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DOT's inspector general lost 11 percent of its workforce to 'Fork' offers

BY CHINANU OKOLI | 06/12/2025 12:07 PM EDT

The DOT's inspector general's office has shed 42 employees since DOT began asking people to consider participating in its "deferred resignation" program — about 11 percent of the IG's workforce.

It's the latest in the drip-drip of staff departures at DOT, which has offered [two rounds of the Trump administration's](#) "deferred resignation program," the latest of which closed April 7.

When asked for comment, DOT pointed to a statement provided in April that emphasized the agency's commitment to safety.

"This is just one part of our effort to make DOT more efficient and accountable to the taxpayer," the statement said. "Those who perform safety-critical functions are exempt from this program."

A DOT spokesperson [told POLITICO in April](#) that around 4,000 people had decided to resign but didn't detail how many employees each agency has lost.

But POLITICO reporting has shown that the resignations are having a significant impact on some of the agency's functions — [including potentially jeopardizing work](#) being done at regional Federal Highway Administration offices.

Of the FAA's more than 46,000 employees, 3 percent — or about 1,600 people — have accepted the resignation offer, according to an FAA spokesperson. The agency said that the deferred resignation program has had no impact on its ability to perform safety-critical functions such as airline oversight and safety launch approvals.

“We can bring in new talent at the FAA where we are refreshing an organization that is built for the future, one that delivers an all-new air traffic control system to make air travel safer and an organization that ensures aviation manufacturers are delivering safe products,” the spokesperson said.

But some lawmakers have said they're worried that the FAA is [cutting too close to the bone](#), especially workers who support air traffic control functions.

Other offices, including FTA, FRA and FHWA, did not respond to requests for comment.



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DOT [had until March](#) to file a plan for reductions in force, but no announcements have been made. Employees have expected RIFs since Jan. 2025, when the Trump administration began its termination of [nearly 800 probationary employees](#) across DOT's offices in an ongoing effort to cut government spending.



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