



**Joint Subcommittee  
Studying Public-Private Partnerships  
Related to Seaports**

**Port Public-Private-Partnerships  
What should ports want . . .  
What do your partners expect?**

December 1, 2008

**William L. Ralph**



**R. K. Johns  
& Associates, Inc.**



## R. K. Johns & Associates



A management consulting firm serving the maritime transportation industry since 1987



Core executive team with career-based experience in shipping/port management, finance, sales, marketing, operations, planning & M&A



Hallmarks: confidential, trusted industry access & long term client commitments



Port/terminal concession, financing & partnership analyses prepared for:

- ❖ **Investors: Carlyle Group, Babcock & Brown**
- ❖ **Ports: 6 ports on east, gulf & west coasts of North America**





## Agenda

- A “port primer” – where we’ve been & what’s ahead
- Why would a Port Authority be interested in a PPP?
- What’s in it for the Investor?
- Who are the potential Investors?
- What’s the scorecard on port related PPPs so far?
- O.K., we’re in a recession, now what?
- Summary: IF we consider a PPP, what are our objectives & strategies?



## U.S. Container Port Review

### Top 10 U.S. Ports Container Volume, 1997-2007 (in 000 TEU, including loads & empties)

		1997	2007	10-Year CAGR	% chg. '07 vs '06	% chg. '08 vs '07
1	Los Angeles	2,960	8,355	10.9%	-1%	-6%
2	Long Beach	3,505	7,316	7.6%	flat	-11%
3	NY/NJ	2,457	5,299	8.0%	4%	-5%
4	Savannah	735	2,604	13.5%	21%	flat
5	Oakland	1,531	2,388	4.5%	-1%	-6%
6	<b>Hampton Roads</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
7	Seattle	1,476	1,973	2.9%	-1%	-13%
8	Tacoma	1,158	1,925	5.2%	-7%	-4%
9	Houston	934	1,769	6.6%	10%	-4%
10	Charleston	1,218	1,754	3.7%	-11%	-5%

Source: AAPA, R K Johns estimates for '08

- ✓ 40 container ports in North America, with U.S. Top-10 holding 80% share
- ✓ Box throughput doubled since 1997
- ✓ North Asia = 57% of trade, up from 42% in 1997



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## North America Container Port Outlook

*Where will the next doubling of cargo go?*

**+\$10 billion port investment  
needed for planned “in the ground” assets  
to even create terminal business value**

**Expansion minded: (+acres)**

### East Coast

**Norfolk- APMT & Craney Is., +700**

**N.C.- Southport +600**

**Charleston- Navy base +250**

**Savannah – Jasper +400**

**Jacksonville- MOL/Hanjin +200**

**Melford/Sydport, CN - +200**

**Philadelphia - +150**

### Gulf & West Coast

**Houston- Bayport +375**

**(Texas City & Pelican Is. ?+1,600)**

**Tacoma – Blair waterway +350**

**Vancouver – T2 +200**

**Prince Rupert – 2 terminals  
+160 to +350**

**Long Beach & Los Angeles  
are enlarging existing facilities**

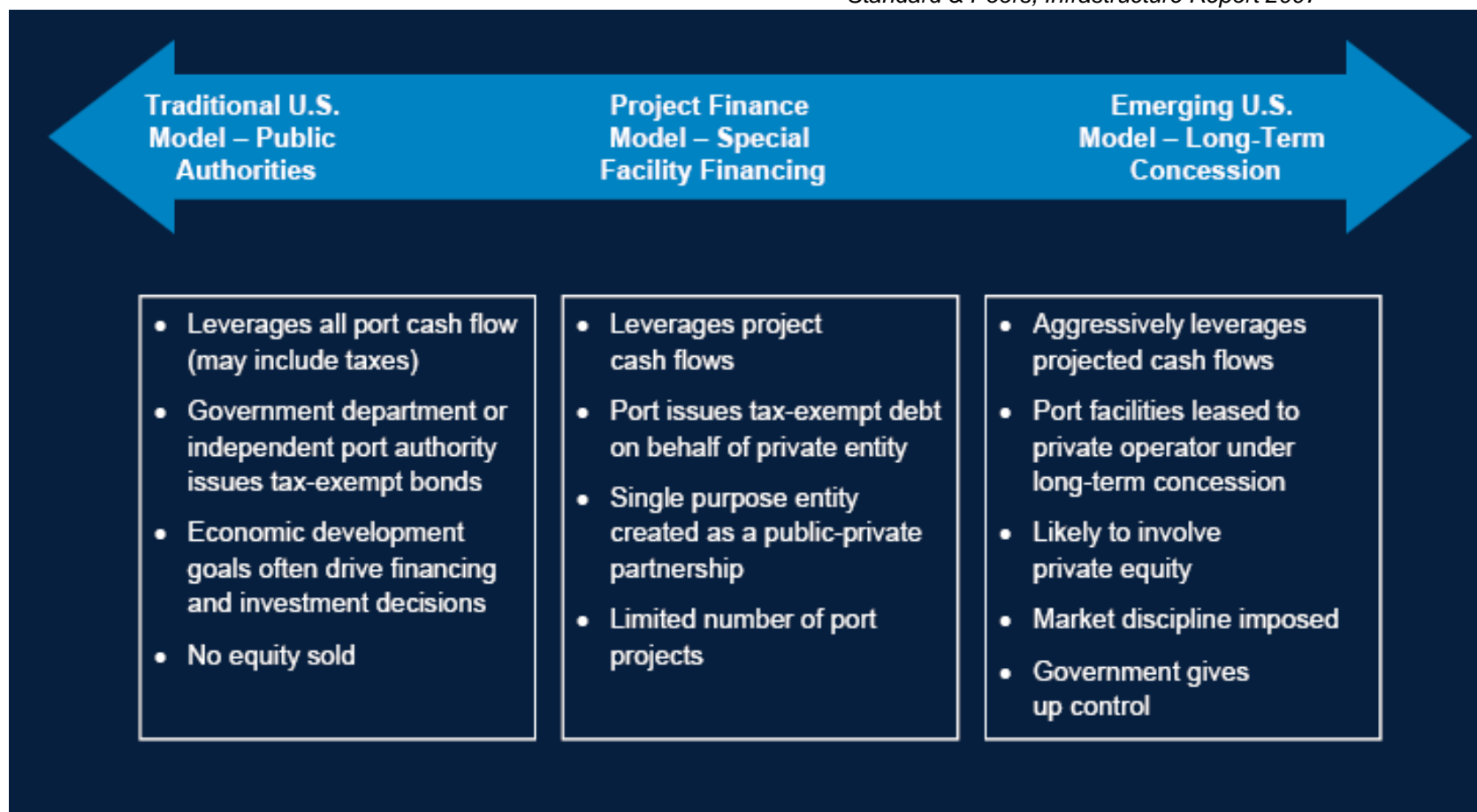




## Port Finance

“Most investors emphasize that privatization is not a panacea, but rather a financing tool.”

*Standard & Poors, Infrastructure Report 2007*





## **If the project fits . . . PPP it? In their own words**

**“As a result of rampant demand, the infrastructure sector is suffering from the dual curse of overvaluation and excessive leverage – the classic symptom of a bubble, similar to the dot-com era.”**

*Standard & Poors, Infrastructure Report 2007*

**“We were attracted to the NY port by global trade trends, the port’s tight capacity, stable volume & container revenue, the large consumer market and resultant opportunities for terminal value creation.”**

*AIG Highstar, Journal of Commerce January 2008*

**“We believe we bought a premiere terminal and in what seems like a very quick year, we know this business is still sustainable, but we have also learned that it can be unpredictable.”**

*RREEF, TOC Americas conference November 2008*





## **There are Proponents & Critics On both Sides of the PPP Fence**

Why are some Port Authority governing bodies attracted to PPPs?

- **Asset monetization (Cash!)**
  - **Ability to defease/collateralize debt**
  - **Still own & control port as a landlord**
  - **Potential to improve operating efficiency**
  - **Develop new port facilities**
  - **Fund related infrastructure projects**
  - **Redeploy government spending/taxes**
  - **Share/redirect risk**
- (political, operational, labor, economic, etc.)**





## **New Players ... Same Port Business ... Perhaps different Values & Objectives**

Why are Private Investors (and Banks) attracted to Ports?

- **Long term leases, low risk assets**
- **Visible & predictable earnings**
- **Inflation linked revenue**
- **Barriers to entry & high cost for Greenfields**
- **Performance not tied to common financial instruments**
- **Ability to build a better mousetrap (scale up)**
- **Client “stickiness”: durable contracts & guarantees**
- **Opportunity to create & leverage value**



## Who are the Buyers?

- Strategic: carriers & global terminal operators
- Financial: (general categories)
  - Aggressive investors looking to maximize the purchased asset's value through debt leverage. Owners of these investments (example: infrastructure funds, private equity) look for dividends and traditionally hold the assets for the short or medium term.
  - Passive investors focus on the asset providing a stable, longer term yield for the owners (example: pension funds). Assets are chosen to spread the overall portfolio risk



## Recent Port Terminal Transactions

- Early 2000s – half dozen minority stakes in Asian & European terminals by global terminal operators, NYK buys Ceres in '02 for an estimated \$250 million (about \$90 per TEU)
- 2004 – DP World buys CSX World Terminals for \$1.14 billion, estimated at 14x EBITDA and the equivalent of \$345 per TEU
- 2006/2007 – 10 deals involving North American terminals

Target	Acquirer	Estimated Price (\$mn.)	EBITDA Multiple	Price per/TEU
P&O Ports (Worldwide)	DP World	\$6,800	16	
Hanjin (40%)	Macquarie	\$350		
OOIL Terminals	Ontario Teachers	\$2,400	25-26	\$890
Halterm	Macquarie	\$158	22-23	\$750
DP World US only	AIG Highstar	\$1,100	22-23	
Montreal Gateway (80%)	Morgan Stanley	\$410	22-23	
Maher Terminals	RREEF	\$2,100	30-35	\$1,000
Others include MTC & Amports by AIG Highstar, SSA by Goldman Sachs Infrastructure				





## What's Changing in 2008

- ❑ Availability of debt – limited by the overall credit crunch & realization that port cash flows are not endless. A few deals in past two years were very aggressive with debt-to-equity shares of 70/30 or even 80/20. Discipline has returned and equity will have to be an equal or majority partner with the banks
- ❑ Cost of debt – if money is available, investors can expect to pay higher rates and face more stringent leverage requirements. Securing debt at 15-16x EBITDA is gone, with leverage now under 10x earnings. Lending rates have risen with credit crisis & recognition of the risks in port business



## What's Not Changing in 2008

- ❑ Capital is still available from investors – money moving into infrastructure funds as to diversify portfolio, but with a new awareness of return requirements, risks and investment discipline
- ❑ Strategic buyers, who were priced out of the market in '06-'07 are reemerging in both build-to-suit concessions (examples: NYK/Tacoma, MOL/Jaxport) & in open bidding (examples: 3 of 5 shortlisted at Oakland & 2 of 4 shortlisted at Philadelphia are carriers or terminal operators)
- ❑ Ports/terminal operators are still pursuing PPP/sale opportunities - a Halifax/Montreal terminal (reported for sale by Canadian media), Philadelphia, Baltimore, North Carolina, Jacksonville, Corpus Christi, Oakland, Portland all have concession bids at exploration/pending stage)



## Key Considerations for Your PPP Review

- ❖ **Be patient, be thorough!**
- ❖ **Look internally first at your financing costs & options:**  
GO & revenue bonds, taxing authority, trust funds,  
buy/lease backs, public benefit corp. options, etc.
- ❖ **Be realistic in your value assessment:**  
assets, liabilities, business model, future plans
- ❖ **Be able to explain what you mean to your customers**
- ❖ **PPP strategy should include entry, transition & exit plans**
- ❖ **Is financial maximization the only criteria? Consideration of  
state-wide economic impact?**
- ❖ **Can/will the port authority consider joint ventures?**
- ❖ **Investor interest does not stop at containers  
(bulk, breakbulk, intermodal, etc.)**



*Thank you!*

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Port OF VIRGINIA

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