2015

Build a Better Mousetrap Competition:
Recognizing Innovative Inventions and Improvements

PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program

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.

PennDOT is 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.

If you have something you think would qualify for this competition, submit your entries by **Friday, March 6, 2015**. Entries will be judged by a committee of municipal road employees on cost savings/benefits to the community, ingenuity, transferability to others, and effectiveness.

The winning entry will be submitted to a regional and 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 this summer. 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 or the electronic form posted on the LTAP website under the “News” section and **return it by Friday, March 6, 2015**.

If you have questions, please feel free to email them to katkinson@psats.org, or call Karen Atkinson at (717) 763-0930 ext. 156.
Judging Criteria

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

### Judging Criteria
- Cost
- Savings/Benefits to the Community
- Ingenuity
- Transferability to Others
- Effectiveness

### Five-Point Rating Scale
- 5 = Excellent
- 4 = Very Good
- 3 = Good
- 2 = Fair
- 1 = Poor

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### 2014 Build a Better Mousetrap: Pennsylvania Competition Winners

**1st Place Pennsylvania Winner and 1st Place Mid-Atlantic Regional Winner**

**Winning Entry: Road Saw Hitch Receiver/Carrier**

**Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County**

For $40 and about two hours of labor, the township built a road saw hitch receiver and carrier. Instead of having to hook up a trailer for transport and then block the road while cutting, the township designed and built a lightweight carrier that hooks easily to a truck, allows for quick and easy transport to a site and eliminates the need to store and maintain another trailer.

**Runners-Ups**

**Lafayette Township, McKean County**: The township constructed a roller that attaches to its boom tractor used for sweeping. Built for approximately $75 in about two days, the attachment eliminates another piece of equipment at a site where the township is cutting and compacting road shoulders. Now, the road crew can simultaneously sweep and compact with one piece of equipment and the use of the side deck attachment keeps the tractor on level, stable ground.

**Bushkill Township, Northampton County**: To make it easier and safer to sweep roads, the township built a sweeper that mounts to a plow truck. It allows one man to attach the device and sweep roads while cleaning up job sites and after storms. Built for less than $660 over a period of three days, the sweeper attachment saves the township time and money and eliminates the need to hire outside contractors to sweep.
2015 Build a Better Mousetrap Competition Entry Form

Agency Name: ________________________________  Contact Person: ________________________________

Contact Phone #: ________________________________  Contact Email: ________________________________

Contact Address: ____________________________________________

County: ____________________________________________

Entry Title: ____________________________________________

Problem Statement: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Discussion of Solution: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Labor, Equipment, Materials Used: ________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Cost: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Savings/Benefits to the Community: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

*Photographs are encouraged, but not mandatory. You may use more than one page per entry. This form and an electronic form can be downloaded from the LTAP website www.ltap.state.pa.us - under the “News” section.

Please return your completed form by Friday, March 6, 2015, to katkinson@psats.org, fax it to 717-763-9732, or mail it to:

PennDOT LTAP
c/o PSATS
Attention: Karen Atkinson
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

Questions? Please call Karen (717) 763-0930 ext.156.