



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Mike Braun, Governor
Lyndsay Quist, Commissioner

FILED

August 7, 2025

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INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

Katherine Noel, Chair
Indiana State Ethics Commission
315 West Ohio Street, Room 104
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

RE: Waiver of Application of 42 IAC 1-5-1 (the "Gift Rule") for Certain Items of Value Received by INDOT Employees in Relation to the Acuity Brand luminaire factory tour, product training and lunch on August 7, 2025.

Chairwoman Noel:

Commissioner Lyndsay Quist, the appointing authority of the Indiana State Department of Transportation ("INDOT"), has designated authority to me as the agency's ethics officer to waive application of the Gift Rule in individual cases when consistent with the public interest. I am hereby waiving application of 42 IAC 1-5-1 (a) for items of value received by INDOT employees Prakash Patel, Shahpor Shahbahrani, Ankur Desai, Nauman Ansari, Joe Bruno, Lalit Garg, Jack Gallagher, Asad Tanvir, Isabel Linter, Molly Sipes and Ivan Anwar Syed in relation to their attendance at the Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. ("Acuity") training on "Roadway Lighting Design software VISUAL," lunch, and factory tour ("training") on August 7, 2025. Each attendee will benefit from attendance for the reasons provided below.

Acuity Brands Sales Representative Jeff Clites has invited INDOT Traffic Engineering Division staff members to attend VISUAL design software training at its Crawfordsville, Indiana, factory on August 7, 2025. Lunch will be provided and the attendees are invited to tour the facility at the conclusion of the training. The only item of value INDOT employees will receive in relation to the training will be lunch, an approximate value of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per person, making the estimated total value of items received by INDOT employees in relation to the training Two Hundred-Twenty Dollars (\$220.00). The meal provided to the attending INDOT employees will be paid for by Acuity, one of several suppliers listed in INDOT's Qualified Approved Products listing ("QPL").

INDOT personnel covered by this waiver were instructed not to accept any other item of value from any other person or entity if that person or entity may have a business relationship with INDOT or may seek to influence an action by one or more INDOT personnel in his or her official capacity. INDOT personnel are regularly informed that the safest course of action at any industry event is to assume that anyone in attendance from the private sector might have a business relationship with INDOT.

The individuals who will attend the event are all employed in the INDOT Traffic Design division and therefore have direct roles in working with traffic industry stakeholders. The professional services provided by these individuals for INDOT will be enhanced by learning about evolving best practices and technological developments in the traffic design, engineering, and maintenance industry, and exchanging ideas with industry stakeholders in attendance. Accordingly, every INDOT employee who participated in the training event holds a

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position with duties that directly benefited from their individual attendance at the event through the educational opportunity.

Indiana Code 8-23-2-4.1(4)(A) provides that INDOT is responsible for the "construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, and repair of (state) highways" and Indiana Code 8-23-2- 5(a)(4) imposes upon INDOT the statutory duty in to "evaluate and utilize whenever possible improved transportation facility maintenance and construction techniques." By attending Acuity's training opportunity, INDOT employees will be educated concerning developments in the traffic design and engineering industry, including changing design best practices, technological advancements, and new product development.

Therefore, it is my opinion that it is consistent with the public interest for the below listed INDOT personnel to attend the Acuity Brand product training, lunch and facility tour on August 7, 2025, and to receive the item of value specified above, even though payment for these items was made by Acuity, a company with a business relationship with INDOT. Based on this finding, I am hereby waiving application of 42 IAC 1-5-1 (a) to allow INDOT employees Prakash Patel, Shahpor Shahbahrani, Ankur Desai, Nauman Ansari, Joe Bruno, Lalit Garg, Jack Gallagher, Asad Tanvir, Isabel Lintner, Molly Sipes, and Ivan Anwar Syed to accept food and beverages with a total value of Two Hundred-Sixty Dollars (\$220.00) provided by Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc.

If you need additional information or have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at Delaw@indot.in.gov

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/: Deborah Law

Deborah Law,
Senior Attorney & Ethics Officer
Indiana Department of Transportation