and management; and 6) broader transit and development opportunities. The public agencies largely achieved these goals, although disagreements among public sector stakeholders 11 12 and force majeure events affected performance. To further increase P3 benefits, public agencies should consider: 1) pursuing private-sector expertise and innovation earlier; 2) elevating risk transfer objectives; 13 14 3) incorporating broader transit, local development, and value capture opportunities; and 4) improving outcome measurement, analysis, and transparency practices. 15 16

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 As the public sector struggles to keep pace with growing infrastructure maintenance, rehabilitation, and improvement requirements, public-private partnerships (P3s) can offer a potential solution, leveraging 3 scarce public funding and delivering infrastructure improvements (and associated public benefits) through 4 5 the innovation, efficiency, and capital resources available in the private sector (1-3). P3s allow private-6 sector partners to take on design, construction, financing, operations, and/or maintenance responsibilities 7 through different contracts, including but not limited to design-build (DB), design-build-finance (DBF), 8 design-build-finance-operate (DBFO), and design-build-finance-operate-maintain (DBFOM). Such 9 partnerships typically contrast with traditional design-bid-build (DBB) procurement processes where the 10 public-sector agency develops a more or less complete design, usually with support from consulting engineers, and then conducts a competitive solicitation to select a construction firm to build the facility. 11

The theoretical literature suggests that when compared to traditional procurement, P3 approaches 12 can offer more efficient infrastructure provision for complex projects under clear service metrics and can 13 improve risk management by transferring risk to the private sector (4, 5). Empirical research on P3 14 15 efficiency and performance remains limited, however, with existing literature focusing largely on European projects (6-9). P3 procurement remains relatively new in the U.S. and as a result, very limited P3 16 performance evaluation literature exists to support policymakers and their decision-making. The few 17 18 existing studies tend to focus on economic efficiency and/or financial metrics, depending on value for money (VfM) studies and benefit-cost analyses (10-12). Such evaluations often assume an idealized public 19 20 policy formation process, envisioning public policymakers defining clear policy objectives, ranking 21 alternative approaches, and selecting the best option (13, 14). Nonetheless, the public administration literature recognizes that policymakers often bundle several objectives together to accommodate varied 22 23 priorities and constraints (15). As a result, evaluators risk missing important outcomes if they impose 24 efficiency as the sole criteria when studying projects.

25 P3 infrastructure projects present particular evaluation challenges since they typically involve large 26 scopes, multiple objectives, and large variations between projects, partners, and environments. P3s, by definition, attempt to unite both public and private sector objectives amid broader societal concerns and 27 28 institutional frameworks (16, 17). This typically generates a complex and multi-dimensional objective set 29 that complicates evaluation (1, 18-24). Consequently, P3 evaluations focusing solely on financial and/or economic outcomes risk overlooking public agencies' primary objectives and underestimating true 30 31 outcomes. Such evaluations could undermine P3 procurement approaches by missing key agency objectives. As a result, this study aims to 1) identify and analyze the broad range of public-sector objectives 32 underlying surface transportation P3 projects in the U.S; 2) evaluate whether the projects achieve these 33 34 objectives; 3) identify challenges; and 4) provide recommendations for policymakers and practitioners.

35 METHODS

36 This research narrows its focus using three criteria. First, the research focuses solely on U.S. surface transportation infrastructure projects, namely highway and transit projects. Second, the analysis restricts 37 its focus to projects reaching financial close after 2003 to reflect the more mature P3 markets and 38 39 institutions that followed first-stage discovery processes and legal framework developments in pioneering 40 states like Virginia and Texas (23). This scope also isolates projects with more publicly available 41 bibliographic information and more engaged public officials for participant interviews. Third, the study team limited the study scope to the construction contracts and long-term engagements that provide the 42 greatest latitude for private engagement and innovation, namely DBFOM, DBFO, and DBOM contracts. 43

Based on these criteria, the research team identified twenty-one US surface transportation P3 projects for analysis. In order to provide detailed analyses and actionable policy recommendations, the research team selected six of these projects for exploratory study, weighing evaluation feasibility and costs when making the selections (25). These included Virginia's I-495 Express Lanes; Colorado's U.S. 36 Express Lanes; Virginia's I-95 Express Lanes; Florida's Port of Miami Tunnel; California's Presidio
 Parkway, Phase II; and Texas' LBJ TEXpress Lanes. The research team then applied a case study approach
 to evaluate the selected projects, following an approach used to measure European P3 outcomes (26).

4 Analytical data derived from two sources: bibliographic resources and participant interviews. 5 Bibliographic sources included academic articles, news reports, and government records as available. 6 Public-sector documents - including environmental impact statements, cost-benefit analyses, audits, and 7 value-for-money studies - received particular attention when available. Unfortunately, the public record 8 can be very limited and can vary greatly by project and jurisdiction. In addition, public records might not always reflect the nuanced and informal processes underlying public decision-making. As a result, the 9 10 research team also conducted semi-structured interviews to solicit project objectives, results, and perceptions from key stakeholders, focusing primarily on sponsoring agencies and concessionaires. 11

12 The team identified senior public officials responsible for project oversight, public engagement, 13 and financial (e.g., secretaries of transportation, chief financial officers, and project managers), conducting semi-structured interviews with as many as possible. While issues of memory, personal interest, and 14 professional interest can introduce data limitations, such interviews can provide valuable perspective when 15 considered carefully and in combination with other sources. When a project involved multiple public 16 partners, the team endeavored to contact officials from all relevant agencies. Although the present research 17 18 focused on public-sector objectives, high-level officials from pertinent private concessionaires were also contacted and interviewed when possible to provide a more exhaustive view. Time and budget limitations 19 20 prevented the team from soliciting views from other stakeholder groups. To encourage forthright 21 discussion, the research team did not record the interviews or attribute specific statements to particular interviewees. 22

23 STUDY CASES

24 Virginia's I-495 Capital Beltway HOT Lanes

25 Interstate 495 (I-495), also known as the Capital Beltway, is a 64-mile roadway ringing Washington, D.C. through Maryland and Virginia. Since the roadway opened in 1964, strong population growth has made 26 27 the Washington Metropolitan Area among the top ten most congested cities in the U.S. (27, 28). In 1997, 28 the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) conducted a Major Investment Study concluding that 29 I-495 corridor improvements should promote high occupancy vehicle (HOV) travel and bus transit, and 30 that the Beltway be widened from 8 lanes to 12 lanes. Public hearings held in May 2002, however, revealed strong public opposition to the project's \$2.5 billion price tag and significant land acquisition requirements. 31 In response, the Fluor Corporation submitted an innovative unsolicited conceptual project 32 33 development proposal in June 2002. Virginia statutes allow public agencies to accept unsolicited proposals from private-sector entities based on a provision in the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA) 34 35 (29). After the proposal completed the PPTA procurement process, financial close occurred in December 2007. The resulting comprehensive agreement included a DBFOM structure extending 75 years following 36 construction. The private concessionaire would a) expand a 14-mile stretch of highway to 12 lanes from 8 37 lanes; b) reconstruct the 8 existing general purpose lanes; c) incorporate High-Occupancy Tolling (HOT) 38 39 into 4 of the 12 lanes; d) replace 58 bridges and reconstruct 10 interchanges; and e) add pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements. Construction began in July 2008 and the express lanes opened early, in 40 41 November 2012.

Project funding sources totaled \$2.1 billion, divided into 16.8% private equity, 28.5% Private Activity Bonds (tax-exempt bonds issued by the private concessionaire), 28.5% Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan, 23.9% VDOT funds, and 2.3% interest income. The project relies on dynamically priced toll revenue for ongoing funding, varying with current traffic conditions, without an upper limit, to accommodate the 45 mile-per-hour minimum speed defined in the comprehensive agreement. The agreement also includes a revenue-sharing scheme between the public and private partners.

1 Colorado's U.S. 36 Express Lanes Phase II

2 The 18-mile section of U.S. Route 36 that connects northwestern Denver to Boulder in Colorado opened in 1951 (30) with demand increasing and congestion worsening as the local population grew over succeeding 3 4 decades. By 2009, five improvements were deemed necessary to meet corridor capacity, congestion 5 management, and safety requirements: 1) increased trip capacity; 2) expanded interchange capacity; 3) 6 congestion reduction; 4) multi-modal transit and bikeway developments; and 5) highway facility updates 7 (31, 32). However, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) lacked sufficient resources to 8 deliver the improvement project using DBB or DB approaches. Fuel tax revenues had stagnated and the 9 state's 1992 Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) amendment implemented a strong constitutional limit on 10 state and local revenue and expenditure growth (33).

In order to proceed, CDOT divided the project into two phases. Phase I construction commenced in July 2012 and involved a TIFIA loan application, raising the possibility for Phase II financing using a P3 structure. Colorado had enacted P3 legislation in March 2009 with the Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act (FASTER). This legislation launched the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) under CDOT with authority to engage in P3 projects.

HPTE began Phase II P3 procurement in February 2012 and financial close occurred in June 2013
 with a 50-year DBFOM agreement. For a 5.1 mile highway segment, the private partners would add a HOT
 lane in each direction, improve Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and add a bikeway. The private partner would
 also take over operation and maintenance across both the HOT lanes and general-purpose lanes, while also
 taking responsibility for Phase I debt.

Phase II construction began in March 2015 and the facility opened gradually, with a modest delay, throughout early 2016. Phase II funding totaled \$258.6 million including 8.0% private equity, 8.0% Private Activity Bonds, 23.2% TIFIA loans, 19.2% HPTE funds, 11.8% RTD sales tax revenue, 5.8% federal funds, 7.3% state funds, 4.2% local funds, and 12.6% other financing. Managed lane tolls provide revenue for debt service with rates varying by time of day. The toll rates remain subject to HPTE Board approval and the private concessionaire shares revenues with HPTE when its return on investment exceeds 13.68%.

27 Florida's Port of Miami Tunnel

Florida's City of Miami relocated its Port of Miami (POM) from mainland Miami to Dodge Island in 1964 and by 2008, the port handled more cruise passengers than any other U.S. port and its proximity to the Panama Canal made it the country's 12th largest container port. For decades, the Port Boulevard Bridge had provided primary access by way of downtown Miami, but as passenger and container traffic increased the surrounding community objected to the resulting congestion and accidents (*34*, *35*). As of 2003, Miami ranked 6th in the U.S. for travel delays, excess fuel consumption, and congestion costs (*36*).

Local agencies evaluated improvement alternatives during the 1980s and by 1990 both the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had selected a tunnel approach linking I-395 on Watson Island and POM on Dodge Island. After the planned blast-dredge construction approach raised environmental concerns, FDOT switched to a boring approach but lacked prior experience or specifications for major tunnel construction and maintenance (*37*). As a result, the agency pursued a P3 approach to shift construction and maintenance risks to an experienced private partner.

40 FDOT began its P3 procurement process in December 2005 and financial close occurred in October 41 2009 after delays caused by the 2007-2009 global financial crisis. The resulting DBFOM contract extended for 30 years and made the private partners responsible for constructing two bored tunnels and improving 42 the existing bridge and roadway system. POM Tunnel construction began in May 2010, with the facility 43 opening to traffic in May 2014. Project financing totaled \$1,072.6 million, including 7.5% private equity, 44 45 31.8% senior bank debt, 31.8% TIFIA loans, and 28.9% FDOT funds. Facing concerns that tolls would 46 harm the local cruise industry (38, 39), FDOT compensated the private concessionaire using milestone payments and availability payments, rather than pursuing a toll-revenue funding approach. 47

1 Virginia's I-95 HOV/HOT Lanes

Following Interstate 95's (I-95's) mid-twentieth century construction, the sections running through
Northern Virginia experienced increasing congestion despite high carpooling rates and bus ridership (40–
42). Starting in 2002, viability studies considered HOV extensions and expansions (43), but these plans
failed to gain traction, leading a private consortium to submit an original unsolicited P3 proposal in October
2003. After soliciting competing proposals under PPTA (29), VDOT signed an interim agreement in
October 2006.

8 The resulting project included 56 miles of reversible HOT lanes, park-and-ride expansions, a BRT 9 station, and \$195 million for transit (44). However, the Arlington County Board filed a federal lawsuit against the project in August 2009, arguing that it: 1) disproportionally affected minority neighborhoods, 10 11 2) would increase congestion, and 3) failed to fulfill federal environmental standards (45–48). The Board 12 withdrew its lawsuit in February 2011 after VDOT conducted an Environmental Assessment and modified the project to eliminate its Arlington County portions (41, 49, 50). VDOT's newly reduced project focused 13 solely on HOV/HOT components; the agency did not include the concessionaire's originally proposed 14 transit grants, park-and-ride expansions, and BRT station. The modified plan 1) widened the existing 14-15 mile, northern HOV lanes from 2 to 3 lanes, 2) improved another existing 6-mile HOV lane segment; and 16 17 3) built new HOV/HOT lanes 9 miles further southward (51). The partners reached financial close in July 2012 with a DBFOM comprehensive agreement extending 73 years following completion. Construction 18 19 began that same month and the project opened to the public on time two years later in December 2014.

20 Project funding totaled \$922.7 million, divided into 30.4% private equity, 27.4% Private Activity Bonds, 32.5% TIFIA loan, 8.9% VDOT funds, and 0.8% interest. The project relies on dynamically priced 21 22 HOT revenue that varies with current traffic conditions. The agreement also included a revenue-sharing 23 scheme where VDOT can claim 5% to 40% of gross revenues depending on the concessionaire's internal rate of the return. After the project opened, and with new leadership at the local and state levels, the 24 25 partnership extended the HOT lanes into Arlington County once again- the original P3 agreement preserved this option in case conditions became favorable - and obtained a \$15 million yearly transit commitment 26 27 from the concessionaire. Construction for this northern extension should begin in the summer of 2017 with 28 a 2019 opening date (52).

29 California's Presidio Parkway Phase II

30 The 1.5-mile, Presidio Parkway providing southern access to San Francisco, California's Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1940 (53) and faced sufficient congestion to merit roadway expansion and upgrade 31 32 proposals in the 1960s. Political opposition blocked infrastructure development however, and the facility degraded progressively (54–57) until the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the San 33 34 Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), and other affected agencies coordinated during the 35 1990s and early 2000s to consider facility improvement options. SFCTA and Caltrans ultimately elected to redesign the existing roadway, improve scenic views, and upgrade the facility in 2006 through eight DBB 36 37 contracts, the first four of which (Phase I) commenced in December 2009.

The California state legislature then approved Senate Bill Second Extraordinary Session 4 (SBX2-38 4) in 2009, expanding allowable P3 projects beyond goods movement and eliminating legislative approval 39 requirements. This allowed Caltrans to consider P3 approaches for the remaining Phase II contracts, 40 scheduled to begin in Fall 2010. Caltrans and SFCTA began the Phase II P3 process in February 2010 and 41 42 in November that year, the agencies publicized their Notice of Intent to Award the contract. Concurrently, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) union sued the agencies, arguing that the 43 44 project's reliance on fuel taxes rather than user fees did not comply with California's P3 statutes (58, 59). Although a judge dismissed the lawsuit in February 2011 and the California Supreme Court confirmed the 45 finding that November (60-62), lenders would not sign agreements with the private concessionaire until 46 47 the litigation was resolved. As a result, financial close, expected in June 2011 (60, 63), was delayed to June 48 2012.

The resulting contract gave the private concessionaire DBFOM responsibilities for 30 years. Project financing totaled \$364.7 million, including 12.5% private equity, 45.7% bank loans, and 41.8% TIFIA loans (64). Caltrans employed milestone payments and availability payments after the various responsible agencies could not reach consensus on a tolling approach (65). Presidio Phase II construction began in June 2012 and the facility opened to traffic in July 2015.

6 Texas' IH 635 LBJ Managed Lanes or LBJ TEXpress

7 The 37-mile U.S Interstate Highway 635 (IH 635), also known as the LBJ Freeway, rings the Texas City 8 of Dallas on its northern and eastern sides. As strong regional economic activity and population growth 9 developed between the 1960s and 1990s, traffic congestion also increased. Congestion improvement 10 studies began in 1987 and by 1992 the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had concentrated on 11 roadway expansion. The planned expansion's significant eminent domain requirements spurred strong and organized public opposition. To avoid a protracted conflict, TxDOT tabled the expansion plan and explored 12 13 alternatives, ultimately settling on a tunnel approach in 1996, although it lacked sufficient resources to deliver the design. 14

15 Eventually, Texas' 2003 House Bill 3588 authorized TxDOT to conduct transportation P3s using Comprehensive Development Agreements (CDA). Recognizing the limited public resources available for 16 traditional IH 635 project delivery, TxDOT moved forward with a P3 approach in April 2005. During the 17 18 RFQ phase, one team proposed a trench-based design that presented attractive construction, operations, and maintenance savings compared to the tunnel plan. The 2007-2009 global financial crisis then affected the 19 project's RFP and financial close phases; two teams withdrew and TxDOT was forced to delay the proposal 20 21 submission deadline. The agency ultimately selected its concessionaire in February 2009 and reached 22 financial close in June 2010.

23 The resulting DBFOM contract extended for 52 years, including both construction and operations. 24 The final project design included managed lanes, a portion of which would be constructed below the general 25 purpose lanes, and a range of facility improvements. Project funding totaled \$2.6 billion, divided into 25.8% private equity, 22.9% Private Activity Bonds, 32.1% TIFIA loan, 18.5% public sector funds, and 26 0.6% toll revenues during construction. The project's financing relies on a three-component dynamic 27 28 tolling process, adjusted by traffic volume, vehicle type, and roadway segment. The comprehensive 29 development agreement also includes a revenue-sharing scheme between the public and private partners 30 based on the resulting toll revenues. Construction began in January 2011 and the project opened four years later in September 2015. 31

32 **RESULTS**

33 Across the six cases, public-sector stakeholders focused primarily on addressing traffic congestion and the safety and service quality issues that stem from it, although seismic safety improvements also proved 34 important in the Presidio Parkway case. Despite having recognized traffic congestion problems however, 35 36 the case agencies encountered two complications that challenged traditional procurement. First, the public agencies involved in the I-495, U.S. 36, LBJ, Presidio, and to some degree I-95 cases encountered financial 37 limitations (both short and long term), often exacerbated by debt limits (U.S. 36 in particular). For example, 38 39 CDOT ran into TABOR limitations that undermined traditional funding sources for its U.S. 36 project. 40 TxDOT, in turn, possessed only about one third of the resources required to build its LBJ Managed Lanes project. Similar funding limitations greatly limited VDOT's ability to deliver its I-95 and I-495 projects 41 under existing capital plans. Second, project design and/or technical limitations often arose from 42 environmental and legal challenges, eminent domain opposition (I-495), aesthetic opposition (LBJ, 43 44 Presidio), tolling challenges (I-495), and/or the technical challenges related to tunnel construction (LBJ, POM). The public agencies then engaged with P3 procurement approaches to address these financial and 45

technical challenges and achieve their original congestion management and user experience goals. Overall,
 the case agencies generally met these objectives (see Table 1).

3 4

Congestion Management and Improving User Experiences

5

6 The projects improved roadway congestion and user experience outcomes in accordance with the public 7 agencies' original transportation development objectives. P3 procurement delivered congestion free 8 HOT/HOV lanes in Virginia's I-495 and I-95 cases – and similarly successful managed lanes in the LBJ 9 and U.S. 36 cases – that also reduced congestion across their corresponding general-purpose lanes. The POM Tunnel also successfully reduced passenger and truck traffic volume through downtown Miami in 10 accordance with public-sector congestion reduction objectives. While many of these benefits would have 11 12 developed regardless of procurement method, the P3 approach proved successful at addressing basic 13 congestion objectives while also providing additional benefits.

14

Accessing Private-Sector Funding & Financing 16

P3 delivery approaches helped several case agencies overcome public funding and/or debt ceiling limitations by accessing alternative capital sources – private equity and debt – thereby diminishing the public sector's upfront financial commitments and associated risks. For example, privately acquired resources overcame Virginia's funding and debt capacity limitations to advance both the I-495 and I-95 projects. Private resources also enabled Texas's LBJ project and proved essential for addressing debtceiling limitations in Colorado's U.S. 36 case.

23

Accessing Private-Sector Expertise & Innovation 25

26 Since public sector agencies often lack sufficient capacity and/or expertise to develop and maintain complex 27 and innovative technological solutions, P3 delivery approaches helped public agencies access crucial 28 private-sector expertise and innovation in nearly all the study cases. For example, the private sector's unsolicited I-495 proposal introduced crucial design innovations that greatly diminished otherwise 29 prohibitive and unpopular eminent domain requirements. Furthermore, \VDOT then recognized its limited 30 31 tolling experience and employed P3 approaches to transfer technology deployment and toll enforcement to 32 the experienced private concessionaire, a key aspect of the financial sustainability of both the I-495 and the 33 I-95 projects. Similar private sector expertise contributed to alternative technical concepts in the U.S. 36 34 case (e.g. new road surfaces) and proved essential for lowering construction costs for the LBJ Managed Lanes project. Originally conceived with a tunnel design, the private sector's innovative trench-cantilever 35 36 design proposal reduced costs by nearly \$1 billion and enabled on budget delivery three months ahead of 37 schedule. Finally, FDOT benefitted greatly from the POM Tunnel concessionaire's extensive experience with bored-tunnel technology when addressing construction, geotechnical, and hurricane concerns. 38

39

40 Accelerating Project Delivery

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42 By employing P3 approaches to access private sector resources and expertise, several case agencies 43 successfully accelerated their projects compared to the timelines expected under traditional procurement. For instance, P3-enabled private resources accelerated Virginia's I-495 and I-95 projects by at least six 44 45 years compared to the delivery schedule expected with limited public funding and state debt restrictions (66). Second, the design innovations, cost reductions, and private-sector financing enabled by Texas' LBJ 46 Managed Lanes P3 procurement accelerated that project by about 10 to 20 years compared to traditional 47 48 DBB procurement (67, 68). Lastly, Colorado's U.S. 36 P3 structure circumvented the state's TABOR restrictions to deliver the project 10 to 15 years faster than predicted under traditional procurement (69). 49

50 51

1 Project Certainty & Risk Management

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The case study agencies aimed to improve cost and schedule risk management through two P3 mechanisms. 3 4 First, the agencies implemented design-build contracts to bundle design and construction activities into 5 single, fixed cost contracts (70-72) that consolidated responsibility for component delivery with one party 6 for a fixed sum. This reduced the expensive contractor claims and change orders that often arise from 7 discrepancies and uncertain events (73). Second, the agencies also conditioned P3 milestone payments, 8 availability payments, and/or toll collection on facility delivery in accordance with predefined specifications (19, 71). This approach incentivized greater engagement by private partners than would be 9 10 expected under normal design-build contracts.

Combining both approaches, Texas delivered its LBJ Managed Lanes project on time and within 11 12 budget. Virginia did the same with its I-495 and I-95 projects. The remaining projects also employed 13 contract mechanisms to manage cost and schedule risks, although they encountered exogenous challenges. Colorado, for example, employed both mechanisms for its U.S. 36 project and achieved project delivery 14 under budget and just two weeks late despite a major and unexpected flooding event. The POM 15 concessionaire also delivered its project under budget using both mechanisms, but opened three months late 16 17 following technical problems. Nevertheless, the contract's heavy monetary penalties - totaling almost \$9 18 million (74) – helped minimize the delays and prevent potential years-long delays and multi-billion cost overruns exemplified by other large projects (75, 76). While Presidio Parkway also achieved substantial 19 on-time completion and opened to traffic after employing both mechanisms, landscaping remains 20 incomplete due to disagreements between the project's public-sector stakeholders (63, 77). Since the delay 21 22 originated with the public sector, the concessionaire sued Caltrans and settled for partial payment (63). 23 This increased the project's overall cost although the P3 alternative remains more attractive than the DBB 24 option (63, 78).

25

26 Broader Transportation Features and Missed Objectives 27

28 Finally, public agencies can employ P3 approaches to incorporate broader transit, local development, and 29 risk-management objectives into infrastructure development opportunities. By incorporating transit, bike 30 facilities, and associated improvements into a project originally designed to expand capacity for vehicular traffic, the U.S. 36 case in many ways exemplified this approach. The other case projects, in contrast, 31 proceeded with narrower scopes and likely left potential transit, economic development, and related value 32 33 capture opportunities underdeveloped. In addition, the study agencies appear to have missed important 34 political risks relating to project designs, environmental impacts, and/or user fees (79) when formulating 35 their risk-management objectives. While P3s can effectively manage such risks through careful 36 consideration, communication, coordination, and public engagement, several case projects failed to 37 adequately include such risk management in their primary objectives. As a result, U.S. 36 encountered 38 strong public tax-increase opposition, the POM Tunnel faced tolling opposition, I-95 contended with a 39 federal environmental and civil rights lawsuit, and Presidio Parkway encountered strong public and union opposition. 40

41 Discussion

42 This section discusses the study limitations and what are the implications of the findings to state DOTs.

43 The study remains limited by the small number of cases analyzed. The six study cases present similar

44 objective profiles, outcomes, and limitations, but other projects will likely offer a more diverse picture.

45 Authors expect to continue pursuing this case study approach in further studies to provide a more complete

46 view of transportation infrastructure P3s in the U.S.

On the methodology, the study projects often lacked readily available documentation elaborating
on the P3 approach's marginal impact compared to traditional delivery. Not all study projects or objectives
came with baseline outcomes, clear outcome measurement methods, or well-defined public communication

approaches. For instance, some state departments of transportation either did not require or did not develop
 VfM analyses or equivalent studies, removing a valuable information source from consideration (18). In
 many cases, these limited evaluation efforts were exacerbated by transparency practices that varied widely
 by project and jurisdiction. Such limited and varied communication channels can erode citizens' trust and
 increase political risk, especially when combined with fragmented accountability.

6 Despite the data limitations, the study findings do suggest that state DOTs should consider P3s as 7 a useful tool. For example, given the U.S.'s extensive roadway repair backlog (80), state DOTs should 8 consider the maintenance and operations benefits achieved through P3s and their long-term delivery 9 commitments. DOTs could also learn from the P3 approaches' cost and schedule benefits to improve 10 design-build contracts and contractor management procedures. Public agencies could further reap P3 benefits by 1) pursuing private-sector expertise and innovation earlier in the procurement process; 2) 11 12 placing stronger emphasis on risk transfer objectives; 3) incorporating broader transit and local 13 development objectives; and 4) managing political risk through proactive community engagement.

Finally, considering the discussion, Federal and state transportation authorities should consider developing a P3 program evaluation approach to more convincingly assess their relative benefits and shortcomings. The challenge here is that the comparison group, traditionally procured projects, are usually less transparent than P3 projects. Agencies might also produce "citizens' guides" explaining P3 comprehensive agreements and implementing the P3 information disclosure best-practices observed on websites like California's Presidio Parkway site. Through such steps, agencies might improve communication and citizen engagement.

21 CONCLUSIONS

The six U.S. surface transportation P3 cases evaluated in this study presented five primary public-sector P3 objectives: 1) accessing private sector funding and financing; 2) accessing private-sector expertise and innovation; 3) accelerating project delivery; 4) improving cost, schedule, and facility or service quality certainty through improved risk assessment and management; and 5) expanding broader transit and development opportunities. Considering available information, the case P3s were generally successful in meeting, and occasionally exceeding, their original congestion management and user experience goals.

1 TABLE 1: P3 Objectives and Outcomes

P3 Objectives	Outcomes
Virginia's I-495 Express Lanes	
Congestion Management & Improve User Experiences	 Created "congestion-free" HOT/HOV lanes and added transit improvements Improved congestion: 17-minute avg. time savings during peak hours; Up to two-hour single trip time savings compared to general purpose lanes; 8-15% increase in HOV usage; 33 minute avg. incident clearing time; 75% customer satisfaction
Accessing Private Sector Expertise for Toll Management	• Transferred technology deployment risks and toll enforcement risk to the private concessionaire, enabling the electronic toll system, managed lanes, and increased HOV travel
Project Acceleration	 Enabled an alternative unsolicited proposal design that required less property acquisition and reduced public opposition by minimizing shoulders and interchange improvements, requiring less right-of-way Leveraged private sector funds and shifted revenue risk to the private sector Protected VDOT from funding requirements and financial risk
Cost Certainty & Time to Completion	 Bundled design and construction activities into a single, fixed-cost contract Reduced contractor claims and change orders Met its estimated cost (\$1.7 billion) and delivered the project 2 months sooner than the contract dictated Transferred construction risk to the private sector, who absorbed additional costs
Colorado's U.S. 36 Express Lanes	
Overcoming Debt Ceilings, Project Acceleration	 Overcame TABOR debt limitations, accelerating project delivery by ten to twenty years Shifted revenue risk and loan-repayment responsibility to the private sector
Trip Capacity, Congestion, Infrastructure Conditions	 Increased peak hour travel speeds by 20 to 29 % for commuters across all travel lanes Introduced several alternative technical concepts to improve road quality,
Expanding Travel Options & Transit Efficiency	 Facilitated an alternative BRT approach using HOT lanes; expanded bikeways Increased bus rides by 45% along the corridor; improved travel times
Cost Certainty & Time to Completion	 Consolidated responsibility for component delivery and delivered the project within budget On-time delivery was complicated by public-sector partners, consequences under negotiation
Florida's Port of Miami Tunnel	
Cost & Schedule Certainty	 Provided cost assurance and incentivized on-time delivery through a DB fixed cost contract Minimized project delivery delays through monetary penalties Transferred community impact, hurricane, and geotechnical risks to the private sector Limited risk sharing to losses not covered by insurance
Congestion Management, User Experience, Accessing Private Sector Expertise	 Reduced weekly average traffic volume through downtown Miami by 35 %; truck traffic by 77 % Improved incident clearing, camera and fan functioning, user experience, etc., through contract conditions enforced via availability payments

P3 Objectives	Outcomes
Virginia's I-95 HOV/HOT Lanes	
Congestion Management &	Met objectives for "congestion-free" HOT/HOV lanes
User Experience	 Improved driving-time certainty; 17.5 minute avg. timesaving for GP lanes; up to 3.5 hours single trip saving in HOV/HOT lanes; 75 % customer satisfaction ratings and accommodation of local carpooling community Introduced several alternative technical concepts to improve road quality, including pavement designs, profiling,
	drainage, and bikeway improvements and extensions.
Accessing Private Sector	Enabled technology that improved congestion management and trip-time certainties
Expertise	Achieved economies of scale and improved prospects for a Northern Virginia HOV/Transit network
Debt Capacity & Project	Leveraged private sector resources to overcome debt restrictions
Acceleration	• Shifted revenue risk to the private sector, protected the state from bondholder and concessionaire compensation obligations
Cost Certainty & Time to	Delivered the project on-time and on-budget
Completion	 Procurement delayed by public-sector stakeholders, not the private-partners
California's Presidio Parkway Pha	
Cost Certainty & Time to	• Transferred risks to the private sector but faced problematic public-sector stakeholder coordination
Completion	• Achieved substantial completion by July 2015 although some portions and components remain unfinished
Accessing Financial Resources	Freed up several million dollars for Caltrans to use for other purposes
& Project Acceleration	Accelerated access to federal stimulus resources
	• Project completion delayed after public agencies disagreed with each other regarding landscaping.
Texas' IH 635 LBJ Managed Land	es or LBJ TEXpress
Project Acceleration, Accessing	Reduced costs and improved efficiencies through competitive private-sector proposals
Financial Resources, & Cost	• Accelerated the project by 10 to 15 years compared to DBB
Minimization	Shifted O&M cost increase risks to private sector
Cost Certainty & Time to	• Experienced no change orders (other than TxDOT requests), opened on budget and 3 months ahead of schedule
Completion	• Transferred construction risks to the private sector
Congestion Management	• Improved congestion: 77% overall congestion reductions; GP lane congestion reductions from 23% to 5% (April 2011-2015); improved drive-time certainty; increased 2015 rush hour speeds avg. to around 70 mph, consistently above 50 mph; 10% GP lane speed increases during rush hour; improved customer satisfaction from 46 % to 76 % (2013-2016)

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