

**By Victor Thorn**

It's clear that governments at all levels have fumbled the ball in regard to maintaining our nation's infrastructure. Fortunately, there are innovative individuals thinking outside the box. One of them is attorney John Palatiello, president of the [Business Coalition for Fair Competition](#).

During a July 12 interview, Palatiello told this writer: "In my view, we have an infrastructure problem that's bigger than what government can do alone. The old model of raising taxes and spending government money isn't sufficient anymore. Rather, states should have an incentive to enter 'P3s,' or private-public partnerships. My idea isn't to replace government entirely, but instead decide upon new roles and responsibilities for government instead of them doing it alone."

Palatiello said: "P3s aren't a radical idea. Before becoming president, George Washington owned a private barge company that he used to partner with the state of Virginia so that they could build a canal along the Potomac River. In this regard, P3s are as old as America itself. Government should be contracting out construction services, engineering and transit functions to the private sector. There exist a whole variety of areas where government should step back and not compete in areas that lend themselves better to the private sector."

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