

**HOLD FOR RELEASE**  
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## **GFOA'S 2010 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

CHICAGO, IL – The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced the winners of its 2010 Awards for Excellence in Government Finance. The GFOA's most prestigious awards recognize contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance.

This year's Awards for Excellence-winning entries encompass such innovations in areas of capital financing and debt administration, economic development, and e-government and technology. The awards were presented at the GFOA's annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, at the annual business meeting on Tuesday, June 8.

### **Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority**

Implementing Asset Maximization Strategies: The MWAA Dulles Corridor Enterprise Initiative  
Category: Capital Financing and Debt Administration

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority proposed and created the Dulles Corridor Enterprise to ensure that revenues generated by an existing state asset, the Dulles Toll Road, would be retained and invested in local transportation improvements. State and local governments are searching for new strategies to finance and deliver major infrastructure projects during tough economic times, and one approach that has received significant attention is leveraging or maximizing existing public-sector assets and services to generate funding for new capital projects. The Virginia Department of Transportation received proposals from several private entities seeking the right to collect tolls on and operate the Dulles Toll Road in return for a guaranteed sum; however, there was no obligation to keep the money in the corridor and no guarantee that a needed Metrorail extension would be constructed. The Airports Authority submitted a proposal to assume the responsibility for operating the toll road and for managing the financing and construction of the Dulles Metrorail Project and other transportation improvements in the Dulles Corridor. The successful transfer and securitization of the Dulles Toll Road demonstrates that the skills, resources, and expertise available in the public sector can be used to achieve many of the benefits sought through privatization and other asset maximization strategies.

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### **Traffic Trip Financing of the 169/Bren Road Interchange**

City of Minnetonka, Minnesota

Category: Economic Development

The City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, created a financing mechanism based on two concepts: 1) that businesses should fairly pay their own costs for public road transportation, without having to subsidize other businesses; and 2) that better roads offer both public and private benefits. The city is financing a \$20 million expansion of a state highway interchange into a city business park, and the financing, which uses multiple public and private resources, is based on traffic generated by new commercial development. This unique funding partnership for the road infrastructure has enabled the immediate redevelopment of an important city economic development area, which will add to the city's property tax base, secure 1,700 new jobs for the community, and ensure future transportation capacity for the planned redevelopment zone.

Contact: Merrill S. King, Finance Director/Treasurer, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345 (phone: 952-939-8253; fax, 952-939-8244; e-mail: mking@eminnetonka.com)

### **Johnson County, Kansas, Treasurer**

Johnson County, Kansas, Treasurer's Line Management Program

Category: e-Government and Technology

The Johnson County Motor Vehicle Division's Line Management Program uses text messaging, online reservations, and self-check-in, touch-screen monitors to enhance customer service as well as the division's operational capabilities. The program is an example of going beyond existing systems and constraints to provide innovative service delivery. The Line Management Program, a partnership between county government and the private sector, uses a technology solution that is new to government to provide customers with alternatives to waiting in line. Customers can "place themselves in line" virtually by providing their cell phone numbers either in the office, online, or by phone. They then receive text or voice message updates regarding their virtual place in line. The Treasurer's Department views technology as a driver for transforming change, while increasing organizational effectiveness, creating a better customer experience, and providing statistical measures used for trend analysis and future forecasting.

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For more information about the GFOA's Awards for Excellence in Government Finance, please visit [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org), e-mail [AwardsforExcellence@gfoa.org](mailto:AwardsforExcellence@gfoa.org), or call 312-977-9700.

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*The Government Finance Officers Association is the major professional association serving the needs of appointed and elected local and state-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top-quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association, which has 17,500 members, is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, D.C.*