



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY NO. F&A-10
June 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Code of Ethics Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and quality of performance for all employees of the Department of Transportation (“DOT” or “Department”). Individuals in government service have positions of significant trust and responsibility that require them to adhere to the highest ethical standards. Standards that might be acceptable in other public or private organizations are not necessarily acceptable for the DOT.

It is expected that all DOT employees will comply with this policy as well as the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, and strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety in their relationships with members of the public, other agencies, private vendors, consultants, and contractors. This policy is, as is permitted by law, in some cases stricter than the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Where that is true, employees are required to comply with the more stringent DOT policy.

The Code of Ethics for Public Officials is State law and governs the conduct of all State employees and public officials regardless of the agency in which they serve. The entire Code, as well as a summary of its provisions, may be found at the Office of State Ethics’ web site: www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp. For formal and informal interpretations of the Code of Ethics, DOT employees should contact the Office of State Ethics or the DOT’s Ethics Compliance Officer or her designee.

All State agencies are required by law to have an ethics policy statement. Additionally, all State agencies are required by law to have an Ethics Liaison or Ethics Compliance Officer. The DOT, because of the size and scope of its procurement activities, has an Ethics Compliance Officer who is responsible for the Department’s: development of ethics policies; coordination of ethics training programs; and monitoring of programs for agency compliance with its ethics policies and the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. At least annually, the Ethics Compliance Officer shall provide ethics training to agency personnel involved in contractor selection, evaluation, and supervision. A DOT employee who has a question or is unsure about the provisions of this policy, or who would like assistance contacting the Office of State Ethics, should contact the Ethics Compliance Officer or her designee.

The DOT Ethics Compliance Officer is:

Denise Rodosevich, Managing Attorney
Office of Legal Services

**For questions, contact the Ethics
Compliance Officer’s Designee:**

Alice M. Sexton, Principal Attorney
Office of Legal Services
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546
Tel. (860) 594-3045

To contact the Office of State Ethics:

Office of State Ethics
20 Trinity Street, Suite 205
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 566-4472
Facs. (860) 566-3806
Web: www.ethics.state.ct.us

Enforcement

The Department expects that all employees will comply with all laws and policies regarding ethical conduct. Violations of the law may subject an employee to sanctions from agencies or authorities outside the DOT. Whether or not another agency or authority imposes such sanctions, the Department retains the independent right to review and respond to any ethics violation or alleged ethics violation by its employees. Violations of this policy or ethics statutes, as construed by the DOT, may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from State service.

Prohibited Activities

1. ***Gifts:*** DOT employees (and in some cases their family members) are prohibited by the Code of Ethics and this Policy from accepting a gift from anyone who is: (1) doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the DOT; (2) directly regulated by the DOT; (3) prequalified as a contractor pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §4a-100 by the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS); or (4) known to be a registered lobbyist or a lobbyist's representative. These four categories of people/entities are referred to as "restricted donors." A list of registered lobbyists can be found on the web site of the Office of State Ethics (www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp). A list of prequalified consultants and contractors, *i.e.*, those seeking to do business with the DOT, can be found on the DOT's Internet site under "Consultant Information" and "Doing Business with ConnDOT," respectively.

The term "gift" is defined in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(e), and has numerous exceptions. For example, one exception permits the acceptance of food and/or beverages valued up to \$50 per calendar year from any one donor and consumed on an occasion or occasions while the person paying or his representative is present. Therefore, such food and/or beverage is not a "gift." Another exception permits the acceptance of items having a value up to ten dollars (\$10) provided the aggregate value of all things provided by the donor to the recipient during a calendar year does not exceed fifty dollars (\$50). Therefore, such items are not a "gift." Depending on the circumstances, the "donor" may be an individual if the individual is bearing the expense, or a donor may be the individual's employer/group if the individual is passing the expense back to the employer/group he/she represents.

This policy requires DOT employees to immediately return any gift (as defined in the Code of Ethics) that any person or entity attempts to give to the employee(s). If any such gift or other item of value is received by other than personal delivery from the subject person or entity, the item shall be taken to the Office of Human Resources along with the name and address of the person or entity who gave the item. The Office of Human Resources, along with the recipient of the item of value, will arrange for the donation of the item to a local charity (e.g., Foodshare, local soup kitchens, etc.). The Office of Human Resources will then send a letter to the gift's donor advising the person of the item's donation to charity and requesting that no such gifts be given to DOT employees in the future.

2. ***Contracting for Goods or Services for Personal Use With Department Contractors, Consultants, or Vendors:*** Executive Order 7C provides that: "Appointed officials and state employees in the Executive Branch are prohibited from contracting for goods and services, for personal use, with any person doing business with or seeking business with his or her agency, unless the goods or services are readily available to the general public for the price which the official or state employee paid or would pay."

3. ***Gift Exchanges Between Subordinates and Supervisors/Senior Staff:*** A recent change in the Code of Ethics prohibits exchanges of gifts valued at \$100 or more between (*i.e.*, to and from) supervisors and employees under their supervision. The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board has advised that: (1) the monetary limit imposed by this provision is a per-gift amount; (2) gifts given between supervisors and subordinates (or *vice versa*) in celebration of a "major life event," as defined in the Code of Ethics, need not comply with the \$100 limit; and (3) the limitations imposed by this provision apply to a direct supervisor and subordinate *and to any individual up or down the chain of command*. The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board has also advised that supervisors or subordinates may not pool their money to give a collective or group gift valued at \$100 or more, even though each of the individual contributions is less than \$100.
4. ***Acceptance of Gifts to the State:*** A recent change to the Code of Ethics for Public Officials modified the definition of the term "gift" to limit the application of the so-called "gift to the State" exception. In general, "gifts to the State" are goods or services given to a State agency for use on State property or to support an event and which facilitate State action or functions. Before accepting any benefit as a "gift to the State," DOT employees should contact the Ethics Compliance Officer.
5. ***Charitable Organizations and Events:*** No DOT employee shall knowingly accept any gift, discount, or other item of monetary value for the benefit of a charitable organization from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing or seeking business with, or conducting activities regulated by, the Department.
6. ***Use of Office/Position for Financial Gain:*** DOT employees shall not use their public office, position, or influence from holding their State office/position, nor any information gained in the course of their State duties, for private financial gain (or the prevention of financial loss) for themselves, any family member, any member of their household, nor any "business with which they are associated." In general, a business with which one is associated includes any entity of which a DOT employee or his/her immediate family member is a director, owner, limited or general partner, beneficiary of a trust, holder of 5 percent or more stock, or an officer (president, treasurer, or executive or senior vice president).

DOT employees shall not use or distribute State information (except as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act), nor use State time, personnel, equipment, or materials, for other than State business purposes.

7. ***Other Employment:*** DOT employees shall not engage in, nor accept, other employment that will either impair their independence of judgment with regard to their State duties or require or induce them to disclose confidential information gained through their State duties.

Any DOT employee who engages in or accepts other employment (including as an independent contractor), or has direct ownership in an outside business or sole proprietorship, shall complete an Employment/Outside Business Disclosure Form (see attached) and submit it to the Department's Human Resources Administrator. Disclosure of other employment to the DOT Human Resources Administrator shall *not* constitute approval of the other employment for purposes of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

Inquiries concerning the propriety of a DOT employee's other employment shall be directed to the Office of State Ethics to assure compliance with the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Employees anticipating accepting other employment as described above should give ample time (at least one month) to the Office of State Ethics to respond to such outside employment inquiries.

No employee of the DOT shall allow any private obligation of employment or enterprise to take precedence over his/her responsibility to the Department.

8. ***Outside Business Interests:*** Any DOT employee who holds, directly or indirectly, a financial interest in any business, firm, or enterprise shall complete an Employment/Outside Business Disclosure Form (see attached) and submit it to the Department's Human Resources Administrator. An indirect financial interest includes situations where a DOT employee's spouse has a financial interest in a business, firm, or enterprise. A financial interest means that the employee or his spouse is an owner, member, partner, or shareholder in a non-publicly traded entity. Disclosure of such outside business interests to the DOT Human Resources Administrator shall *not* constitute approval of the outside business interest under this Policy or the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. DOT employees shall not have a financial interest in any business, firm, or enterprise which will either impair their independence of judgment with regard to their State duties or require or induce them to disclose confidential information gained through their State duties. Inquiries concerning the propriety of a DOT employee's outside business interests shall be directed to the Office of State Ethics to assure compliance with the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.
9. ***Contracts With the State:*** DOT employees, their immediate family members, and/or a business with which a DOT employee is associated, may not enter into a contract with the State, other than pursuant to a court appointment, valued at \$100 or more unless the contract has been awarded through an open and public process.
10. ***Sanctioning Another Person's Ethics Violation:*** No DOT official or employee shall counsel, authorize, or otherwise sanction action that violates any provision of the Code of Ethics.
11. ***Certain Persons Have an Obligation to Report Ethics Violations:*** If the DOT Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or "person in charge of State agency procurement" and contracting has reasonable cause to believe that a person has violated the Code of Ethics or any law or regulation concerning ethics in State contracting, he/she *must* report such belief to the Office of State Ethics. All DOT employees are encouraged to disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption about which they become aware to the appropriate authority (see also Policy Statement EX.O.-23 dated March 31, 2004), including, but not limited to, their immediate supervisor or a superior of their immediate supervisor, the DOT Office of Management Services, the Ethics Compliance Officer, the Auditors of Public Accounts, the Office of the Attorney General, or the Office of the Chief State's Attorney.
12. ***Post-State Employment Restrictions:*** In addition to the above-stated policies of the Department, DOT employees are advised that the Code of Ethics for Public Officials bars certain conduct by State employees *after they leave State service. Upon leaving State service:*
 - ***Confidential Information:*** DOT employees must never disclose or use confidential information gained in State service for the financial benefit of any person.
 - ***Prohibited Representation:*** DOT employees must *never* represent anyone (other than the State) concerning any "particular matter" in which they participated personally and substantially while in State service and in which the State has a substantial interest.

DOT employees also must not, for one year after leaving State service, represent anyone other than the State for compensation before the DOT concerning a matter in which the State has a substantial interest. In this context, the term "represent" has been very broadly defined. Therefore, any former DOT employee contemplating post-State employment work that might involve interaction with any bureau of DOT (or any Board or Commission administratively under the DOT) within

their first year after leaving State employment should contact the DOT Ethics Compliance Officer and/or the Office of State Ethics.

- **Employment With State Vendors:** DOT employees who participated substantially in, or supervised, the negotiation or award of a State contract valued at \$50,000 or more must not accept employment with a party to the contract (other than the State) for a period of one year after resigning from State service, if the resignation occurs within one year after the contract was signed.

13. **Ethical Considerations Concerning Bidding and State Contracts:** DOT employees also should be aware of various provisions of Part IV of the Code of Ethics that affect any person or firm who: (1) is, or is seeking to be, prequalified by DAS under Conn. Gen. Stat. §4a-100; (2) is a party to a large State construction or procurement contract, or seeking to enter into such a contract, with a State agency; or (3) is a party to a consultant services contract, or seeking to enter into such a contract, with a State agency. These persons or firms shall not:

- With the intent to obtain a competitive advantage over other bidders, solicit any information from an employee or official that the contractor knows is not and will not be available to other bidders for a large State construction or procurement contract that the contractor is seeking;
- Intentionally, willfully, or with reckless disregard for the truth, charge a State agency for work not performed or goods not provided, including submitting meritless change orders in bad faith with the sole intention of increasing the contract price, as well as falsifying invoices or bills or charging unreasonable and unsubstantiated rates for services or goods to a State agency; and
- Intentionally or willfully violate or attempt to circumvent State competitive bidding and ethics laws.

Firms or persons that violate the above provisions may be deemed a nonresponsible bidder by the DOT.

In addition, no person with whom a State agency has contracted to provide consulting services to plan specifications for any contract, and no business with which such person is associated, may serve as a consultant to any person seeking to obtain such contract, serve as a contractor for such contract, or serve as a subcontractor or consultant to the person awarded such contract.

DOT employees who believe that a contractor or consultant may be in violation of any of these provisions should bring it to the attention of their manager.

Training for DOT Employees

A copy of this policy will be posted throughout the Department, and provided to each employee either in hard copy or by e-mail. As set forth above, State law requires that certain employees involved in contractor/consultant/vendor selection, evaluation, or supervision must undergo annual ethics training coordinated or provided by the Ethics Compliance Officer. If you believe your duties meet these criteria, you should notify your Bureau Chief to facilitate compilation of a training schedule. In addition, the DOT Ethics Compliance Officer can arrange for periodic ethics training provided by the Office of State Ethics. Finally, the Department will make available, on its web site or otherwise, a copy of this policy to all vendors, contractors, and other business entities doing business with the Department.

Important Ethics Reference Materials

It is strongly recommended that every DOT employee read and review the following:

- Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part 1, Conn. General Statutes Sections 1-79 through 1-89a found at: www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp
- Ethics Regulations Sections 1-81-14 through 1-81-38, found at: www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp
- The Office of State Ethics web site includes summaries and the full text of formal ethics advisory opinions interpreting the Code of Ethics, as well as summaries of previous enforcement actions: www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp. DOT employees are strongly encouraged to contact the Department's Ethics Compliance Officer or her designee, or the Office of State Ethics with any questions or concerns they may have.

(This Policy Statement supersedes Policy Statement No. F&A-10 dated January 6, 2006)

Ralph J. Carpenter
COMMISSIONER

Attachment

List 1 and List 3

(Managers and supervisors are requested to distribute a copy of this Policy Statement to all employees under their supervision.)

cc: Office of the Governor, Department of Administrative Services, Office of State Ethics

Department of Transportation Employment & Outside Business Disclosure Form

In accordance with Department of Transportation (Department) Policy Statement No. F&A-10, Code of Ethics Policy, I am hereby advising the Department that in addition to my current DOT position, I have other employment and/or a direct or indirect financial interest in an outside business as follows:

1. Full name of outside employer, or entity in which I or my spouse have a financial interest (e.g., ownership or member/partner): _____

2. Location of Employer/Entity disclosed above: _____

3. Nature of my/my spouse's relationship to employer/entity disclosed above (check at least one):

- Employee or Independent Contractor (circle one)
- Owner/Member/Partner/etc.
- Family Member of Owner/Member/Partner/etc.

4. State agency(ies) with which above employer/entity is doing business or seeking Business (write "N/A" if not applicable): _____

5. Job Title at Outside Employer: _____

6. Job Responsibilities at Outside Employer: _____

7. Current State Title: _____

8. Current State Job Responsibilities: _____

9. Name/Title of Current State Supervisor: _____

I understand that the filing of this Disclosure with the DOT Human Resources Administrator does not relieve me of any obligations I have to comply with the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, and does not constitute approval of my outside employment and/or financial interests under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. *Employees engaging in outside employment are strongly urged to seek written approval of their outside employment from the Office of State Ethics, 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.* I also understand that if either my State or outside employment/financial interest changes in location or function I am required to notify the Department immediately.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____