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### **NJ Readies New Contract Process for Motor Vehicle Inspection Program**

TRENTON – New Jersey will move forward with re-bidding the State contract for its far-ranging and evolving motor vehicle inspection program while simultaneously negotiating a continuation of the existing contract with Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group, Corzine Administration officials announced today. The dual track ensures the State's ability to proceed with a new RFP process that will be competitive, transparent and comprehensive, while maintaining continuity and uninterrupted service during a transitional phase for the contract.

The announcement caps off a series of due diligence and evaluation steps taken over the last two years designed to position New Jersey to implement the most state-of-the art emissions technology and prepare for evolving federal air quality and emissions standards. While the current contract is due to expire in August of 2007, contract terms allow the State to negotiate a temporary extension.

As part of a conditional extension of the Parsons contract in 2003, the State in 2005 contracted with MACTEC Federal Programs, Inc. to develop options for determining and implementing a new motor vehicle inspection system. Following an interim report from MACTEC in December of 2005, the Corzine Administration conducted its own independent review of the vendor's preliminary findings by retaining WGS Consulting, LLC, led by former Supreme Court Justice Alan B. Handler. Justice Handler's report was completed last fall, while MACTEC's final report was issued last month.

New Jersey Attorney General Stuart Rabner indicated that the analysis provided as a result of these reports will be incorporated into the new procurement process.

Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Sharon Harrington said MACTEC conducted a thorough national and international research that serves as the basis of the decision-making process.

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“MACTEC reviewed our current I/M program, assessed emerging technologies, solicited input from stakeholders and provided an important cost analysis of options. To date, the process has been a thoughtful undertaking that will ultimately lead us to an efficient and effective I/M system for the future,” Harrington said.

Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson noted that in partnership with the MVC, the DEP has been working to address how the inspection program can help New Jersey meet federal health standards for ozone and fine particles.

“It is imperative for us to maintain and increase, if possible, emission reduction benefits from our Inspection and Maintenance program,” Jackson said. “The Inspection and Maintenance Program is one significant example demonstrating New Jersey's commitment to do its fair share to clean our air quality regionally and locally. In each step along the way, from study, to RFP and finally implementation, we must ensure that our process leads to vehicle emissions that are within acceptable levels in neighborhoods across the State.”

Treasury Department Chief of Staff Michellene Davis explained that the contract for motor vehicle inspections is one of the most complex and labor intensive contracts in state government.

“The safety, emission and operational challenges posed by this procurement require the collaboration and coordination of multiple state agencies. As project champion for this procurement, Treasury will work with our peer agencies to ensure that the draft RFP and the RFP accomplish their objectives. Those objectives include delivering a contract that provides the emissions, quality, cost and service standards that our citizens deserve and must have from their inspection program,” she said.

**MV inspection contract fast facts:**

- Parsons operates 122 centralized inspection lanes at 31 facilities.
- Parsons has inspected more than 19.6 million vehicles for safety and emissions over the last eight years.
- Wait times at the inspection facilities averaged approximately 10 minutes in 2006, compared to approximately 17 minutes in 2003.
- Parsons has received compensation of \$475 million for those inspections.