
National P3 Update: Water and Sewer Infrastructure

We recently provided an update on the status of higher-education and social-infrastructure projects being delivered under the P3 model. This update focuses on water and sewer projects—although water and sewer infrastructure is rarely given much attention, its proper operation is obviously critical to our well being. Unfortunately, many of our nation's water and sewer systems are the victims of deferred maintenance (a problem that P3s can address), and the current situation is dire. As discussed at last week's USP3 conference in New York, public water systems in the United States require $335 billion in upgrades over the next 20 years, and the public sewer systems require another $298 billion in upgrades. Fortunately, several jurisdictions are considering P3s to address these needed projects. Water-and-sewer P3s currently in the procurement pipeline include:

Miami-Dade County, Florida, Biosolids Processing Facility
The biosolids facility remains in the County's P3 pipeline. An RFQ has not yet been issued. Estimated construction costs are approximately $140 million.

Ascension Parish, Louisiana, Consolidated Sewer System
Ascension Parish selected a preferred proponent last month for the development of a new regional sewer system under a 30-year DBFOM P3 agreement. Estimated construction costs for the first phase of the system are $225 million. The preferred proponent is led by Bernhard Capital Partners.

Lake Oswego, Oregon, Wastewater Treatment Plant
Lake Oswego shortlisted three teams last month for this project with an estimated construction cost of $130 million. The shortlisted proponents are EPCOR Foothills Water Partners, Foothills Water LLC, and NW Natural Holding Company.

Edison, New Jersey, Water and Sewer Concession
The Township of Edison has negotiated a 40-year concession agreement, which includes $481 million in infrastructure improvements, with Edison Environmental Partners, which is led by KKR Global Infrastructure Investors and Suez. The agreement is pending approval by the Township.

Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota, Diversion Project
After a delay due to litigation, the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion Authority is going to move forward with the procurement for this $2.75 billion project this summer. The shortlisted teams are Lake Agassiz Partners (AECOM, Meridiam, and Walsh), Red River Valley Partners (Plenary, Fluor, Ames, and Bernard), and Red River Valley Alliance (Acciona, InfraRed, Shikun & Binui, and North American Construction Group).

June 19, 2019

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