

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

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

The Governors proposed budget, with a focus on Transportation Infrastructure and a stable funding source separated from the General fund is to be applauded.

Specialized training in areas such as coating inspection (painting), 40hr-HAZWOPER (hazardous waste and emergency response), and welding inspection et.al. have fallen off as the Department has come to rely on outside consultant workforce for “specialized” inspection services. Given the scope of this initiative training the lower cost State Employee would provide a better value for the taxpayers.

While I agree that as a State Agency the Department of Transportation cannot eliminate consultant services, we would like to see an increase to the amount of work being performed in house. Additional staff as well as training is needed to accomplish this goal. By investing now in our personnel we would add to our knowledge base in a way that would pay dividends throughout this initiative.

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