

Symposium on Governance of Infrastructure - 29 February 2016

OECD Conference Centre, Paris

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Symposium on Governance of Infrastructure 29 February 2016	
	Chair: Mr Gordon McKechnie Former Head, PFI Policy, HM Treasury, UK and Chair of the OECD Network of PPP and Senior Infrastructure Officials
9:15 – 9:30	Introductory remarks Mr Rolf Alter, Director, OECD, Public Governance and Territorial Development
SESSION 1 9:30 – 11:00	VISION AND STRATEGY Developing ambitious, comprehensive and coherent infrastructure strategies Designing a vision for infrastructure is a key pillar of economic, environmental and social development in all countries. Yet, governments have trouble putting together well integrated strategies to guide investment. Infrastructure strategies are inherently cross-sectoral, have time horizons that span electoral cycles and require commitment and active participation from all levels of government as well as from private sector and civil society actors. As such, developing a coherent infrastructure strategy, and its associated operational plan, is one of the most complex governance challenges that countries face today. This session will discuss efforts at international, national and sub-national levels to develop cross-sectoral approaches to infrastructure investment.
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 2	IMPACT AND VALUE Infrastructure policy has the potential to unlock economic potential, increase public welfare, promote innovation and generate new business activity and create jobs. But to get the most out of this potential value, governments need to be able to define, identify and deliver key projects, in many countries against a background of budgetary constraints. In order to ensure sound project planning, approval and delivery, governments must be able to draw on a clear institutional architecture, coherent regulatory frameworks and strong technical capacity to manage projects. There are many ways to deliver infrastructure – public provision, direct procurement, PPP/concessions, regulation of private assets, etc. – but whatever the modality, investors expect government to be a competent partner. This session will discuss the governance arrangements that can help public actors manage the increasingly complex challenges of infrastructure investment. It will do so by focusing on two stages in the infrastructure cycle, the planning and preparatory stage and the construction and operation stage.

SESSION 2.1 11:15 – 12:45	Planning and preparing infrastructure projects The planning and preparation of infrastructure projects involves making strategic decisions on what the investment is meant to attain, how it is to be procured and financed, and who should do it. This will take place within what can oftentimes be a highly political context with strongly competing interests and will ultimately lock in expenditures, the built environment and policy choices for many years to come. The choice of how infrastructure is delivered has implications for public sector discretionary control, value-for-money and affordability. Planning and preparation should ensure that the modalities chosen support the fulfilment of key objectives, take into account delivery as well as maintenance and renewal, and are decided upon in consultation and coordination with the right actors within and beyond government.
12:45 – 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
SESSION 2.2 14:15 – 15:45	During and after construction: Delivering value as promised throughout the value of the asset's life It has proven difficult historically to deliver infrastructure projects on time and within budget, at least for certain procurement modalities. Even if projects are well delivered, the real test of whether the investment represents value for money for the user and population at large comes over the life of the asset. Particular regulatory and managerial capacities have to be present within the public sector, where the infrastructure service is delivered by the private sector. Similarly specific capacities and systems must be in place where the public sector is the main provider of the infrastructure services. This session will discuss the particular challenges that integrating a whole-of-life perspective represents to infrastructure governance.
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 3 16:00 – 17:30	TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY Guarding against corruption and fraud Infrastructure investment needs to show that it is based on principles of integrity and fairness. The process for managing infrastructure projects should focus on user needs and be grounded in broad-based consultation processes. The necessary skills should be at hand to ensure that the public resources are managed effectively and transparently. Corruption entry points at each stage of the public infrastructure project cycle need to be mapped and integrity and anti-corruption mechanisms strengthened accordingly. At the same time, stakeholder consultation and a user focus is necessary for a project to be perceived as legitimate, and for the government and contractor to identify and manage those risks stemming from the impact such investment oftentimes has on groups, environments and individuals. This session will discuss how countries can act to establish governance systems that are responsive to the needs of stakeholders, and that protect flagship investments from the risk of corruption and fraud.
CLOSING SESSION 17:30 – 18:00	NEXT STEPS - Taking the OECD work on Infrastructure Governance forward.
18:00	<i>Reception for participants hosted by the OECD</i>