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## ARTBA Names 2011 P3 Projects & Entrepreneurs of the Year

(WASHINGTON)—Two individuals and two organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of Public Private Partnerships (P3s) within the transportation construction industry November 15 at the American Road and Transportation Builders Association’s (ARTBA) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual P3 Conference in Washington, D.C.

ARTBA’s P3 Awards Program spotlights the important projects and people who bring together private and public resources to help meet the nation’s critical transportation infrastructure needs. Applicants were judged by members of ARTBA’s P3 Division and awards were presented in two categories:

1. The **“P3 Entrepreneur of the Year Award”** is given to one public sector official and one to a private sector person for their involvement in promoting the use of P3s in transportation infrastructure projects:
  - Jordi Graells, president, Abertis USA – Graells was recognized for his leadership in negotiating the PR-22 and PR-5 Toll Concessions in Puerto Rico. Abertis partnered with Goldman Sachs to submit the winning \$1.4 billion bid to operate and maintain the highways and toll facilities for 40 years.
  - Kome Ajise, P3 program manager, Caltrans –Ajise was recognized for his leadership in managing Caltrans’ P3 office and notably his role in the Presidio Parkway project, as well as his nearly 25-year career in the public sector advancing transportation infrastructure projects.
2. The **“P3 Project of the Year Award”** recognizes innovative projects that showcase the value of P3-built transportation infrastructure and contribute to the future development of the P3 transportation industry. This year, judging resulted in tie vote between two winners:
  - Denver Regional Transportation District (Denver RTD) – The Denver RTD is recognized for their role in the \$2.1 billion FasTracks Eagle P3 Project, the largest transit project in the nation to utilize a full Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain procurement. The project consists of three rail corridors and adds 122 miles of rail and bus rapid transit to Denver’s existing system, providing a significant benefit to the community by connecting downtown Denver with Denver International Airport.

- Puerto Rico P3 Authority: The group was recognized for securing the PR-22 and PR-5 toll road deals. They signed a 40-year highway concession with the Autopistas Metropolitanas de Puerto Rico consortium to privately operate and maintain the existing routes. This is the first concession of its type to be successfully achieved in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico P3 Authority developed a strategy for successfully implementing the P3 model within Puerto Rico and built public support for the projects through a large-scale public relations campaign.

ARTBA's P3 Conference is the nation's leading summit on innovative transportation finance, attended by hundreds of industry executives, public officials and investment firm representatives each year.

Established in 1902, ARTBA represents the U.S. transportation design and construction industry in the Nation's Capital.

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