WHAT IS BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP?

The Build A Better Mousetrap is a national competition that highlights innovative solutions to everyday problems and issues that local and tribal transportation workers as well as other LTAP/TTAP clients encounter. They can range from the development of tools, equipment modifications, and/or processes that increase safety, reduce cost, improve efficiency, and enhance the quality of transportation.

Gain national attention for your agency and your community's commitment to safe and maintained roadways!

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

- Cost Savings / Benefits to the Community: 30%
- Effectiveness: 30%
- Ease of Transfer: 20%
- Ingenuity: 20%

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES:

- Inspection and Data Collection (automated means, testing, time)
- Asset Management Techniques (GIS, mapping, decision support systems)
- Maintenance Tools and Methods (lifters, reachers, assembly)
- Facilities Improvements (storage, operations, services)

Based on above criteria, Louisiana will choose a statewide winner in each category. Winning entries will then be submitted to the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association/Tribal Technical Assistance (NLTAPA/TTAP) Build a Better Mousetrap Nationwide Competition.

ENTRIES ARE DUE ON MARCH 30, 2019.
PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

Louisiana LTAP will facilitate the selection of PEOPLE’s CHOICE AWARD, which will be determined solely on the total number of likes on Facebook. All entries will be posted on LTAP’s Facebook Page where people can LIKE an entry to indicate their vote. Voting period will be announced later. Follow Louisiana LTAP Center on Facebook.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Please fill out a submission form which you can also find online under INNOVATION on www.louisianaltap.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Rudynah Capone at rudynah.capone@la.gov or Courtney Dupre at Courtney.Dupre@la.gov.

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

The electronic submission form requires you to upload a high quality photo or schematic of the project. Photos are preferred and videos are highly encouraged. Files should be 300 dpi or higher and in full-color JPEG, TIFF, EPS or PDF format of less than 7MB.

PRIZES:

* Free LTAP training inclusive of lunch
* Recognition at LPESA Spring Conference
* Nomination for the National Build A Better Mousetrap, where winners will be announced at the NLTAPA Conference in Vermont in August 2019.

MOUSETRAP WINNERS FROM OTHER STATES

From top-left clockwise:
Tractor-mounted shouldering box from Clearwater County Highway Department, MN (2017 Winner); Confine space simulator from City of Beacon, NY (2018, First Place in Inspection and Data Collection category); Pavement repair tracking software app from Arapahoe County Road and Bridge, CO (2018, Asset Management Techniques category); and Third Eye, a mirror mounted on the plow from DelDOT (2018, Winner in Maintenance Tools and Methods category)

A Guardrail Reclaimer
An innovation from the Gunnison County Public Works Department in Colorado.

Removing debris and sand from under guardrails requires a lot of time, labor and resources to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Staff at the Gunnison County Public Works Department tackled the problem by designing a bull blade and a scraper to fit over the forks of a skid steer, adjustable to guardrail height and post space widths. Using scrap metal, the team came up with this creative design for around $650. Now crews can clean more guardrails, more often.

You too can innovate!