

# Ethics and Conflict of Interest: Building Confidence in Government

**Presented by:**

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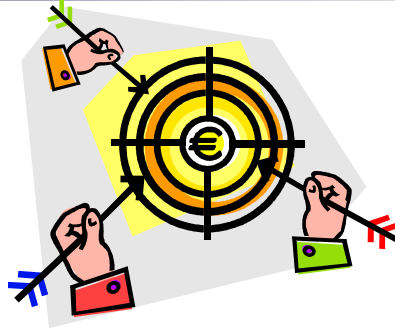
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# Goal



- Better understand how ethics:
  - Preserves the investment and integrity of transportation infrastructure
  - Promotes confidence in government at all levels

# Overview



- **Introduction of the panel**
- **Our Theme Today -**
  - Building and Preserving Confidence in government
- **Discussion Issues - Roundtable with audience participation**
  - Why we care about oversight
  - Conflicts of Interest
  - Post Employment Minefields
  - Public Service is a Public Trust
  - Role of various offices – from an ethics bird’s eye view
- **Q & A**

# Discussion Issues



- **Why we care about oversight**
  - Misconduct in public contracting
  - The government gets what it is paying for
  - Project is well-managed
  - Waste is reduced
  - Federal, State and Local investment
  - Stewardship, public trust, and integrity.
- **Conflicts of Interest**
  - FHWA conflict of interest regulations
  - Differences between avoiding the appearance of conflict vs. actual conflicts [What the public actually thinks]

# Discussion Issues Cont'd



- **Post Employment**
- **Public Service is a Public Trust**
  - Duty to disclose misconduct or fraud to proper authorities
  - Doing a good job is an ethical responsibility
- **Role of different offices – from an ethics bird's eye view**
  - FHWA; Inspector General; States; DOT Office of the Secretary

# Overview of the Revolving Door: Conflicts with Former Government Employees

- Post Employment Restrictions:  
18 USC 207
  - Provisions Applicable to All Former Government Employees
  - Provisions Applicable To Senior Employees



# Provisions Applicable to All Former Government Employees

- Lifetime prohibition on former government employee acting as an agent or attorney for someone in matter
  - Involving specific parties
  - Specific matters
- 2 year ban – Official responsibility





# Provisions Applicable to Senior Officials

- One-year ban on representing anyone before the department in which he served in any matter pending before or of substantial interest to the agency or department
- Senior officials cannot make a personal appearance in a matter in which the government is a party or is substantially interested, and in which the senior official participated personally and substantially in the government.

# Restriction on Outside Income for Government Employees



- 18 USC 209
  - Cannot receive compensation for work as an employee of Executive Branch from any source other than government of US
  
- Public officials must disqualify themselves from participating in any official action which may substantially affect their private economic interests

# Q & A



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