



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



**Tribal Technical
 Assistance Program**

2019 BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP COMPETITION

**Gain national attention for your tribe's commitment
 to safe and high performing roadways**

Have you dreamed up a new way to tackle a transportation problem?
 Has a member of your crew created a new tool to help make roads safer?
 Has a staff member discovered a better way to get the job done?

Then you've built a better mousetrap.

It might be a new tool or an equipment modification, or a brand new way to increase safety or reduce costs.

Great ideas often come from the field. That's why the FHWA Center for Local Aid Support sponsors the 'Build a Better Mousetrap' competition.



It's a great way to share creative solutions with the transportation community.

Submit your entry to the **TTAP** Mousetrap competition. The winning TTAP entry will compete with winning entries from Local Technical Assistance Programs from across the country.

The final winner will be announced at the 2019 NLTAPA Conference in Stowe, VT on August 12-15. Compete for national recognition and bragging rights!

Call or email the TTAP Center for assistance with your submission.

Find more info and the submission form at
www.ttap-center.org/events/

WWW.TTAP-CENTER.ORG



833-484-9944 TOLL FREE

**DEADLINE TO APPLY
 JUNE 3, 2019**



JUDGING CRITERIA

Cost Savings

Does your solution get the job done at a reduced cost?

Benefits to Community

Does your solution offer advantages that don't currently exist?

Ingenuity

Is your solution clever and unique?

Transferability

Can your solution be easily adopted by others?

Effectiveness

Does your solution solve a transportation problem?



Check out previous 'Build a Better Mousetrap' national winners

Pavement Repair Tracking Software App (Arapahoe County Road and Bridge Department, Colorado)

An app that uses GIS data to monitor upcoming and completed pothole and patch repairs, providing real-time map data viewing and collection anywhere in the county.

Repurposed Guardrails for New Building Construction

(Clearwater County Road and Bridge Department, Idaho)

Old guardrails became "forklift-proof" siding on a new building constructed to store large bales of recyclables, saving the county \$30,000 on the cost of the new building.

Portable Manhole Cover for Confined Space Training (Highway Department of Beacon, New York)

A mobile structure that simulates a complete confined space manhole, providing safe training for large groups in one session, and eliminating the unpredictability of training outdoors. Material costs = \$1500.

Survey Pin Puller (Sioux County Secondary Roads Department, Iowa)

A device featuring a wheel, handle grips, and tubing that removes stubborn survey pins more easily and quickly - all for less than \$100 in development costs.

The Guardrail Reclaimer (Gunnison County Public Works Department, Colorado)

A bull blade and a scraper that fits over the fork of a skid steer, adjustable to guardrail height and post space widths, to remove sand and debris lodged beneath the guardrail. Using scrap metal, the team came up with this creative design for around \$650.

Asphalt Patch Trailer Improvements (Polk County Asphalt Crew, Minnesota)

A platform access stairway and a newly-designed swinging boom that increase the reach of the tack oil wand, reducing blocked travel lanes and worker entanglement issues. Total development cost = \$550.

Submission Tips and Guidelines

- ★ Complete an application form.
- ★ Let us know how your solution addresses a problem and could be used by other transportation workforces.
- ★ Submit high res photos in jpg format. What's in the picture?
- ★ For extra points, submit a video. Less than 5 minutes please! An iPhone or iPad camera will work just fine!
- ★ Find more tips and guidelines at www.ttap-center.org/events/2019-build-a-better-mousetrap-competition/.

