Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Josh Geballe and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”). I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of DAS and then I welcome any questions you may have.

DAS consists of several distinct programs, including information technology, procurement, human resources, real estate and facilities management, state support for school construction, fleet operations and more. In my view, DAS has a three-fold overarching mission:

- **To support Connecticut’s growth** by serving our citizens, businesses, employees, other agencies and branches of state and local government by providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.

- **To drive continuous innovation** in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government using best practices from the public and private sectors.

- **To provide rewarding careers** by attracting and retaining a workforce of talented, dedicated public servants committed to leading our great state forward.

Currently, DAS has 663 authorized full-time General Fund positions, of which 477.5 are filled, as well as 82 filled other-funded positions. The Governor’s proposed budget increases our General Fund position count by 5 positions in 2020 and one additional position in 2021.

The estimated DAS 2019 General Fund appropriation was $113,506,000. The Governor’s proposed budget would increase that appropriation to $121,409,000 in FY 20 and $127,406,000 in FY 21.

The increased headcount and some of the increase in the general fund appropriation can be attributed to Governor Lamont’s directive to DAS to develop a Digital Front Door; an initiative to modernize and digitize state functions so that residents and businesses can more easily and efficiently access and utilize state applications, programs and benefits.
The Governor’s proposed budget also includes funds to enable DAS to pay for contractually-required wage increases for unionized state employees as well as certain state contractors and to pay for various IT-related costs.

The State Insurance and Risk Management Board has independent decision-making authority but is within DAS for administrative purposes; thus, the Insurance and Risk Management and the Surety Bonds line items are included in the DAS General Fund budget. The Insurance and Risk Management account pays for premiums associated with policies purchased by the State to insure against losses; for claims and judgments issued against the State for losses that occur within our self-insured deductible amounts; and for payment of our insurance broker and Third Party Administrator, which is responsible for managing the state’s liability claims, and other administrative costs. The Governor’s proposed budget increases the Insurance and Risk Management line item by approximately $1.3 million over actual FY 19 appropriations. This is a recognition of the fact that this account is underfunded this year.

Separate from the DAS General Fund account, we also have the DAS Workers’ Compensation Claims account. The funds in this account are used to pay the workers’ compensation claims for all state employees except for those employed at DSS, DCF, DMHAS, DDS, DOC, DESPP, UConn, UConn Health Center and the Judicial branch, each of which has its own separately appropriated funds for workers’ compensation claims. The proposed budget slightly increases that account to $7,982,000 in FY 20 and $8,260,000 in FY 21.

DAS also receives money from the Special Transportation Fund for both Workers’ Compensation Claims and the State Insurance and Risk Management Board. The Governor’s proposed budget flat-lines the Workers’ Compensation STF account by keeping it at $6,723,000 for both FY 20 and FY 21. The proposed budget slightly increases the State Insurance Management Board STF account by approximately $425,000.

DAS will continue to identify opportunities to create efficiencies and reduce or avoid costs.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.