

## SHOW OFF YOUR ROAD CREW'S INNOVATIVE GADGETS AND IDEAS BY ENTERING THE BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP INNOVATION CHALLENGE

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Have you or one of your employees recently built an innovative gadget or come up with a better way to do a job? If so, now is the time to show it off by entering the **Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Challenge**.

Municipalities must use limited budgets and resources to serve the needs of residents and innovation can be the mission-critical factor that helps bridge that gap. Local road practitioners continually implement incremental changes in their processes, tools, and services to reflect changes in technologies and best practices. In their roles as innovators, municipal staff leverage their considerable creativity, technical expertise, and diverse talent pool to suggest changes that are useful, valuable, and impactful to their local transportation system. The Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Challenge showcases the most clever and creative practices and tools from across the state. By sharing these innovations with one another, local road departments can adopt these new tools and practices, and deliver more efficient, cost-effective services to their communities.

LTAP is looking for creative solutions from municipal employees. These innovations should increase safety, reduce costs, or improve efficiency through the development of new tools and equipment or the modification of existing processes. Technological innovations and unique use of new electronic tools such as drones, apps, computers, smart phones, tablets, etc., are welcome. Go to the LTAP website and learn more on the Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation challenge page.



**Have you or members of your team come up with clever, cost-effective practices that streamline work or save the municipality time and money? Share the innovation! Enter the Build A Better Mousetrap Innovation Challenge!**



## Show Us Today

“Show Us Today!” is a simple way to send LTAP a few details about your innovation and LTAP will provide feedback and may assist with developing your application. Simply email LTAP ([ltap@pa.gov](mailto:ltap@pa.gov)) your contact information and a brief description along with a photo or video of your innovation!

It is best to send the “Show Us Today” ideas by the first Friday in January to provide some time for feedback and potential assistance before the entry form deadline in March; however, new ideas and innovations are accepted year-round!

## Innovation Challenge Entry Form

If you are ready to fill out the entry form, simply click on the light bulb that appears on the LTAP homepage. The deadline for submission is the first Friday in March for each year’s contest. The information for submitting the form, photos, and optional video is on the form.

## Judges

The LTAP Advisory Committee – a group made up of your peers – will judge the entry on cost, savings/benefits to the community, ingenuity, transferability to others, and effectiveness.

## National Contest

The top Pennsylvania entries will be submitted to the national Build a Better Mousetrap contest. Winners of the national program will be announced at the annual national LTAP conference held in the summer.

## Past PA Entries

Wondering what has been submitted in the past? The Pennsylvania LTAP Past Entries booklet has descriptions of the past recognitions and photos of the innovations. The booklet is a great resource to find innovative ideas that may work in your municipality.

## Past PA National Winners

### 2022 – Sidewinder

#### South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County

South Manheim Township came up with a way to preserve materials, save time, and create a more consistent fill along berms with the sidewinder. The township used existing materials and a donated ATV plow to create a product that saves money, time, and materials.



### 2020 – Black Top and Shoulder Stone Paver

#### Lower Heidelberg Township, Berks County

The Lower Heidelberg Township public works department created the Black Top and Shoulder Stone Paver that allows stone and black top to be unloaded and laid down in just six to eight minutes compared to 35 minutes by hand. The result is more efficient operations and a smoother riding surface.



### 2019 – Spreader Rack

#### East Brandywine Township, Chester County

The East Brandywine Township road crew designed a portable storage rack for salt spreaders using scrap lumber and inexpensive wheels. A hoist lifts the spreaders for mounting on trucks. The rack saves time for the department utilizing one person and no equipment to install and remove the salt spreaders from the trucks.



## Resources

Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Challenge: <https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/ltap/Public/Mousetrap.aspx>

Build a Better Mousetrap Entry Form: [https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/BPR\\_PDF\\_FILES/Documents/LTAP/2024\\_BBMT\\_PA.pdf](https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/BPR_PDF_FILES/Documents/LTAP/2024_BBMT_PA.pdf)

LTAP Past Entries booklet: [https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/BPR\\_PDF\\_FILES/Documents/LTAP/BBMT\\_History\\_PA.pdf](https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/BPR_PDF_FILES/Documents/LTAP/BBMT_History_PA.pdf)

LTAP: <https://gis.penndot.pa.gov/ltap>

If you have any questions, you can call LTAP at 1-800-FOR-LTAP for assistance.