



THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Paying for Infrastructure

Urban Policy Program

April 6, 2016

LOCATION

The Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Territories Room
100 Front Street West, Toronto, ON

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:45 – 9:00 a.m. **Introductory Remarks**
Drew Fagan, Former Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Government of Ontario

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Infrastructure Publication Series**
Presentations and discussion based on three publications that provide direction on funding, scale and accountability of public infrastructure projects.

Chair: **Louis Levesque**, former Deputy Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Government of Canada

Presenters: **Jack Mintz**, President's Fellow, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary
on *Optimal Public Infrastructure: Some Guideposts to Ensure We Don't Overspend*

Documenting trends in public infrastructure spending in Canada, the authors critically assess whether or not there is an "infrastructure deficit" in Canada, and if this concept has a meaningful role to play in policy decisions concerning public infrastructure spending and financing.

Bev Dahlby, Professor, Economics, and Distinguished Fellow, The School of Public Policy
on *Striking the Right Balance: Federal Infrastructure Transfer Programs, 2002–2015*

Evaluating federal infrastructure financing programs in Canada between 2002 and 2015, the authors explore the major expansion in the federal funding of public infrastructure spending by the provincial, territorial and municipal governments since 2002.

Almos Tassonyi, Executive Fellow and Director, Urban Policy Program, The School of Public Policy on *An Exploration into the Municipal Capacity to Finance Capital Infrastructure*

Exploring the key role of municipal governments in the selection, operation, and financing of public infrastructure in Canada, the authors critically assess the considerable unrealized borrowing capacity available to municipalities and the impacts of a shift towards increased borrowing, away from a reliance on intergovernmental grants.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Business Cases for Infrastructure Projects: What are They? Who Needs Them? And What Happens When They're Not Done Properly?</p> <p>At a time when governments are proposing to spend (and in some cases already spending) billions on transportation and other infrastructure in the GTA and elsewhere in the province, it is worth reviewing business case practices in this area and whether they are up to the task of providing sound guidance to our elected officials and policy makers that are allocating public funds to a potentially wide range of infrastructure projects. Business cases are essentially the body of evidence needed to justify approval and public funding of projects under consideration. This means deciding whether a project will make us better off as a society; and whether or not the public funds are better spent on other projects or even other uses.</p>
Chair:	J. Robert S. Prichard , Chair, Torys LLP
Presenter:	Mario Iacobacci , Director of Economics, AECOM Canada Ltd.
Commentators:	<p>Matti Siemiatycki, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto</p> <p>Eric J. Miller, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Director, Transportation Research Institute, University of Toronto</p>
11:45 a.m. – Noon	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Almos Tassonyi, Director, Urban Policy Program, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary</p>