

### **Inspector General clears ODOT of concrete industry allegations.**

The Ohio Inspector General, Thomas P. Charles, (OIG) issued a report on August 13<sup>th</sup> of his findings regarding allegations made by the concrete paving industry against the Department of Transportation. In all cases the Inspector General found "... no reason to believe a wrongful act or omission occurred ..."

The investigation was originally requested by ODOT Director, Gordon Proctor, in response to a letter from State Representative Kevin DeWine. Subsequently, the OIG received a complaint from Tom Norris, Director of the Ohio Concrete Construction Association (OCCA), with additional allegations. The OIG combined these allegations into a single investigation under file ID numbers 20033073 and 2003111. The allegations were as follows:

*ALLEGATION 1: That favoritism exists in the pavement selection process toward the asphalt industry over the concrete industry.*

*ALLEGATION 2: That Ohio Department of Transportation officials failed to comply with Ohio Public Records Law.*

*ALLEGATION 3: That the director of the Ohio Department of Transportation acted improperly in contacting members of the concrete industry.*

With respect to the first allegation the OIG stated in his report, "In this case, there is no credible evidence that there has been favoritism in the process of pavement selection." In addition, in a footnote the OIG responded to the OCCA complaint that the new pavement selection process was biased as follows: "...we find no merit to claims that this new process is inherently unfair." In regard to all allegations the OIG stated, "Accordingly, we find no reason to believe a wrongful act or omission occurred in this instance."

The full text of the OIG's report is available on the website [www.state.oh.us/watchdog/](http://www.state.oh.us/watchdog/) along with the pertinent press release.