

**Office of Inspector General
Memorandum**

TO: David Sadler, P.E., Director, Office of Construction
THRU: Robert E. Clift, Inspector General *RE Clift 9-23-2014*
FROM: Howard Greenfield, Director of Investigations
DATE: September 22, 2014
SUBJECT: Accepted Proof for Maintenance of Traffic Supervisors
CC: Ananth Prasad, P.E., Secretary
Brian Blanchard, P.E., Assistant Secretary for Engineering and
Construction

During an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation, Case Number 152-14000, into the alleged falsification of American Traffic Safety Service Association (ATSSA) Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Supervisor training certificates by Josh Newman,¹ a former managing employee of AmeriSeal Highway Striping Inc.² (AmeriSeal), it was discovered five Department of Transportation (department) district offices are accepting the wrong proof of MOT Supervisor training.

Newman admitted to forging an MOT training certificate which was submitted to Districts Two and Three. Newman also said he was informed by the ATSSA that the certificates he was submitting to the department, "Maintenance of Traffic Supervisor Certificates of Attendance," were for attendance only and were not proof the holder passed the required test and were qualified to serve as an MOT Supervisor.

To identify other potentially fraudulent certificates, the OIG conducted a statewide review of contracts between the department and AmeriSeal dating back to 2010. During this process, a total of 13 contract administrators in Districts Two, Three, Four, Five and Seven were interviewed. Twenty-one contracts were identified wherein AmeriSeal was the prime contractor or a subcontractor and the MOT training attendance certificates were submitted and accepted by the department as proof of MOT Supervisor qualification.

¹ Former Vice President of Operations, AmeriSeal, 1275 County Road 210 West, Saint Augustine, FL, 904-826-0101

² 1275 County Road 210 West, Saint Augustine, FL, 904-826-0101

The ATSSA was contacted and Tammy Loving³ confirmed the training certificates being accepted by the department as proof of having passed the ATSSA MOT Supervisor course are only a record of attendance and not qualification. Loving clarified, when a person passes the course they are issued a "congratulatory letter" (attached) with an attached "wallet card" to memorialize the successful completion of the course. Loving indicated this wallet card is the most definitive documentation the department could accept as proof of a person being eligible to serve as an MOT Supervisor on department projects.

A review of the department Procedure No. 625-010-010-h, Maintenance of Traffic Training identified the following language related to valid proof of MOT certification:

Persons possessing current valid and verifiable wallet cards issued by an Approved Provider in accordance with this procedure or identification issued or approved by a certified Utility Agency Owner in accordance with the UAM shall be the only personnel approved to work on the Maintenance of Traffic activities for which they have been trained.

Additionally, the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, Section 105-8.3, Worksite Traffic Supervisor states,

Provide a Worksite Traffic Supervisor who is responsible for initiating, installing, and maintaining all traffic control devices as described in Section 102 and in the Contract Documents. Ensure that the Worksite Traffic Supervisor is certified in the advanced training category by a Department approved training Provider.

Based on the records reviewed and interviews conducted, a potential exists that statewide adherence to department procedure and standard specifications are not being met regarding the acceptance of valid documentation for MOT Supervisors certification.

³ Training Services Manager, ATSSA, 15 Riverside Parkway, Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA, 540-368-1711