



# Transportation Vanguard Award 2020 Nomination Form

**Who is being nominated?**

Last Name: Barnes		First Name: Kristin		Date: September 24, 2020	
Email: kwbarnes@ncdot.gov			Position Title: Deputy Division Engineer		
Department: NCDOT			Phone: (252)813-5612		
Street Address: PO Box 3165		City: Wilson	State: NC	Zip code: 27895	
AASHTO Committee Membership (optional): <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>					

**Who is nominating this person?**

Last Name: Boyette		First Name: Eric		Date: September 24, 2020	
Email: jeboyette@ncdot.gov			Position Title: Secretary		
Department: NCDOT			Phone: 919-707-2800		
Street Address: 1501 Mail Service Center		City: Raleigh	State: NC	Zip code: 27699-1501	
Endorsement of Member Department Secretary/Director (signature): 					

**Instructions:**

Using a maximum of 2 additional single-sided pages, please explain why this individual should be selected as the 2020 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 **September 30, 2020**, via e-mail to [jdawkins@ashto.org](mailto:jdawkins@ashto.org). Nominations must be submitted as a single file in Microsoft Word format using **TVA2020\_LastName\_FirstName.doc** as the file name.

Kristin Barnes exemplifies the spirit of the Vanguard Award. Throughout her career, she has been on the forefront of advances in processes for NCDOT that have fundamentally changed the agency.

Her efforts on this project alone would make her a strong candidate for this award. But Kristin's innovative perspective, ability to analysis a system, identify innovative enhancements or improvements and build consensus has benefits NCDOT on multiple projects. In addition, her hands-on experience as a maintenance and operations engineer at the regional level has provided her the insight to not just develop ideas but develop ideas that work.

Kristin was part of the team that created the Maintenance and Operations Performance Assessment Report (MOPAR) at the state level, which compliments FHWA's Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP). As a result of this team, every two years, NCDOT submits a detailed report of department successes and the needs of the department to the NC General Assembly. This report is a data-driven assessment that is used by policy makers to determine the appropriate level of spending on department programs. This formalized process provides structure to policy makers and has shaped NCDOT investment strategies to the great benefit of the people of this state.

This same logical, data driven, process-based approach has been applied to our RMIP (Routine Maintenance Improvement Program). This establishes goals that will extend the life of existing infrastructure – including the modes. It also breaks down goals into specific projects, outlines a 5-year plan, and establishes a budget. Paramount to the success of this project has been Kristin's ability to shift internal thinking. MOPAR and RMIP would not be successful if Kristin had not been ability to develop a workable system and define the need to implement it while garnering support from her coworkers, supervisors and senior management.

When NCDOT began a project to streamline project delivery and to decentralize projects, Kristin was a critical member of that team. This project focused on identifying the appropriate planning document as well as identifying which project components could be delivered concurrently. This approach decreased preconstruction project timing by as much as 50%, allowing more projects to be ready in less time. The efforts to decentralize projects was to have the responsibility of project delivery be at the local and division level where engineers are most familiar with the projects. Local engineers would then call in subject matter experts if needed.

Early in her career, Kristin assisted leadership in what would be one of the most influential projects at NCDOT, the creation of the Strategic Transportation Investment Act of 2013. This legislation reformed the entire capital projects programming process, removing politics from the process. Today, NC is a leader in programming projects based on quantitative data that scores projects in three categories – statewide, regional and local. This new, innovative process has creating a system that relies on data, regional collaboration and is transparent and accountable. This projects shifted the culture at NCDOT and Kristin was an important supporting staff member during its creation.

It is important to realize that Kristin has been an active and critical member of these projects while at the same time, continuing to perform her primary duties as a project engineer, district engineer, resident engineer and most recently as deputy division engineer. She brings a creative, problem-solving mindset to every challenge. She is a unique engineer who has been an integral part of significant changes within NCDOT. She is very deserving of the honor.