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Carl Winfield

P3 coalition to launch workshops this summer

The Performance Based Building Coalition (PBBC) plans to launch a series of workshops over the summer in states that have recently enacted P3 legislation.

The workshops aim to teach municipal officials the process for public building P3s, which projects are most suitable, best practices and potential pitfalls, said Samara Barend (pictured), AECOM Capital's P3 development director and co-founder of the coalition.



The PBBC seeks to facilitate the use of private investment in the construction, renovation and replacement of public buildings and correctional facilities.

Barend said the body is trying to get grassroots support for legislation for state and local governments to access lower-cost, tax-exempt financing for publicly-owned government buildings. This would be done via changes to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to make project debt for government buildings tax exempt, even when issued by private companies.

Edward Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles, and John Hickenlooper, governor of Colorado, have already signaled support for legislation covering qualified government buildings including schools, health care and public safety facilities, Barend said. The body is currently looking for a republican legislator to garner support for a bill in Congress.

"We have a lot of momentum," Barend added. "People are committed."

New P3 players

Georgia became the latest state to allow procurement of a wide variety of projects through P3s when Gov. Nathan Deal signed the Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act into law on 5 May.

Other states and municipalities that have recently introduced P3-oriented legislation include Virginia and Washington, DC. DC's P3 legislation includes transportation, education, cultural and recreational facilities while Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act of 2015 increases oversight for transportation P3s.

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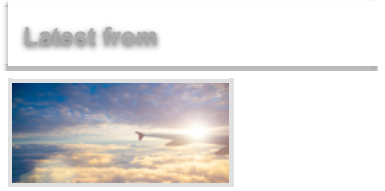
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