



Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

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STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

July 28, 2009

The Honorable David Aronberg
Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Aronberg:

Thank you for your letter dated July 13, 2009, inquiring about salary rates in consultant contracts. Recognizing the same budget issues you addressed in your letter, I have instituted a statewide policy eliminating any salary modification terms from new contracts and new amendments to existing contracts. The Department has also implemented a statewide contract review and renegotiation process to reduce the extent and impact of salary modification terms that may be included in existing consultant contracts.

We are providing you with a summary of our progress, as of July 15, 2009. There are 1,967 current consultant contracts identified in the summary. The contracts that have been reviewed as of July 15, 2009 are identified in the "Reviewed" column. Where the Department has been able to renegotiate escalation and scope reduction, the savings are identified as either cost avoidance savings (avoidance of costs not yet incurred), or negative encumbrance (contract funds are removed from the agreement). We will be happy to provide you with the specific methodology and details concerning our review process. We are continuing with this effort and will provide an update upon completion.

You requested five types of information. The Department can currently provide you with average wage rate data for Department consultant contracts, along with definitions of consultant job classifications. However, the Department has begun, but not yet compiled the remaining information you are seeking. A significant manual effort will be required to complete the remainder. The Department will need to pull the information from each of the current and closed consultant contracts that were outstanding during the relevant period, as well as the history of payments and contractual terms. We will also need to pull comparable employee salary information to fully address your questions. We will work diligently, but we expect this effort will take several months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SKopel".

Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary