

# INFRASTRUCTURE AS AN ASSET CLASS

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Joshua Zwick, Partner



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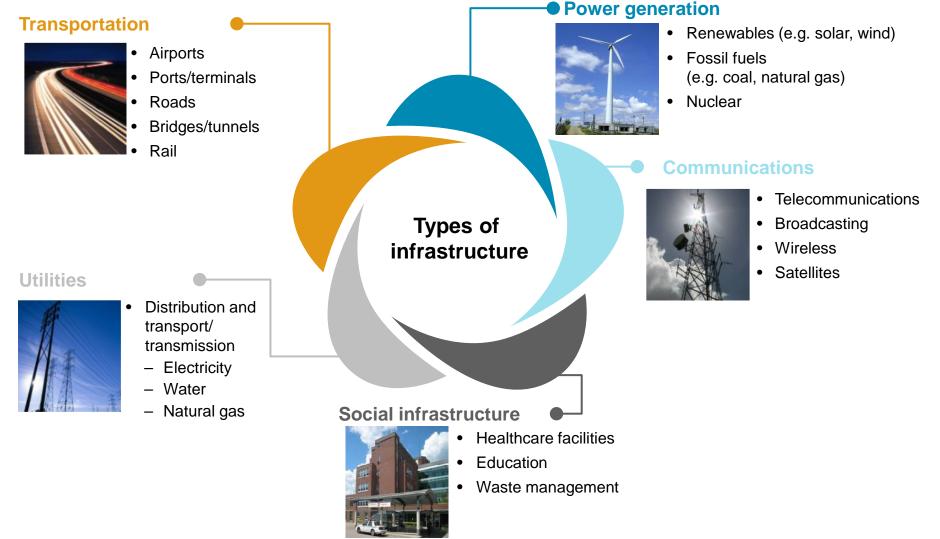
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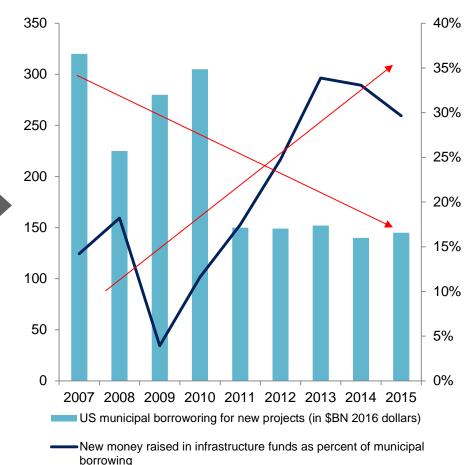
## What is infrastructure? Permanent facilities and structures that a society requires to facilitate the orderly operation of its economy



## Funding infrastructure investment In the U.S., most infrastructure has been funded with municipal bonds– but that is changing

- While extremely successful in US, muni market is insufficient to fund maintenance of existing and building of required new infrastructure in the US
  - Fiscal tightening: Muni bonds adds directly to government debt and increasing fiscal pressures make increased issuance challenging<sup>1</sup>
  - Revenue constraints: Lack of support for increases in user fees or taxes to support issuance
  - Concentrated holders: "Cross over buyers", who cannot benefit from tax exemptions (including life insurance companies) are essentially excluded from market
- Combination of funding needs with inability of traditional muni market to fund all of it has led to rapid rise in alternative forms of financing
  - Public private partnerships (PPP)
  - Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
  - Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program (RRIF)
  - Direct pay bonds (e.g., Build America Bonds)
  - Private activity bonds (PABs)

## Trends in muni borrowing and fundraising in unlisted infrastructure funds<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1.</sup> Wall Street Journal, August 8, 2016

<sup>2.</sup> Sources: Thomson Reuters (based on available data on July, 2016), Preqin, Oliver Wyman analysis

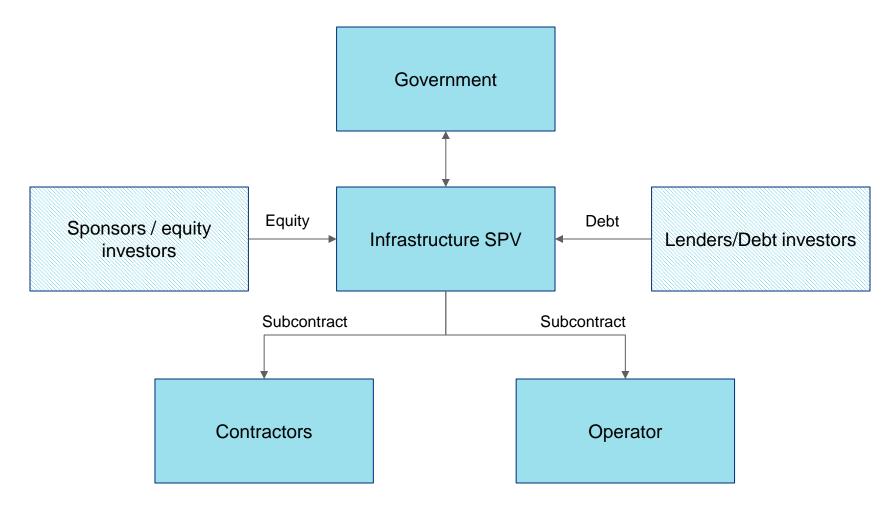
# While the ultimate use of the funds may be similar, investing in privately financed infrastructure is a distinct type of investment

### **Muni financed**

Risk driven more by performance of Risk driven more by fiscal health of government, less by performance specific assets/projects or strength of of specific assets established infrastructure companies Most attractive to investors Attractive to investors that cannot that benefit from tax break benefit from muni tax break Most AA-rated When rated, most A-/BBB Idiosyncratic market, but not Diverse market, but not as diverse idiosyncratic Institutional access to market Institutional access to market through direct holdings through many different channels

**Privately financed** 

Typical infrastructure project involves many parties Insurers can be debt or equity investors depending on their particular risk, return and liability management objectives



## Recap: Why infrastructure investment for insurers?



**Long-duration** make them an excellent ALM match for insurers' long-dated liabilities



**Relatively illiquid** investments which insurers are naturally well-suited to hold given stable funding sources



**Stable and secure cashflows** due to regulatory protections as well as monopolistic or quasi-monopolistic market positioning



**Diversifying** investments driven by distinct risk drivers producing low observed correlations with other asset classes



Attractive risk-adjusted returns compared to public corporates and equity investments

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