

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

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

My name is Denise Eaton and I am a Transportation Engineer 2 with the Department of Transportation and I would like to talk to you this evening about Design Build. Design Build is a program that has been adopted by the Department of Transportation to utilize consultants, such as Designers and inspectors to do the work of the Department of Transportation. It became necessary to use more consultants because of the dwindling state workforce; the state had attempted to keep staffing low to save money, but that made it impossible for state forces to finish projects and has actually ended up costing more money because consultants end up costing 36% to 52% more depending on the size of the project according to a recent cost-effectiveness evaluation by the department. Decreasing DOT staff didn't save the state any money and actually cost millions of dollars in the long run.

If more work were kept in-house, the in-house staff would gain valuable knowledge by doing more "integrate projects" that are currently being done by consultants. With the knowledge that could be gained by having state personal do the work, there would be less need for consultant which would be a huge cost savings to the state.

The State, now knowing the true cost of using consultant should be moving away from a program that's dependent on consultants to one that focuses on doing more work in house.

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