

**Appropriations Committee
February 25, 2015
Department of Transportation Budget Public Hearing**

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Aliaksei Sidarenka and I am a transportation engineer with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I would like to testify about the state's use of outside consultants and contractors. Consultants have an important role to play; they are specialists and very good at complex jobs but we are using them for many projects that should and could be done in-house. Additionally, consultants costs tend to increase over time and we end up paying big; Change orders, revisions, it adds up. A recent cost effectiveness evaluation showed that using State employees to do more work in house resulting in savings between 36 % to 52 %, depending on the size of the project. This is millions of dollars in potential savings.

The everyday work of the Department should not need to be done by consultants; we should be developing our in-house staff to meet our regular workload. The Department of Transportation has frequently cited a lack of needed skills in the department as a reason for their use of consultants. We do in-fact have many skilled individuals who are very capable of doing the work, but staffing continues to be an issue. For the areas where we do in fact lack the skills, I personally would be very interested in getting the training/knowledge the DOT believes is lacking so that I could do more in the field. This is about an investment in the future of the department.

We should absolutely have the training and necessary staff so that we can perform the regular jobs in-house and stop wasting money on unnecessary expensive consultants. State employees are almost always more cost effective.

Aliaksei Sidarenka
45 Jefferson Rd, Unit 2-12
Branford, CT 06405-4132