2023 Awards & Achievements

AASHTO Committee on Transportation Communications (TransComm)
TransComm Skills Contest
Interactive Marketing
Recipient: Bike IN Safe

The TransComm Skills Contest is conducted annually by the AASHTO Subcommittee on Transportation Communication to recognize the outstanding work of its public-relations practitioners and promote an exchange of ideas. The contest is the premier communications competition in the transportation industry, and the awards are a standard of public-relations excellence among state departments of transportation.

INDOT's The Bike IN Safe program received a first-place award for interactive marketing. The category is for any form of marketing that is designed to engage the public in an activity that educates or informs about a state department of transportation project or initiative.

Bike IN Safe aims to reduce injuries in deaths among school children by promoting bicycle safety and getting safety gear to as many Indiana students as possible. Through May 2023, INDOT conducted more than 200 Bike IN Safe events at schools and community organizations and agencies and distributed more than 80,000 helmets along with string bags to carry those helmets, activity books, wrist reflectors, reflectors for bike spokes, and activity stickers to elementary age children across Indiana. Another 11,500 children's bike helmets were distributed at the 2023 Indiana State Fair.

American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
Research Advisory Committee Sweet Sixteen Award
High-Value Research Project
Recipient: Road Conditions Detection and Classification from Existing CCTV Feed

The AASHTO Research Advisory Committee honors 16 high-value state research projects nationwide. The national competition emphasizes the benefits of research and implementation strategies by state departments of transportation. The Sweet 16 consists of the top four identified projects from each of the four national AASHTO regions.

INDOT's winning project is the result of a collaboration involving INDOT and Purdue University's Joint Transportation Research Program, which identifies and fosters innovations that advance efficiency of Indiana's transportation infrastructure.

INDOT has more than 500 digital cameras to monitor traffic and incidents along INDOT roadways in populated areas. The videos from the cameras are observed one by one by human operators. The main objective of the project was to develop an automatic, real-time system to monitor traffic conditions and detect incidents automatically based on INDOT's CCTV feed. The team designed hardware and software components to add to the existing CCTV system, the database structure for traffic data extracted from the videos, and a user-friendly web-based server for showing the incident locations automatically. Specific work in the project included detection of traffic-flow rate, traffic conditions, and traffic incidents, as well as classification of vehicles involved in incidents.