2020
Build a Better Mousetrap Competition:
Recognizing Innovative Inventions and Improvements

Maryland Transportation Technology Transfer (MDT2) Center / Maryland's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Four categories, four potential winners!

MD T2 Center

National LTAP & TTAP Programs
Serving America's Local Road & Bridge Agencies

Have You Built a Better Mousetrap?

Have you or one of your coworkers recently built an innovative gadget or developed an improved way to do a job? If so, now is the time to show off a project your municipality is proud of in the Build a Better Mousetrap Competition.

We are looking for projects that you, your employees, or crew designed and built. It can be anything from the development of tools, equipment modifications, and/or processes that increase safety, reduce cost, improve efficiency, and improve the quality of transportation.

New this year, the contest will have four categories for submitting entries, with a potential winner in each. From among these winning entries, an overall Maryland winner of the contest will be chosen.

If you have something you think would qualify for this competition, submit your entries by **Friday, June 5, 2020**. Entries will be judged by a committee on cost savings/benefits to the community, ingenuity, transferability to others, and effectiveness.

The four winning category entries will be submitted to the national competition to compete for recognition and, of course, bragging rights. Winners of the national competition will be announced at the annual LTAP/TTAP national conference. All entries at the national level will be posted on the LTAP/TTAP program website and compiled into an electronic booklet.

To enter the competition, complete the entry form that follows and
return it by Friday, June 5, 2020
If you have questions, please feel free to email them
to mdt2@umd.edu or call Carly Keane at 240-304-9627.

Judging Criteria

The competition is judged on the criteria listed below within the framework of a 10-point rating scale. Provided is a list of the judging criteria and the rating scale. The winner is the entry with the highest number of overall points.

Judging Criteria

- Cost Savings/Benefits to the Community
- Ingenuity
- Ease of Transferability to Others
- Effectiveness

Five-Point Rating Scale

- 5 = Excellent
- 4 = Very Good
- 3 = Good
- 2 = Fair
- 1 = Poor

2019 Build a Better Mousetrap: Competition Winners

1st Place National Winner

Winning Entry: Spreader Rack
East Brandywine Township, Chester County

East Brandywine's road department devised a portable storage rack for the spreaders made of scrap lumber and $50 in wheels and bolts. The rack holds four spreaders and can be moved around the garage and outside to a lift for mounting the spreaders on the trucks.

Runner-Up: Inlet Grate Puller
City of Easton, Lycoming County

The City of Easton employees designed and fabricated an inlet grate puller to make it easier to remove storm sewer inlet covers for inspection and cleaning. For around $150 in labor costs, the user-friendly tool was made with a stop sign post, a chain with a hook, and a car jack. The puller eliminates the need to use a backhoe to remove difficult grates.

Runner-Up: Polish Paver
City of Williamsport, Lycoming County

The City of Williamsport submitted an innovative design it calls the "Polish paver." At a cost of around $600 and 24 hours of labor, staff used steel, a welder, pins, and bolts to create a device that attaches to the back of a dump truck and allows them to repair more potholes with the least amount of manpower and equipment. Two employees operating the Polish paver can lay about 10 tons of blacktop in 10 minutes, thus eliminating the need for a paver.

2020 Build a Better Mousetrap Competition Entry Form

Agency Name: Contact Person:

Contact Phone #: Contact Email:

Contact Address:

County:

Entry Title:

Contest Category (Check the category that best fits your mousetrap.)

- ☐ **Data Collection and Asset Management** – innovation in collection processes, tools or modeling/analysis that improves outcomes for an organization.
- ☐ **Sustainability** - innovation in the delivery of durable pavements, maintenance functions and advances in safety, energy efficiency, and materials recycling.
- ☐ **Design and Construction Methodology** – innovative design and construction strategies that can be replicated or serve as examples to advance the process of road construction.
- ☐ **New Tools, Applications or Equipment** – innovative solutions that enhance quality, improve efficiency, increase safety, or enable new construction techniques.

Problem Statement:

Discussion of Solution:

Labor, Equipment, Materials Used:

Cost:

Savings/Benefits to the Community:

Please email photographs to mdt2@umd.edu and include the municipality and the entry title.

You may enter more than one entry. Use separate forms for each entry.

Please return your completed form by **Friday, June 5, 2020**, to mdt2@umd.edu or mail it to:

MDT2 Center/ MD LTAP
Attention: Carly Keane
5000 College Avenue,
Suite 2200
College Park, MD 20742

Questions? Please call Carly 240.304.9627.