**Olivia Neal:**

Hello, and welcome to Public Sector Future. This is a show for anyone who cares about using digital approaches in the public sector to deliver better outcomes. I'm your host, Olivia Neal. And together we explore stories from around the world.

I'm really excited today to have a special episode introducing a new series of conversations, which are going to be coming to Public Sector Future. And through these, we're going to be diving deep into the future of infrastructure.

So I'm going to be passing the baton for hosting these episodes to my friend and colleague Jeremy Goldberg. You might remember Jeremy, he has appeared on this podcast before. He shared his deep expertise in public sector in our episode on challenge based approaches to innovation. So you might remember he talked about the work he'd done when he was with New York City. Jeremy's going to be your host for this miniseries on the future of infrastructure, and to kick it off he is here with us today to talk to me a about why this is an important topic now, what do we mean when we talk about infrastructure, and what can you expect to hear more of from him? So Jeremy, welcome to the show.

**Jeremy Goldberg:**

Thank you, Olivia. Time flies. It does feel like it was just yesterday though, that we recorded that episode.

**Olivia Neal:**

It really does. It really does. Well, it's great to have you back. Thank you. So maybe just to start off with for people who haven't listened to your previous episode yet, give us a quick recap on what your role is here at Microsoft and what's your background in the public sector?

**Jeremy Goldberg:**

Sure. So here at Microsoft I'm the Worldwide Director for Critical Infrastructure. And before I joined Microsoft I served in government for about eight and a half years. Most recently, the State CIO for New York and the Deputy Secretary for Technology. And I'd worked in the mayor's offices in New York City, in San Francisco and in the city of San Jose. And I bring all that experience to Microsoft and I get to focus on all sorts of really new, fun, and new and exciting projects, partnerships, efforts across the globe in order to help governments achieve their mission. And specifically in transportation, utilities and in cities. And I love what I get to do each day because of the people I work with like you, here at Microsoft and the focus on impact.

**Olivia Neal:**

Fantastic. So you've given us a little bit of a flavor of what your role covers there, but in this series of conversations in these episodes that you're going to be hosting on infrastructure, could you start by just telling us what do you mean by infrastructure?

**Jeremy Goldberg:**

I've said this many times over the last year and a half, that there's no time like right now to be working on issues like infrastructure. And I pinch myself when I realize that I get to be a part of this work at a global level. It's gratifying because the stakes are so high and the opportunity for impact is incredible. If we here at Microsoft and with our network of partners in industry, academia, our partners in government, and of course the people, most importantly, will benefit if we can get it right. Meaning that in the majority of nations, infrastructure has really been ignored. And it's sometimes antiquated, often inefficient, and sometimes it's just downright dangerous.

So in fact in many places, our physical infrastructure is a threat to prosperity and growth. So when we think about the future, we need to strengthen the core of our nations and of our cities. We must have something to do about changing and improving these weak links. We owe it to people, to business, to community, to be safe and secure for today and for future generations.

**Olivia Neal:**

And so you're thinking about infrastructure as encompassing the things that we might automatically think of, like roads and railways and cities and buildings. And then are you also thinking about the technology infrastructure and the digital infrastructure as a part of that conversation?

**Jeremy Goldberg:**

That's absolutely right. I mean, when we think immediately about critical infrastructure, we're thinking about those physical things: the roads, the highways, the waterways, the buildings, and up top of tall buildings in New York City. It's those water towers, right? Those traditional kind of building blocks. But it's also transportation, it's light rail, it's subways. It's moving people to work, to play, to travel. It's pedestrian walkways, it's reclaiming roads for outdoor dining and bike lanes. It's telecom, it's the internet., it's all these things that connect people to the digital economy, and learning and doing these things in a way that's equitable and fair for all people. And of course, these times that we live it's about public health, it's the water that we drink, it's the air that we breathe. It's measure and maintaining better quality for people.

**Olivia Neal:**

And in your current role, you're working with people from all around the world who are taking action and moving these types of projects forward. Could you tell us a bit about the kind of people who you're going to be hosting through these episodes and what types of topics people can expect to hear about?

**Jeremy Goldberg:**

And the diversity and range of people and experiences from across the globe, it's so exciting and I'm learning so much more about these topics and the work being done. And part of this is really about exploring the humanity behind today's most important infrastructure projects.

So it's a bit of pulling back the curtain or peak under the hood, if you will, to show you not just what the most important infrastructure projects are, but more importantly how leaders are getting them done.

So this includes leading mayors, leaders from departments of transportation, philanthropists, creatives, place makers, and thought leaders from globally renowned think tanks. So I'm excited to bring this series to life in partnership with you and have these important conversations that puts people and this humanity at the center of the discussion during this really important moment for global infrastructure.

**Olivia Neal:**

Well Jeremy, thank you so much for bringing this topic to our attention, for curating these conversations. I've had a bit of insight into some of the people you've got coming up, and I know they're going to be fascinating. So if you are interested in learning more, which you absolutely should be, continue to tune into public sector future to hear the future of infrastructure episodes. You can find more information, as ever, on our website. And don't delay, you can listen to the first episode, which is out today. So tune in, listen, rate and review. And we look forward to getting your feedback. Thank you.