

# Freeway and Tolling Operations in the Americas

May 20-23, 2007 — Houston, Texas



## Key Themes of the Conference

Phil Masters, Ministry of Transportation  
Canada, AHB20 Committee Chair

Dan Baxter, DKS, Conference Subcommittee  
Chair



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## KEY THEME NUMBER 1:

- We are at the start of something very BIG. (Jeff Purdy, E&K)
  - The way we plan, design, build, operate and maintain our transportation network is changing dramatically, for the first time after the 50 year Highway Trust Fund era.



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## KEY THEME NUMBER 2:

- Congestion Pricing is the most powerful tool we have to keep people moving (based on comments of Patrick De Corla Souza)

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## KEY THEME NUMBER 3:

- Public Private Partnerships can be good, or bad public policy depending upon the covenants, terms and local conditions.
  - Good examples: 30 year limit in Mexico, Comprehensive Development Agreements in Texas

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## KEY THEME NUMBER 4:

- A continued and growing need for simulation of freeway/tollway operations (Chris Poe)
  - industry accepted calibration/validation procedures
  - greater knowledge of the modeling inputs and their influence / limitation
  - need for real-time and faster-than-real-time simulation for operational scenario evaluation



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## KEY THEME NUMBER 5:

- Remember the basics of freeway operations - toll roads are now experiencing the same issues freeway operations have seen for years due to open road tolling



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## KEY THEME NUMBER 6:

- Need for examining the entire corridor with the introduction of managed lanes - is there too much focus on keeping the managed lanes operating and not enough emphasis on the total corridor

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## KEY THEME NUMBER 7:

- Need for understanding how privatization / PPP's effect freeway / tollway operation - are the concession agreements putting in the reward / penalties that trigger the operation the public sector would expect

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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- “You sit through a three hour opera to hear Pavarotti hit the High C for ten seconds...”
- Our symposium has had many “High C” moments!

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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- Coining the phrases “Active Traffic Management” and “Speed Harmonization” (Beverly Kuhn)

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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- Without Legislative Support, how can we insure an Urban Partnership Agreements will be implemented? (Patrick DeCorla-Souza)

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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- There has been a 62% traffic congestion reduction due to the BigDig in Boston. That is called getting the best bang for your billions. (Dan Baxter)



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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- SR 91 was the start, look at all of the projects that followed. We need to do the same thing with the UPAs (Patrick DeCorla-Souza)

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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- Turnpikes and Tollways are not managed lanes



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## HIGH “C” MOMENTS:

- “It was an easy project.” (Stacey Stegman commenting on the public acceptance and revenue generation of the successful I-25 HOT Lane in Denver)