2027 Louisiana Transportation Excellence Awards

Along with the bi-annual Louisiana Transportation Conference, through the Louisiana Transportation Excellence Awards, DOTD recognizes transportation projects that demonstrate excellence in transportation planning, design, and construction. The competition recognizes projects deemed the "best of the best," making a difference for the people and businesses who use them.

Categories

The categories for the 2027 Louisiana Transportation Excellence Awards are:

- Bridge Design/Project Development
- Road Design/Project Development
- Intermodal/Public Works Design/Project Development
- Bridge Construction
- Road Construction
- Other Infrastructure Construction
- Safety
- Quality of Life/Community Development
- Best Use of Technology & Innovation
- Operations Excellence

Nomination Procedure

See attached entry form and instructions.

The deadline for nomination submittal is January 15, 2027.

The nominated project must have been completed or substantially completed between December 1, 2024 and December 31, 2026. An evaluation team consisting of DOTD staff will review and score all nominations. Winners will be announced no later than February 15, 2027, and awards will be presented at the Louisiana Transportation Conference in March 2027.

Louisiana Transportation Excellence Awards submittals could also be nominated for similar regional or national awards, such as the annual America's Transportation Awards Competition sponsored by AASHTO.

Entry Format

Each entry must include the following:

1. A completed entry form
2. At least *two* testimonials from non-DOTD employees to support the story of the project and its benefits

3. At least *three* high quality JPG (.jpg) images of the project, complete with photo captions [NOTE: please include people in photos, whether in construction or customers utilizing your projects. Empty roadways, bike paths, bridges, or other infrastructure don't adequately highlight your projects.]

And, optionally:

1. A project video (either as an attachment or a Word document with a YouTube link to the video) not to exceed five minutes in duration
2. Appendices presenting additional information to support the entry such as newspaper, trade publication or magazine articles

NOTE: *Photographs or diagrams must be submitted separately (not embedded into a presentation) with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. It is important that these images be high quality to be used online and in marketing materials. We also ask you provide descriptive photo captions for each photo.* ***Your submission should not include creative elements (such as, photos, graphs, charts, graphics) that violate or infringe upon another person's or company's rights, including but not limited to copyright. If you do not own copyright to any creative element, please remove it from your submission.***

Nominations are limited to **10 pages** and shall be submitted in .pdf format. A submittal that exceeds the page length or contains superfluous, inappropriate, illegible, or insufficient material may be deemed unsuitable for consideration for award.

Applications must be submitted by email to mark.chenevert@la.gov by no later than close of business **January 15, 2027.** Mark will send a reply email for each nomination to indicate that he has received your submittal. Direct any questions to that email address.

All entries will remain the property of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. At the discretion of the judges, an entry may be moved to a different award category if deemed appropriate.

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Project Nomination Form

Applicant Name/ Contact Info:	
Project Name:	
Project Location:	
Project Owner/ Contact Info:	

Category of Entry (Check One):

	Bridge Design/Project Development
	Road Design/Project Development
	Intermodal/Public Works Design/Project Development
	Bridge Construction
	Road Construction
	Other Infrastructure Construction
	Safety
	Quality of Life / Community Development
	Best Use of Technology & Innovation
	Operations Excellence

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Design/Project Development Awards

Projects nominated in one of the Project Development categories should demonstrate excellence in the prosecution of the pre-construction phase of a project. Items that may be considered are innovative approaches to solving challenges related to the human and natural environment, construction time, impacts to traffic and the travelling public, new technology or design approach, sustainability and resiliency, management of construction costs, management of the project development schedule, approach to utility and right of way impacts, and general project complexity.

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in one of the Project Development categories, please address the following:

- **Project challenges (40 points)**
    - How did this project overcome challenges to project design or delivery?
- **Innovative approach (25 points)**
    - What innovative approaches were used to overcome project challenges?
- **Customer focus (20 points)**
    - How were project goals met and how did the project meet public expectations?
- **Quality process and results (15 points)**
    - How did the project address project costs, schedule, and quality?

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Construction Awards

Projects nominated in one of the Construction categories should demonstrate excellence in the prosecution of the construction phase of a project. Items that may be considered are innovative approaches to solving problems related to construction methods, construction time, impacts to traffic and the travelling public, control of project costs, workforce shortages and/or lack of diversity, advancements in construction technology, jobsite safety, long term project resiliency and sustainability, project complexity, and/or construction innovation.

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in one of the Construction categories, please address the following:

- **Project challenges (40 points)**
    - How did this project overcome challenges to constructing the project?
- **Innovative approach (25 points)**
    - What innovative approaches were used to overcome project challenges?
- **Customer focus (20 points)**
    - How were project goals met and how did the project meet public expectations?
- **Quality process and results (15 points)**
    - How did the project address project costs, schedule, and quality?

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Safety

The Safety category celebrates projects that were completed to address safety concerns and issues and were successful in doing so. Through the use of proven countermeasures, projects in this category serve as success stories for others looking to try something new/innovative/different to drive down crashes. Projects in this category should consider all road users, including vulnerable road users.

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in the Safety category, please address the following:

- **Project benefits (40 points)**
  - What was the safety issue and how did this project address it?
  - How did this project make the community safer?
  - Who did this project make safer?
- **Anticipated economic benefit (25 points)**
  - Is the project anticipated to benefit the local community/regional economy as a whole?
  - What effect, if any, will the project have on the local/regional economy moving well into the future?
- **Customer focus (20 points)**
  - How was public support demonstrated for the project?
  - Describe the effectiveness of the public communications program to involve customers from planning through final execution of the project.
- **Quality process and results (15 points)**
  - Describe the effectiveness of all of the partnerships involved in the project.
  - How did management demonstrate and promote quality as part of its philosophy of operations?

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Quality of Life / Community Development

The Quality of Life/Community Development category recognizes transportation projects that have significantly benefited the community in which they exist, especially in the form of economic growth and well-being of citizens. These projects better connect people to businesses, jobs, health care facilities, and recreational activities while also encouraging a mix of transportation modes. Priority is given to projects that enhance and support transit and non-motorized transportation. Projects entered in this category should focus on how the project made the community (or state or region) stronger and better.

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in the Quality of Life / Community Development category, please address the following:

- **Project benefits (40 points)**
  - How did this project impact the community?
  - How did customers benefit/how did it improve the lives of citizens?
  - Was the project focused on alternative modes of transportation and/or allow for increased multi-modal access?
- **Anticipated economic benefit (25 points)**
  - Is the project anticipated to benefit the local community/regional economy as a whole?
  - What effect, if any, will the project have on the local/regional economy moving well into the future?
- **Customer focus (20 points)**
  - How was public support demonstrated for the project?
  - Describe the effectiveness of the public communications program to involve customers from planning through final execution of the project.
- **Quality process and results (15 points)**
  - Describe the effectiveness of all of the partnerships involved in the project.
  - How did management demonstrate and promote quality as part of its philosophy of operations?

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Best Use of Technology & Innovation

The Best Use of Technology & Innovation category recognizes new technology and/or creative/innovative solutions implemented as part of a transportation project. Nominees should focus on how the new technology or innovative solution was able to help the project in a way no other solutions could (for example, did it save time or money or help cross other hurdles? Did it exemplify innovative asset management?).

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in the Best Use of Technology & Innovation category, please address the following:

- **Project benefits (40 points)**
  - What was the technology/innovation used to complete this project and why is it innovative?
  - What did the customer gain by utilizing this innovation/technology? How did it impact the project in a way that would not have been possible without it?
- **Anticipated economic benefit (25 points)**
  - Is the project anticipated to benefit the local community/regional economy as a whole?
  - What effect, if any, will the project have on the local/regional economy moving well into the future?
- **Customer focus (20 points)**
  - How was public support demonstrated for the project?
  - Describe the effectiveness of the public communications program to involve customers from planning through final execution of the project.
- **Quality process and results (15 points)**
  - Describe the effectiveness of all of the partnerships involved in the project.
  - How did management demonstrate and promote quality as part of its philosophy of operations?

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Operations Excellence

Projects nominated in in the Operations Excellence category should demonstrate the ability to **operate and maintain** the existing transportation system as safely and efficiently as possible. They make more effective use of already existing transportation assets and processes (such as infrastructure, procedures, technology, partnerships, etc.) that allow for cost-effective, near term solutions. Nominations in this category might also include efforts at maintaining or even regaining previous levels of capacity while improving safety performance levels, and can be focused on specific areas of operations activities, such as maintenance, traffic incident management, arterial management, etc. This is a category in which to celebrate excellent asset management.

Because an operations approach requires not just improving the system directly but also an additional focus of maintaining an operations-focused mindset, this category is open to projects that have improved operations programs or the role of operations within the agency.

Judges will look at each overall project and the story that is told. If you are nominating a project in the Operations Excellence category, please address the following:

Project benefits (40 points)

- How did the project better utilize existing assets to increase safety, improve reliability, or reduce congestion within the transportation system to benefit users?
- How did customers win from this project and its operations solutions?

Anticipated economic benefit (25 points)

- Is the project anticipated to benefit the local community/regional economy as a whole?
- What effect, if any, will the project have on the local/regional economy moving well into the future?

Customer focus (20 points)

- How was public support demonstrated for the project?
- Describe the effectiveness of the public communications program to involve customers from planning through final execution of the project.

Quality process and results (15 points)

- Describe the effectiveness of internal and external partnerships involved in the project.
- How did management demonstrate and promote quality as part of its philosophy of operations?