



STATE OF OHIO  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS WRONGDOING IN THE BID GATHERING PROCESS AT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Columbus, Ohio, February 2, 2012

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General has completed an investigation of the Ohio Department of Transportation and has concluded wrongful acts and omissions were committed.

The Investigative Services Division of the Ohio Department of Transportation initiated the allegation with the Ohio Inspector General after suspecting one of their employees was violating policies and procedures of the bid gathering process.

In an investigation conducted jointly, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Office of the Ohio Inspector General found an ODOT employee was abusing and manipulating the bid gathering process in the purchase of building maintenance parts by allowing one vendor to issue multiple purchase quotes, on behalf of other vendors. This resulted in the illusion that competition was occurring in an open market between independent and unrelated companies to obtain the most competitive price for the state, when in fact it was not.

The same employee also created a potential safety issue at the ODOT district office where he worked, by failing to attend to his responsibility to properly maintain the fire suppression system.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2011-138 is now available at:  
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/oiginve2012.htm>

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