

2015 National Roadway Safety Awards CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Jointly sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and the Roadway Safety Foundation

Purpose

The National Roadway Safety Awards is a biennial competition sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) to recognize roadway safety achievements that move the United States towards zero deaths and serious injuries on the Nation's roadways. The competition acknowledges successful engineering solutions that agencies have integrated into their roadway safety programs. Awards are given in two categories: Infrastructure and Operational Improvements; and Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation. Selected projects are included in a noteworthy practices guide so they can be replicated nationwide.

The FHWA and the RSF stress the importance of strategic, data-driven approaches to improving highway safety. Applicants are encouraged to nominate projects or programs that exemplify innovative and effective safety activities and maximize the cost effectiveness of Federal, State, local, and/or private sector funds.

Benefits of Being a National Roadway Safety Award Winner

Award winners will receive:

- An invitation and funded travel to attend an award ceremony in Washington, DC.
- Opportunities to network with legislators and key transportation officials in Washington, DC.
- National media coverage and additional local media support, identifying your organization as a leader in highway safety.
- Appearance in the *2015 National Roadway Safety Awards Noteworthy Practices Guide*, *Public Roads* magazine, the *Roadway Safety Reporter*, the *FHWA Safety Compass*, as well as other publications of national safety and transportation organizations.
- Recognition on several websites operated by FHWA, RSF, and their safety partners.
- An engraved trophy.

Award Criteria

State, local, and tribal governments; planning organizations; regional councils; LTAPs; TTAPs; and universities may apply and be considered for a National Roadway Safety Award. Each entry will be judged among other nominations in its category. A nominated project or program must demonstrate evidence of data-supported results, including documentation supporting the project's or program's success. Applicants are encouraged to review the application form as they consider submitting a project or program for an award. Projects in both award categories will be judged on the following criteria:

Effectiveness. Projects or programs that:

- Result in or demonstrate high potential for significantly reducing fatal and serious injury crashes.
- Create a proven case for greater emphasis on roadway safety in transportation planning, programming, project delivery, construction, and/or maintenance.
- Support safety improvements through greater public awareness that yields a positive change in transportation safety culture.

Innovation. Projects or programs that use innovative concepts at a national, state, or local level including:

- Creative approaches to address highway safety concerns.
- Innovative management approaches to overcoming barriers to safety implementation.
- Inventive solutions to a particular serious injury or fatal crash problem.
- Proactive involvement of the public and/or stakeholders.

Efficient Use of Resources. Projects or programs that:

- Are implemented cost-efficiently.
- Use planning and engineering resources efficiently and/or employ cost-sharing through multi-source partnerships, task forces, or coalitions.

Award Categories

Infrastructure and Operational Improvements

This category is defined as infrastructure or operational improvements to the roadway or roadside that improve safety. Following are examples of projects that have been selected for an award.

- **The J-Turn Experiment.** Awarded to the Tennessee Department of Transportation in 2013 for efforts to improve safety at dangerous intersections by implementing new J-Turn designs.
- **Rotary Conversion to a Roundabout.** Awarded to the Connecticut Department of Transportation in 2013 for proactively converting a rotary to a roundabout at the intersection of Routes 80 and 81, resulting in a 50% reduction in the number of crashes at that site.
- **Using Micro Surfacing to Reduce Wet Weather Crash Rates.** Awarded to the Minnesota Department of Transportation in 2011 for applying micro surfacing treatments to bridges and approaches to reduce wet weather crashes.
- **Evaluation of Moveable Barriers in Construction Work Zones.** Awarded to the Utah Department of Transportation in 2011 for its use of a moveable barrier system to positively separate workers and motorists and enable a larger, more efficient work zone in the off-peak periods to help accelerate construction.

“Apply! This is a great opportunity to share highway safety. Every life counts. The application process does take a bit of work, but it is definitely worth it. The recognition our agency received was fantastic. Not to mention the time I spent in Washington, DC and getting to know all the other award winners!”

Brent Jennings, Highway Safety Manager
Idaho Transportation Department

Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation

This category is defined as programs that identify and address State and local needs by making effective use of safety data and evaluations as well as tools and applications such as the Highway Safety Manual and Safety Analyst. Following are examples of winning projects.

- **Highway Safety Corridor Analysis Project.** Awarded to the Idaho Transportation Department in 2013 for establishing a new method to assess and rank safety projects to improve both cost effectiveness and overall safety results.
- **South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan.** Awarded to the South Central Planning and Development Commission (Louisiana) in 2013 for its use of partnerships and development of a data-driven action plan to identify regional and local projects that address four safety emphasis areas.
- **Smart Roadside Inspection Program.** Awarded to the New Mexico Department of Public Safety in 2011 for its use of roadside sensors which allow automated data collection to identify high-risk commercial vehicles.
- **California’s HSIP Application and Evaluation Tool for Local Roadways.** Awarded to the California Department of Transportation in 2011 for creating a user-friendly Highway Safety Improvement Program tool that makes fair and reliable statewide project selections following federal guidelines for proven safety countermeasures. The tool also encourages local agencies to put a greater emphasis on roadway safety through network analysis and low-cost safety projects, and works within the context of the state’s inconsistent, and not always reliable, local roadway safety data.

The application form and instructions are included with the Call for Nominations.

Additional details, instructions, and application packets are available at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov> or www.roadwaysafety.org.

National Roadway Safety Awards

Federal Highway Administration

FHWA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation's highway system and various federally and tribal owned lands. Through financial and technical assistance to State and local governments, we are responsible for ensuring that America's roads and highways continue to be among the safest and most technologically sound in the world.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590



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<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

Tara McLoughlin
202.366.2176

The Roadway Safety Foundation

RSF is the only national organization solely dedicated to reducing deaths by improving the physical characteristics of America's roadways – design and engineering, operating conditions, removal of roadside hazards, and the effective use of safety features. RSF works to attain its goals by building awareness through media campaigns and outreach activities, developing educational materials, and forming roadway safety partnerships between the private and public sectors. It is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization chartered by the American Highway Users Alliance.

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Roadway Safety Foundation
1920 L Street NW, Suite 525
Washington, DC 20036-5012

<http://www.roadwaysafety.org>

Greg Cohen
202.857.1228

