



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PennDOT Honors Employees for Innovative Ideas

Uniontown, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently recognized PennDOT employees with Innovation Awards for their efforts to improve work practices and create efficiencies. Team members from PennDOT's District 12, which represents Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties were among the honorees.

"PennDOT has a strong legacy of creativity to help us meet our daily mission and goals," said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. "I'm proud to recognize these employees for their creativity and dedication to the department."

Employees were recognized for ideas and smart practices submitted through IdeaLink and WorkSmart, online suggestion systems that allow employees to share their ideas and efficient work practices. Over the last decade, PennDOT staff have submitted more than 3,300 ideas through IdeaLink, several hundred of which have been implemented. Since 2016, more than 230 smart practices have been published in PennDOT's WorkSmart system.

Additionally, a team of 68 employees from PennDOT District 12 received the George W. McAuley Innovation Award for their efforts to quickly repair the bridge carrying Route 51 over Interstate 70 in Rostraver Township. The award is named in memory of PennDOT's late Executive Deputy Secretary George W. McAuley, who championed innovation and continuous improvement at the department. The award recognizes a team of three or more employees who worked together to solve a problem or advance an innovation for PennDOT.

The team members included Adam Smith, Angela Saunders, Arnold Sherbondy, Barry Lyons, Benjamin West, Bill Beaumariage, Bret Donovan, Brian Galley, Brian Spacht, Bryan Walker, Camden Duvall, Carson Shaulis, Craig Ambrose, Darren Ryan, Dave Forkey, David Dulik, Denise Wachs, Doug Keselyak, Eric Baker, Eugene Pritchard, George McFeaters, Hannah Formica, James Sisul, Jay Ofsanik, Jeremy Hughes, Jeremy Shaneyfelt, Jim Sarver, Jim Sutor, Jim Zorzi, Joe Hornock, Joel David, Joel Morris, Jonathan Dempsey, Joseph Shash, Josh Levendosky, Josh Timko, Kenneth Shimko, Larry Davis, Louis "Joe" Horwath, Mark Geisel, Mark Manko, Mark Penska, Matt Shipley, Melissa Maczko, Michael Miskanin, Michael Temoshenka, Mike Blair, Mike Burger, Mike Firtz, Noah Fox, Paul Sutton, Rachel Duda, Rob Whipkey, Robb Dean, Ronald Muir, Roy Ott, Ryan Cavallo, Scott Faieta, Scott Ferrenberg, Steve Hoyer, Tanner Brice, Thomas Miller, Tim Cook, Tim Harper, Tim Long, Tim Passino, Troy Lux, and Yasmeen Manyisha.

Gramian and other department executives honored winners during a ceremony in Harrisburg on Nov. 30. Bill Kovach, Dave Forkey, Rachel Duda, Bryan Walker, and Jeremy Hughes were in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the 68 member I-70 and Route 51 Emergency Bridge Repair Team. Also recognized was Denny Myers, who was awarded an Innovation Award for his Live Accident Notification Form, which provided a new process for expedited notifications to key personnel.

"Our district is honored to receive these awards," said PennDOT District 12 Executive Bill Kovach. "The employees recognized exemplify the highest standard of dedication to service and commitment to safety that PennDOT strives to represent. I am proud to serve with such a devoted team and want to thank them for their contributions to innovation, teamwork, and the safety of motorists and our fellow employees."

Subscribe to PennDOT news and traffic alerts in Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties at www.PennDOT.pa.gov/District12.

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