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Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States

# Shifting International Trade Routes: Financing Future Infrastructure Needs

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## **Port Finance Observations**

- Port and related infrastructure needs are large
- Public funding is constrained and competition for it is high
- Traditional tax-exempt financing provides a low cost of funds for most ports
- Private equity and taxable debt financings provide an attractive alternative
- Costs and benefits need to be evaluated in light of port objectives

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# Port Financing Alternatives

Traditional U.S. Model – Public Authorities Project Finance Model – Special Facility Financing Emerging U.S. Model – Long-Term Concession

- Leverages all port cash flow (may include taxes)
- Government department or independent port authority issues taxexempt bonds
- Economic development goals often drive financing and investment decisions
- No equity sold

- Leverages project cash flows
- Port issues tax-exempt debt on behalf of private entity
- Single purpose entity created as a public-private partnership
- Limited number of port projects

- Aggressively leverages projected cash flows
- Port facilities leased to private operator under long-term concession
- Likely to involve
   private equity
- Market discipline imposed
- Government gives up control

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# Port Financing Alternatives (cont'd)



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# History of Restricted Private Sector Participation



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# Ports Enjoy Strong Credit Ratings



Source: Moody's Investors Service

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## **Recent Interest Rate Movements**

### January 10, 2007 to January 22, 2008



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# Changing Needs of Players in U.S. Infrastructure

#### **State and Local Catalysts**

- Budget crises States are struggling to balance their General Fund budgets and may look to monetize value of profitable state owned enterprises, including ports
- Container volumes are growing at an unprecedented rate
- Large scale capital investments require high degree of leverage

#### Federal Catalysts

- Federal legislation is far more accommodative toward the private sector
- Inadequate public sector transportation funding continues to drive focus on private sector alternatives

#### **Private Sector Catalysts**

- Private equity seeking stable and reliable long-term investment opportunities
- "Investor patience" and essentiality of port assets allows for maximizing value over long concession term

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# Strong Interest from Infrastructure Funds in Ports Sector

- Container throughput growth, paired with a finite amount of coastal land allocated to shipping terminals, has lead to significant pricing power resting with the port operators
- Financial and strategic buyers have been able to lever the assets in a considerable fashion and pay attractive purchase prices
- AIG Global Investment Group has been particularly active, acquiring Dubai Ports World's interest in Port Newark Container Terminal, AMPORTS, MTC Holdings
- Transactions involving the transfer of leasehold interests at strategically important ports demonstrate
  - High market valuations of port assets
  - Willingness of investors to make upfront and ongoing investments in these terminals

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# Strong Interest from Infrastructure Funds in Ports Sector (cont'd)

- Ports emerged as a viable infrastructure asset in the U.S.
- Infrastructure buyers have looked towards ports and terminal operating companies as having many similar characteristics to toll roads
  - Steady volumes
  - High barriers to entry
  - Inflationary annual price increases
- Ports have slightly higher competitive and operating risks, and tend to have lower debt levels than toll roads
- Understanding what pricing power exists at the port will be a critical diligence point

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# Infrastructure Assets Have Not Caught Up With the Supply of Infrastructure Equity and Debt Capital

#### Total Available Infrastructure Fund Equity ≈ \$100Bn <sup>(1)</sup> Total Leveraged Purchasing Power ≈ \$500Bn

#### **Supply of Investor Capital**

#### **Available Resources**

- Large sums of uninvested equity and debt capital
- Increased competition for scarce resources
- Focus on U.S. as growth market
- Proven global track record of successful projects
- Willingness to team with experienced operators

#### **Demand of Municipalities**

#### **Significant Capital Needs**

- Looming large maintenance and expansionary capital
- expenditure requirements
- Unfunded projects
- Tax increases as a funding mechanism increasingly unpalatable

(1) **Source:** Morgan Stanley

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# Port Operators Are Expanding Their Global Presence and Appetite for Strategic Investments





**Source:** The Drewry Container Market Quarterly (1) Top 4 players include HPH, PSA, APM Terminals and P&O Ports.



# Strategic and Financial Buyers Looking Closely At Port Opportunities

### Strategic Investors – Shipping Lines, Terminal Operators

- Ports will be viewed as an opportunity to solidify or break into competitive market
- Key investment questions
  - Does port provides good rail connection and capacity to the residential and manufacturing centers of the U.S. mid-west?
  - How well established is the inter-modal service?
  - How accessible to roads and interstate systems?
  - Can existing management structure and systems be leveraged to achieve cost savings?

#### Infrastructure Funds – Financial Firms

- Ports are viewed as a very attractive opportunity relative to other asset classes in North America
- Lots of equity looking for assets to invest in
- Funds will focus on positioning within the market
- Key investment criteria include:
  - Significant capacity constraints
  - Barriers to entry
  - Pricing power

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# Ports Have a Number of Available Strategic Alternatives to Both Maximize Value and Achieve Policy Objectives ...

	Long-Term Concession Lease	Conventional Landlord Lease
Description	<ul> <li>Full sale of equity via competitive bidding process</li> <li>Private investors who are experienced operators and/or major infrastructure funds</li> <li>Governance retained by the Port</li> <li>Operator assumes throughput risk</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>100% control of the asset retained by the Port</li> <li>Continues to access tax-exempt financing markets on its own</li> </ul>
Considerations	<ul> <li>Complete transfer of operating risk</li> <li>Proceeds collected by the Port upfront at closing, or over time</li> <li>Detailed operating manual ensures maintenance at or above Port standards</li> <li>Asset reverts back to the Port at no cost at the end of the concession</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More conservative growth rates, term limits and leverage targets likely in tax-exempt</li> <li>Port retains operating risk and control</li> <li>The Port retains ability to monetize equity over time but takes market and financing risk</li> </ul>
Operating Control	Private Operator	Port
Relative Proceeds	High	Low
	Source: Morgan Stanley	

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# Ports Should Evaluate Value and Policy Considerations to Determine the Optimal Approach

	Long-Term Concession Agreement	Conventional Landlord Lease
Benefits	<ul> <li>Creates maximum present value proceeds to the port if successful</li> <li>Off-shoulders future capital and operating risks to a private operator</li> <li>Current market conditions create favorable bidding environment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No substantial change in functions</li> <li>May be shorter-term in nature</li> <li>Could finance certain capital projects</li> </ul>
Considerations	<ul> <li>Long-term nature of lease requires strong win-win partnership</li> <li>U.S. port privatization has never been accomplished</li> <li>Lack of established process and legal documentation</li> <li>Market conditions could worsen</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Counterparty risk drives up cost</li> <li>Lease payments are tied to operating risks</li> <li>Capex may be required in future to support lessee</li> <li>Time and resources are similar to Concession Lease with less potential PV proceeds</li> </ul>

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# Case Study: Jacksonville Port Authority

#### **Jacksonville Port Authority**

- \$100 million Special Purpose Facilities Revenue Bonds for the Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. ("MOL") Project
- The bonds were issued as weekly VRDBs to finance the acquisition, construction and installation of a container terminal to be located at the Dames Point Marine Terminal facilities
- Facilities will be leased to MOL and its wholly owned subsidiary, TraPac
- The bonds are payable from rent to be paid to the Port under an operating and lease agreement with MOL

#### **Transaction Structure**

- The bonds are backed by an irrevocable direct-pay Letter of Credit issued by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (New York Branch) and carry the bank's ratings of A1 / VMIG-1 and A / A-1
- Morgan Stanley worked closely with the Authority, its financial advisors, MOL and the Bank to help structure a new trust indenture and bond covenants that were acceptable to all parties to the transaction
- Morgan Stanley serves as remarketing agent for the bonds

#### Source: Jacksonville Port Authority Series 2007 Official Statement

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# Port of Portland is Exploring P3 Alternatives for Terminal 6

#### **T-6 Facility Overview**

- Deep-draft container terminal, with 200 acres for containers
- 400,000 TEU capacity, with significant dock extension possibilities
- Length / Depth of Berths: 2,850 feet/43 feet
- Stevedore Services: MTC
- Non-container tenants include AWC, Oregon Steel Mills, and American Honda Motors

#### **Rail, Shipping and Inland Barge Connectivity**

- Railroads with Direct Access to On-Dock Intermodal Yard include BNSF and UP
- Shipping lines calling on T6 include CKYH Alliance, China Shipping, and Hapag Lloyd
- Container barging serving the hinterland provides significant cost savings vs. trucking





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**Rail, Shipping and Inland Barge Connectivity** 

#### Source: Port of Portland

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# Conclusion

- Ports have access to the capital markets based on
  - Steady, predictable cash flows
  - Essentiality
  - Economic and demographic strength
  - Financial structuring
- Debt financing has evolved to monetize a port's aggregate or discrete cash flows on an overall basis or project basis
- Taxable debt markets at the moment are strong for infrastructure asset transactions
- Equity will focus on operational and capital efficiency
- 2008 will continue to test P3 market for U.S. ports

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