



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
& FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

AASHTO

State Transportation Innovation Council - STIC Excellence Award

Foreword

America's highway community faces significant challenges: an aging infrastructure, growing traffic volumes and limited staffing and funding resources. Widespread use of innovation and enhanced business processes is essential to meeting customer needs and increasing the efficiency of project delivery. Initiatives such as Every Day Counts, the AASHTO Innovation Management, and others are designed to promote innovations and support the highway community in putting them into practice. Whether through training, workshops, demonstrations, technical assistance or incentive funding, the result of these initiatives is rapid technology transfer and accelerated deployment of innovation across the nation.

Key components to the success of innovation deployment programs such as EDC are the state-based approach and State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) concept. A STIC or other equivalent task force, committee, or group is intended to bring together public and private transportation stakeholders to evaluate innovations and spearhead deployment in each State.

In addition to lessons learned and best practices associated with specific innovations, States can also learn from each other in terms of organizational capacity, processes, and procedures for the evaluation and implementation of innovations. It takes the work of many stakeholders to deliver a highway program, and the state-based approach is designed to bring those stakeholders together to focus on the innovations with the most impact. States with a strong culture of innovation are able to leverage the resources of the highway community and get innovations into practice quickly. The establishment of a well-organized STIC or equivalent group, defined processes and procedures, and engaged leadership serve as the foundation for fostering a culture of innovation within a State. These are key ingredients to nurturing an environment that is open to change and encouraging innovation is essential to an efficient and high performing department of transportation.

This award recognizes a STIC that has made significant impact toward fostering a **strong culture for innovation**.

Process

Listed below is the process for submitting nominations for consideration by the STIC Excellence Award Committee to receive an award:

- Complete the attached nomination form. Up to two pages of additional documentation will be accepted, and all other materials will be discarded.
- Each nomination must be endorsed by **two** STIC member stakeholders (i.e. Industry associations, Local Transportation Agency, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, University, etc.) and approved by the STIC co-Chairs by their signature on the nomination form.
- **All nominations should be accompanied by a color photograph that represents the STIC achievements.** If your STIC is selected as an award winner, we may also ask for video(s), PowerPoint presentation(s), and other material on accomplishment(s) and/or the project for our use in producing a video of the award recipient. This video will be shown during the annual meeting award ceremony. Please note that the materials are not part of the judging process, and they will not be returned to you.
- Nominations should be received at the FHWA office no later than **Friday, December 13th** of the award year to receive consideration.
- The approved nominations will be forwarded to the award committee for selection. The award committee is comprised of the AASHTO Innovation Initiative and FHWA. A committee member that is in the state that is being evaluated must recuse themselves from the panel.
- The award recipient will be announced at the National STIC Network Meeting and the Spring AASHTO Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Zaharewicz, FHWA Accelerating Innovation Programs Director, at Jeffrey.Zaharewicz@dot.gov or (202) 366-1325.

State Transportation Innovation Council – STIC Excellence Award 2024 Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Reason for Nomination: *(Should additional space be required, please include in a separate document.)*

Tell us:

- how your STIC is making a difference in your State,
- how your STIC is bringing together all stakeholders to promote innovation statewide,
- your best practices for creating a strong culture of innovation, and
- specific examples and results your STIC is seeing from these efforts

Please attach additional pages to this form to showcase your State Transportation Innovation Council accomplishments. You can include photographs, links to videos, or links to other accomplishments you would like to showcase.

Endorsement by two or more STIC member stakeholders (i.e. Industry associations, Local Transportation Agency, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, University, etc.):

| No. | Name of endorser | Title | Association |
|-----|------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Note: Nominations must be approved by the STIC co-Chairs of the nominee’s state and must be received in the FHWA office no later than December 13, 2024.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Please send or email to:

Subject: **STIC Excellence Award**

Attention: Jeffrey Zaharewicz

Federal Highway Administration - Office of Technical Services (OTS)

1200 New Jersey Ave SE (Room E73-311) Washington, D.C. 20590

Jeffrey.Zaharewicz@dot.gov