# **SESSION TWO** Debt Structuring and Method of Sale



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# **Financing Structuring Considerations**

- Purpose and necessity of debt
- Organizational type (Governmental, Enterprise or Other)
- Long-term strategic goals of organization
- Debt policy (SB 1029)
- Current debt burden and debt capacity
- Long-term financial planning
- Intergenerational equity considerations
- Fluid market conditions

### Purpose of Debt

- Many municipal entities are responsible for funding public projects
- Characteristics of the project often dictate the appropriate type of funding
- Long-lived infrastructure capital assets have different financing suitability vs. assets with shorter lives

Type of Funding	Advantages	Disadvantages		
<b>PAYGO</b> Pay for capital projects as revenue is saved or received from existing sources	<ul> <li>Future funds not subject to debt service payments and the payment of interest</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Subject to limitations of available revenue</li> <li>Rate considerations</li> <li>Long wait time for new infrastructure</li> </ul>		
<b>Grant Funding</b> Apply for State and Federal grants	<ul> <li>Does not take away from any funding source</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Inconsistent and unreliable</li> <li>May not cover full project costs</li> <li>Funds often received on reimbursement basis</li> <li>May "federalize" project</li> </ul>		
<b>Borrow</b> Issue Debt	<ul> <li>Spreads cost over the useful life of the asset; reduces need for large, regular increases in rates</li> <li>Funds received when needed</li> <li>Intergenerational equity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Repayment includes interest costs</li> <li>Various forms of borrowing may have specific terms/conditions</li> <li>Ongoing obligations to lender(s)</li> </ul>		

# Considerations in Structuring a Financing



### **Borrowing Type**

	Public Sale	Private Placement	Federal/State Loan	
	Public offering of bonds through either a negotiated or competitive sale	Financing provided by bank	Loan financing provided by Federal or State agency	
Benefits	<ul> <li>Mature market</li> <li>Predictable schedule</li> <li>Proceeds available immediately</li> <li>Borrowing terms may be customized</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Time efficient execution</li> <li>Proceeds available immediately</li> <li>Borrowing terms may be customized</li> <li>Disclosure documents not required</li> <li>Ratings often not required</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low interest rates (typically)</li> <li>Interest rate not as sensitive to ratings</li> <li>State loans may have grants or principal forgiveness</li> </ul>	
Considerations	<ul> <li>Market conditions</li> <li>Disclosure and ratings process adds time to schedule</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Market conditions</li> <li>Borrowing terms may not be as flexible as other options</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Competitive application process</li> <li>May not finance 100% of needs</li> <li>Borrowing terms may not be as flexible as other options</li> <li>Legal covenants may be more restrictive</li> <li>Funds received as reimbursement</li> <li>Application process</li> </ul>	

# Public Offering

- · Underwriter purchases bonds from Issuer, then sells those bonds to investors
  - Can be accomplished through either a negotiated or competitive sale process
- Preliminary Official Statement is produced and distributed to investors
  - Primary marketing document that investors use to make their investment decision
  - Underwriter and Issuer are responsible for all due diligence
- Bonds are typically rated by a rating agency
  - Ratings provide a third-party determination of the likelihood of timely repayment of debt service
  - Ratings lower the interest rate
- Legal terms and covenants can be tailored with careful consideration of the marketing and rating implications
- Repayment can be structured to meet the needs of the Issuer with careful consideration of the marketing, rating and interest rate implications



### **Private Placement**

- Financing provided by a bank not through a public offering
- Offering Statement not required
- Ratings are typically not required, however, banks will perform their own review of Issuer's credit and set their interest rate and loans terms based on this review
- Legal terms and covenants can be tailored but are subject to negotiation with the bank
- Repayment can be structured to meet the needs of the Issuer but are subject to negotiation with the bank

#### Method of Sale

	COMPETITIVE SALE	NEGOTIATED SALE	PRIVATE PLACEMENT
Mechanics	<ul> <li>Issuer, MA and legal counsel structure transaction and prepare/review transaction documents</li> <li>A date and time are set on which underwriters submit bids for the bonds</li> <li>Bonds awarded to underwriter submitting the bid with the lowest true interest cost</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Underwriter selected prior to the pricing of the bonds (typically near the outset of the transaction)</li> <li>Issuer, MA, underwriter and legal counsel structure transaction and prepare/review transaction documents</li> <li>Underwriter markets bonds</li> <li>At pricing, interest rates are set based on comparable sales and level of investor interest</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bank is selected based on rate and borrowing terms</li> <li>May utilize placement agent</li> <li>Loan terms negotiated directly with bank</li> </ul>
Time to Complete Transaction	<ul> <li>3-4 months</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>3-4 months</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2-3 months</li> </ul>
Offering Statement Required	• Yes	• Yes	• No
Ratings Required / Utilized	<ul> <li>Yes (typically)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Yes (typically)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not usually</li> </ul>
Structuring	<ul> <li>Flexible</li> </ul>	Flexible	<ul> <li>Flexible, with potentially limits on the final maturity of the loan</li> </ul>
Issuance Expenses	<ul> <li>Higher costs of issuance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Higher costs of issuance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lower costs of issuance</li> </ul>
When Most Appropriate (Generally – Situations May Vary)	<ul> <li>Well known issuer</li> <li>Conventional bond structure</li> <li>High credit quality</li> <li>Favorable market conditions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unknown issuer</li> <li>Complicated structure or large size</li> <li>Complicated credit</li> <li>Weak, volatile or challenging market</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Smaller borrowings</li> <li>Shorter term (~10-15 years)</li> <li>"Story" borrowings</li> </ul>



### Federal/State Loans

- Financing provided by Federal or State agency (SRF, IEDB, USDA, WIFIA, CWIFP, TIFIA)
- Disclosure through a Preliminary Official Statement typically not required
- Some loans may require a rating
- Legal terms and covenants may be flexible, certain loan programs have standard terms and covenants which may differ from those available under other methods of borrowing
- Repayment structure may be flexible, certain loan programs have greater flexibility than others
- Loan proceeds may be disbursed on a reimbursement basis making cashflow during construction an important consideration



## New Money and Refunding

<ul> <li>Bond proceeds are issued to generate "new" funds</li> <li>Typically for the construction, rehab or improvements to infrastructure</li> </ul>
Refinancing of existing debt
<ul> <li>Typically to reduce future debt service costs</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Also can be used to restructure debt payments for strategic purposes</li> </ul>



# Sizing a Financing

- The elements of financing may differ by:
  - Type of borrowing (GO, revenue bond, etc)
  - Project type
  - Issuer financing plan
  - Ratings
  - Use of Proceeds (new money vs. refunding)
- Not all elements will be applicable to various financings



# Project / Construction Fund

- Proceeds to fund project acquisition and/or construction
- Based on actual costs or detailed estimates
- Can include contingency funds
- Two methods of funding
  - Gross funded exact project amount
  - Net funded less than project amount, interest earnings during construction period used to meet project amount



# **Capitalized Interest Fund**

- Proceeds to pay interest during project construction and / or revenue ramp-up / stabilization period
- May provide necessary cashflow relief during construction or ramp-up period
- Capitalized interest increases overall debt / loan payments over the repayment life (it is not "free money")



### **Escrow Fund**

- Proceeds to fund the principal and interest costs of refunded debt to its redemption date
- Funded at closing
- Typically invested permitted investments highly restricted (i.e., SLGS and US Treasuries)
- Escrow fund held by the Escrow Agent
- Typically net funded (interest earned during the escrow period helps pay principal and interest of refunded debt)

### **Debt Service Reserve Fund**

- Funds debt service payments in an event of a payment default
- Provides additional security for investors
- Issuers with high-grade ratings have been able to forgo a debt service reserve fund for certain project types
- Debt service reserve fund requirement typically the lesser of:
  - Maximum annual debt service
  - 125% of average annual debt service
  - 10% of par amount
- If "cash funded", interest earnings on debt service reserve fund can help pay debt service
- Debt service reserve fund requirement may be met with a surety policy in certain situations

## **Costs of Issuance**

- Funds eligible issuance costs
  - Financing team fees (bond counsel, disclosure counsel, municipal advisor)
  - Trustee / paying agent
  - Rating agency fees
  - Special tax consultant
  - Title insurance
  - State fees
  - Appraisal, feasibility study, engineer's report
  - Verification Agent
  - Other costs associated with the issuance of obligations

# Underwriter's Discount

- Underwriter's discount is the compensation the underwriter receives
  - Average takedown
  - Management fee
  - Expenses
- Average takedown is a dollar per bond amount (par amount / \$1,000)
- Underwriter's discount is typically funded with bond proceeds

Par amount of issuance	\$25,000,000
Takedown	\$2.50 per bond
Total takedown	(\$25,000,000/\$1,000) * \$2.50 = \$62,500



#### **Bond Insurance**

- Bond insurance guarantees the payment of principal and interest to bondholders
- · Insured bonds are assigned the credit rating of the bond insurer
- Can improve bond pricing and lessen the costs of borrowing

# Premium, Discount and Par Bonds

• Individual maturities can be sold as premium, discount or par bonds

	Original Issue Discount (OID)	Par Bond	Original Issue Premium (OIP)
General Rule	Coupon <yield< td=""><td>Coupon=Yield</td><td>Coupon&gt;Yield</td></yield<>	Coupon=Yield	Coupon>Yield
	Price<100	Price=100	Price>100

Maturity	Principal	Coupon	Yield	Price	
2026	\$1,000,000	4.000%	2.590%	113.444%	Premium Bond
2027	\$1,100,000	3.000%	3.000%	100.000%	Par Bond
2028	\$1,200,000	3.000%	3.044%	99.500%	Discount Bond

• Price x Principal == Amount Investor Pays and Amount the Municipality Receives

Maturity	Principal	Price	Dollar Price
2026	\$1,000,000	113.444%	\$1,134,440
2027	\$1,100,000	100.000%	\$1,100,000
2028	\$1,200,000	99.500%	\$1,194,000

### **Bond Sizing Example**

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Bond Proceed	IS:	
	Par Amount	9,000,000.00
	Premium	887,784.50
		9,887,784.50
Uses:		
Project Fund I	Deposits:	
	Project Fund	9,000,000.00
Other Fund D	eposits:	
	Capitalized Interest Fund	444,786.00
	Series A Debt Service Fund Deposit	223,998.50
		668,784.50
Delivery Date	Expenses:	
	Cost of Issuance	165,000.00
	Underwriter's Discount	54,000.00
		219,000.00
		9 887 784 50

# Serial and Term Bonds

- Serial Bonds
  - Principal repayment is made on the stated maturity date
  - Serial bonds are typically structured with maturity dates over regular intervals allowing an issuer to take advantage of different pricing levels across the yield curve
- Term Bonds
  - A bond which matures on a single date with sinking fund redemptions made prior to final maturity
  - Term bonds may be structured to increase the par amount of the maturity to attract additional investor interest

Maturity (7/1)	Par	Coupon	Yield	Туре
2025	660,000	5.00%	2.30%	Serial Bond
2026	695,000	5.00%	2.34%	Serial Bond
2027	730,000	5.00%	2.38%	Serial Bond
2028	765,000	5.00%	2.42%	Serial Bond
2029	800,000	5.00%	2.46%	Serial Bond
2030	840,000	5.00%	2.50%	Serial Bond
2031	885,000	5.00%	2.55%	Serial Bond
2032	930,000	5.00%	2.61%	Serial Bond
2033	975,000	5.00%	2.62%	Serial Bond
2034	1,025,000	5.00%	2.64%	Serial Bond
2035	1,075,000	5.00%	2.67%	Serial Bond
2036	1,130,000	5.00%	2.72%	Serial Bond
2037	1,185,000	5.00%	2.75%	Serial Bond
2038	1,245,000	5.00%	2.80%	Serial Bond
2039	1,305,000	5.00%	2.86%	Serial Bond
2040	1,370,000	5.00%	2.97%	Serial Bond
2041	1,440,000	5.00%	3.07%	Serial Bond
2042	1,510,000	5.00%	3.13%	Serial Bond
2043	1,590,000	5.00%	3.20%	Serial Bond
2044	1,665,000	5.00%	3.27%	Serial Bond
2045	1,750,000	5.00%	3.48%	Sinking Fund
2046	1,840,000	5.00%	3.48%	Sinking Fund
2047	1,930,000	5.00%	3.48%	Sinking Fund
2048	2,025,000	5.00%	3.48%	Sinking Fund
2049	2,130,000	5.00%	3.48%	Term Bond Maturity
2050	2,235,000	5.00%	3.56%	Sinking Fund
2051	2,345,000	5.00%	3.56%	Sinking Fund
2052	2,465,000	5.00%	3.56%	Sinking Fund
2053	2,585,000	5.00%	3.56%	Sinking Fund
2054	2,715,000	5.00%	3.56%	Term Bond Maturity

#### **Redemption Features**

- Optional Redemption
  - Call is exercised only at the option of the issuer, not the investor
  - · Call typically exercised to achieve savings or restructure debt
  - Issuers typically issue Bonds with a 10-year call option
- Mandatory Redemption
  - · Call must be exercised on specified date/during specified timeline
  - May be required by law
  - May be required by legal structure of transaction
- Extraordinary Redemption
  - Call exercised upon occurrence of certain events
  - May be optional
- Redemption Prices for Call Vary
  - Par
  - Premium
  - Make-Whole

### Debt Service Structures – New Money

- Debt structuring decisions are driven by a number of variables
  - Existing debt service shape and structure
  - Assets being financed
  - Anticipated revenue profile
  - Future debt issuance plans









#### Level Debt Service

### **Debt Service Structures – Refundings**

- Most common refundings are to refinance debt for interest rate savings
- Debt is also refunded for structuring and / or to eliminate restrictive covenants
- When refunding, one decision will be how to "shape" savings to the debt being refinanced



#### Uniform/Level Savings



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#### Fixed vs. Variable Rate Debt

#### **Fixed Rate Debt**

- The rates (coupons) are set on the day of the pricing and do not change
- The issuer will pay scheduled interest (usually twice a year) for as long as the bonds are outstanding



#### Variable Rate Debt

- The rates are reset to different coupons at predetermined points throughout the year
- The issuer's interest payments will vary for the life of the bonds based on market conditions or changes in an index (typically SIFMA)



### Considerations for Fixed vs. Variable Rate Debt

- What is the optimal mix between fixed and variable rate debt
- When should issuers consider variable rate debt vs. fixed rate debt?
- What are some of the benefits and considerations for fixed and variable rate debt?

#### **Benefits of Fixed Rate Debt**

- Allows for budgetary certainty and administration
- No ongoing credit support needed
- Legal documents are simpler

#### **Considerations of Fixed Rate Debt**

- Historically, higher interest rates than variable rate debt, on average
- Less flexible call feature than variable rate bonds

#### **Benefits of Variable Rate Debt**

- Creates a natural hedge between short-term assets and liabilities
- Often, more flexible prepayment provisions
- Used to diversify debt portfolio

#### **Considerations of Variable Rate Debt**

- Interest rate risk and bank credit risk
- Budgetary uncertainty
- Unpredictable pricing of support costs; typically new LOC/SBPA or mandatory tender required every 1-5 years
- Additional administrative involvement



#### **Historical Interest Rates**

**Historical Interest Rates** 





#### Conclusions

- Every municipal entity is unique with their own considerations related to borrowing needs
- There are many different ways of borrowing, each of which may be beneficial in their own ways to a specific municipal entity or in a specific market
- It is important that each borrower carefully analyze what is best for them
- While the future is unpredictable, make borrowing decisions that take into account both near- and long-term considerations
- Debt is a long-term obligation and the decisions made today may govern certain financial decisions down the road
- Make sure you have a team of trusted advisors

# **QUESTIONS?**



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