No Boundaries Roadway Maintenance Pooled Fund Program Update

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What is No Boundaries

- Pooled fund project (formerly #TPF-5(330), now Solicitation #1504)
  - A community of practice for roadway maintenance professionals
  - Identify innovative technologies and practices used by DOTs
  - Promote their use across states through marketing materials, training classes, webinars and other technology transfer efforts
- Complements AASHTO MaC peer discussions and relationships
- Focus on spring/summer/fall maintenance needs; excludes winter-specific maintenance
Pooled Fund Members
20 State DOTs

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Benefits

- **Networking and collaboration** with other agencies
  - Happens at a national level
  - Two-way street

- **Practitioner oriented**
  - Hands-on and usable today
  - Share new and better equipment, materials, procedures

- **Consistency** across agencies
  - Performance-based maintenance
  - Transportation asset management
  - Shared research (statements and outcomes)

- **Cost effective**
  - Minimize duplication of effort
Meetings for Peer Information Sharing

• Peer exchanges for members once or twice yearly
• Presentations by state DOTs and guest agencies:
  - Innovations
  - Program updates
  - Round table discussions
• Technical Tours
Maintenance technical tours

- **Austin**: TxDOT Vehicle Fabrication Shop
- **Denver**: I-70 Eisenhower Tunnel
Innovation has become a key focus area for No Boundaries... for all areas related to maintenance:

- Equipment and materials
- Asset management
- Program management
- Recruitment, training, engagement and retention
- Contracting
A range of innovations...

Solar Gore Point Warning Flasher

Drone Herbicide Sprayer

Roadside

Safety

MoDOT

MDOT

Michigan Department of Transportation

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Spotlight Innovations

Reusable Temporary Flood Barriers

Helmet Sticker Recognition

Emergency Mgmt.

Engagement

SCDOT

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Innovations captured in the program’s Innovations Database

- Innovations in all areas of non-winter maintenance
- Goal is to establish this as a national clearinghouse
- Open to submissions from all public agencies
Some agencies have programs to identify, reward, and implement innovative technologies and practices.
TRB Lectern Session on Innovation Programs

• Survey of state innovation programs - a nationwide snapshot
• Case studies from two No Boundaries member states
  - Minnesota
  - Connecticut
• Federal perspective

Find all of the following presentations at maintainroads.org/publications-and-presentations/
Session 1: Survey of state innovation programs

Inquiry by No Boundaries subject matter expert

Successes and challenges of 7 DOTs

Highlighted innovation program features:

- Program History
- Program Development
- Administrative Costs
- Success Stories
- Publication
- Lessons Learned
- ROI
- Employee Motivation
- Recruitment/Retention
- Goals and Objectives
- Project Selection Criteria
- Lessons Learned
Sessions 2 and 3: Case Studies

- **Minnesota**
  - Focus on MnDOT’s Maintenance Operations Research Program

- **Connecticut**
  - Focus on State Partnerships

MnDOT’s Maintenance Operations Research Program (MOR)

- **WHO WE ARE**
  - Serve as a catalyst of collaboration and innovation for the Minnesota Department of Transportation

- **WHAT WE DO**
  - Fund the testing and evaluation of innovative products and practices that have the potential to significantly improve the efficiency and safety of MnDOT maintenance activities

- **CORE FOCUS**
  - Safety
  - Snow & Ice
  - Road & Roadside Maintenance
  - Bridge & Structures
  - Traffic Operations

CT Partners to Advance Innovation:

- Connecticut Transportation Institute
- Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center
- U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
Session 4: Federal Perspective

Existing and new federal programs to foster the spread of innovation
How to Become a Member

• Phase II ended in June 2019, but Phase III solicitation is underway with minimum commitment already met

• Evolving Focus
  - Phase II: Roadway Maintenance Practices
  - Phase III: Transportation Maintenance Innovations

• Visit pooledfund.org or contact No Boundaries for more details at maintainroads.org
Thank you!

- Questions?