




## Transportation Vanguard Award Nomination Form

**2014**

### INFORMATION ON NOMINEE:

Last Name: Bradley	First Name: Estochen	Date: September 25, 2014	
Email: Bradley.Estochen@state.mn.us		Position Title: State Traffic Safety Engineer	
Department: Minnesota Department of Transportation		Phone: 652-234-7010	
Street Address: 1500 West CR B2	City: Roseville	State: MN	Zipcode: 55113
AASHTO Committee Membership (optional) <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>			

### NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Last Name: Susan	First Name: Mulvihill	Date: September 25, 2014	
Email: sue.mulvihill@state.mn.us		Position Title: Chief Engineer and Deputy Commissioner	
Department: Minnesota Department of Transportation		Phone: 651-366-4800	
Street Address: 395 John Ireland Blvd	City: St. Paul	State: MN	Zipcode: 55155
Endorsement of Member Department Secretary/Director: Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner, Charles Zelle			

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Using a maximum of 2 additional single-sided pages, please provide reasoning as to why this individual should be selected as the Transportation Vanguard Award recipient. Please include as much specific information about the candidate as possible, including special projects, personal attributes, dedication, etc.

Send nominations by **Friday, September 26, 2014**, via e-mail to [mvitale@ashto.org](mailto:mvitale@ashto.org). Nominations must be submitted **as a single file** in MS Word format using **TVA2014\_Nomination\_Nominee\_Name.doc** as the file name.



## Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

### **AASHTO Transportation Vanguard Award 2014 Nomination**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation would like to nominate Bradley Estochen for the AASHTO Transportation Vanguard Award 2014.

Those who know or work with Brad find him to be extremely dedicated to the transportation profession. They are also acutely aware of the vast strides he has made in the realm of transportation safety, through the many accomplishments and successes he has already achieved throughout his career.

Brad believes in solving real-world safety problems using innovation, technology, collaboration with partners and solid research. For the past four years, he has served as MnDOT's state traffic safety engineer and prior to that, for five years he was MnDOT's assistant safety engineer. During those combined nine years, Brad championed the development of safety plans for 87 counties and all of MnDOT's districts (eight) statewide. These safety plans have been strongly instrumental in bringing traffic safety partners together (including the 4 E's), to collaboratively work toward zero deaths at the local level. This large-scale undertaking would not have happened nor completed without Brad's leadership. He initially worked with a consultant to develop the fundamental process, but then refined and comprehensively improved the process as each project phase was completed. Throughout it all, Brad was the MnDOT lead on the project team and fully participated, from beginning to end, from the review of all the data to the development of all the final plans. This remarkable safety initiative formed a national model for which Minnesota was recognized and honored for with a National Road Safety Award from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Roadway Safety Foundation in 2011.

Through this planning process, spearheaded and managed by Brad, Minnesota refined the way safety projects are developed and prioritized, especially in rural Minnesota. This effort represented a huge cultural change for the engineering community, which typically thought of safety projects only from a reactionary or "black spot" point of view. Brad has led the effort to educate both state and local engineers about this new approach so they are willing (or even "excited") to construct safety projects. Ten years ago, minimal safety funds were allocated toward rural Minnesota. Today, due in great part to Brad's leadership, safety projects throughout the entire state, to address ALL roads in both urban and rural environments from border to border, have been identified and funded.

Brad's experience also crosses into the other "E's" of traffic safety. For the past 13 years, he has been an on-call firefighter and EMT for the city of Woodbury, MN, a booming enclave of the Twin-Cities. This position has given him the opportunity to apply his engineering experience and skills to help train and educate his city public safety colleagues, particularly about responder safety at freeway crashes. He continuously reinforces and empowers them and empowers them with information on the importance of the cable median barrier, how it works, and why it is installed on roadways. This is an especially critical component of Brad's contributions to the team, as emergency responders sometimes view cable barrier as an impediment to "response."

## **MnDOT Nomination - 2014 AASHTO Transportation Vanguard Award**

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Traffic safety research is also an important area to move Minnesota and the entire nation toward zero deaths. As such, Brad is the one who represents MnDOT at the national level regarding traffic safety research, where his involvement includes serving as a FHWA Low-Cost Safety Improvement Pooled Fund technical liaison, and as a member of the Highway Safety Improvement System (HSIS) technical working group. Brad was also nominated to serve on the SHRP 2 Safety Technical Coordinating Committee and, most recently, MnDOT was awarded for the SHRP 2 Implementation Assistance Program for Work Zone Safety Investigation Project.

Prior to Brad's work in the safety arena, he also was a young project manager with MnDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) section. In this important role, he managed several ITS projects, including the Telematics/May Day 9-1-1 field operational test (part of NG 911 program), the Intelligent Vehicle Initiative (IVI) Smart Plow (part of national IVI program) and the Highway Rail Intersection Crossing project (wireless warning system). Also during this time, Brad volunteered his time to take part in the ITS Minnesota organization by co-chairing the Communications Committee and the Outreach Committee.

Brad is truly an inspiration to engineers, planners, and others within MnDOT, as well as his peers on city, state and local levels, for the impact he has had and the difference he has made to promote, further legitimize and elevate the critical role and importance of comprehensive transportation safety today.