



EXPERTS | 2013

HNTB expert:  
**Jim Ely**  
Vice Chair Toll Services  
HNTB Corporation

Many state DOTs, never having considered tolling roadways before, now have little or no choice but to incorporate the user-financed option into their system management plans.

As vice chair of HNTB's toll practice, Jim Ely is responsible for developing and implementing innovative programs with transportation leaders at the federal, state and local levels.

Ely served as the former executive director of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, where he oversaw the nation's third-largest turnpike system in revenue and fourth-largest in size with 460 centerline miles. Under his leadership, 143 miles of new turnpike segments were built or acquired while traffic increased fivefold to more than two million people per day.

Ely is a past president of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association. He also served on the board of the Transportation and Expressway Authority Members of Florida and the executive board of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Calling upon industry experience, Ely will work with departments of transportation considering tolling programs and with toll agencies as they transform their operations using private-sector methods to achieve public-sector missions.

Ely can discuss a variety of trends, including:

- **State DOTs look to tolling as the gas tax declines** – With the gas tax in decline, primarily due to higher fuel efficiency and a growing fleet of alternative

fuel vehicles and co-opted by raids on their road funds, many state DOTs now are looking at how to solve their own problems with little expectation that Washington will be part of the solution.

The shift toward self-reliance points to a new, 21st century delivery model dependent on direct user fees. In fact, there appears to be more interest in tolling now than in the past 30 years, Washington included.

- **Transformation of toll agencies** – If pressure from the surface transportation industry and the public should force Congress to loosen proposed legislation and expand the use of tolling interstates – either for existing facilities, new capacity or both – cash-strapped DOTs may look with increasing interest in establishing a toll program.
- **Encourage coalitions and partnerships** – While it is up to each DOT to take a leadership position from a statewide perspective, it should seek collaboration and input from other public and private sector toll agencies to meet the state's transportation needs. Doing so will certainly help lead to a seamless system of user-financed facilities.

**Education:**

- Doctorate in Public Administration, Nova University Center for the Study of Administration
- Masters in Education, Georgia State University
- Masters of Business Administration, University of West Florida
- Bachelors of Science in Business Administration/Marketing, University of West Florida

**Professional development:**

- Harvard University Kennedy School of Government – Represented the Florida Department of Transportation. Senior Level Leadership Program for government executives from around the world.
- AASHTO Graduate Leadership and Management Institute – Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
- The Highway and Transportation Management Institute – Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in cooperation with the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility.
- Transportation Executive Institute – University of Virginia.

**Professional affiliations:**

- Member and past president – International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association
- Member – Transportation and Expressway Members of Florida
- Member – Executive Board of the Florida Department of Transportation
- Member – National Advisory Board of the Women's Transportation Seminar

**Awards and recognition:**

- Lecturer on Leadership, International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association Leadership Academy – Washington, D.C., 2008-2010
- 2007 CUTR Transportation Achievement Award (Person of the Year in Transportation) – University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research, 2007

- Distinguished Alumnus, National Alumni Association – University of West Florida, 2007
- One of the 174 “Most Influential Floridians” – *Florida Trend* magazine, 2004
- Public Service Award – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 2004
- Ben G. Watts Award – Florida Department of Transportation, 1999
- Jay W. Brown Award – Florida Department of Transportation, 1995

**Publications and presentations:**

- “*Financial Sustainability – Alternative Revenue Strategies for Toll Agencies*” moderator, IBTTA 78th Annual Meeting, Sept. 14, 2010
- “*Tolling U.S. Roadways: A Real Option for DOTs,*” with Pete Rahn, August 2010
- “*Managing in an Era of Declining Revenue,*” with William Nelsen, October 2008
- “*Open Road Tolling Around the World – The Debate for ORT,*” September 2002
- “*The Role of Bond Ratings in Financing Toll Facilities,*” with Hyman C. Grossman, Chee Mee Hu, William Streeter and Ronald Marino, September 1999
- “*Improving Toll Feasibility Studies,*” with Peter Bianchini, Arthur H. Goldberg, Daniel Greenbaum and Edward Regan, September 1998
- “*Florida’s Computer Model for Planning Toll Facilities,*” with Hugh Miller and Arthur H. Goldberg, September 1991

To schedule an interview with Jim Ely and for more information, contact:

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