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Transportation Vanguard Award 2020 Nomination Form

***Who is being nominated?***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last Name: Ciparelli** | **First Name: Gregory** | | | | **Date: September 18, 2020** | |
| **Email: gregory.ciparelli@ct.gov** | | | **Position Title: Transportation Supervising Planner** | | | |
| **Department: Connecticut Department of Transportation** | | | | | **Phone: (860) 594-2108** | |
| **Street Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike** | | **City: Newington** | | **State: CT** | | **Zip code: 06111** |
| **AASHTO Committee Membership (optional):** Presented at 2018 AASHTO GIS for Transportation Symposium - Session titled: *LRS Enabled Parallel Field Data Collection;* Session titled: *Adding MIRE Attribution to the Enterprise Network Asset Data Model.* Co-developed workshop for 2018 AASHTO GIS for Transportation Symposium - Workshop titled: *Linear Referencing and Asset Modeling for ARNOLD, MIRE, and ADA.* | | | | | | |

***Who is nominating this person?***

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| **Last Name: Cabelus** | **First Name: Robbin** | | | | **Date: September 18, 2020** | |
| **Email: Robbin.Cabelus@ct.gov** | | | **Position Title: Transportation Planning Director** | | | |
| **Department: Bureau of Policy and Planning, Connecticut Department of Transportation** | | | | | **Phone: 860-594-2051** | |
| **Street Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike** | | **City: Newington** | | **State: CT** | | **Zip code: 06131** |
| **Endorsement of Member Department Secretary/Director (signature):**  **Commissioner of Transportation, Joseph Giulietti** | | | | | | |

***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@aashto.org](mailto:%20jdawkins@aashto.org). Nominations must be submitted as a single file in Microsoft Word format using *TVA2020\_* *LastName\_FirstName.doc* as the file name

***NOMINATION OF GREG CIPARELLI, CTDOT FOR 2020 AASHTO TRANSPORTATION VANGUARD AWARD***

**Introduction:**

We would like to take this opportunity to nominate Greg Ciparelli, Supervising Transportation Planner, and lead for the CTDOT’s newly established Enterprise GIS and Data Analytics Unit for the 2020 AASHTO Transportation Vanguard Award. Greg has brought an incredible and impressive array of skills to this new position. Through his dedication, passion, professionalism, and leadership he is single handedly changing the data culture of the agency while helping it to move strategically in enterprise data directions that it might not otherwise have embraced. Within a short span of time he has become the go to GIS person for senior management for both short- and long-term business intelligence and analytics. His influence across the agency goes well beyond his position and cuts across all aspects of policy, program and technical decision making. His recent COVID-19 support work has influenced decisions by the Commissioner and has been used to keep all of state government informed including the Governor.

Through his ability to learn, engage and experiment, he has become the agency’s de facto chief technologist and software application innovator. No one in the agency has the breadth and depth of his understanding of such a wide range of technology applications and their intended use. He has mastered the intricacies of such new applications as data collection tools for MIRE, Web and mapping applications, new data migration processes, innovative use of GIS tools and databases, application of change management and data governance processes, and data visualization and been able to integrate them into the agency’s business processes. More importantly, he has leveraged and integrated these applications in a way that enables them to perform beyond their intended functional objectives.

Greg has also made the agency a leader in FHWA and AASHTO sponsored GIS related initiatives and willingly participates in national working groups and pooled fund studies. His open and engaging style enables him to communicate easily at all levels of the organization. He is a teacher in the full sense of that term by listening, understanding, and guiding his peers to adopt or develop new solutions of their own. Most of all his enthusiasm and energy are infectious bringing new levels of interest and engagement to every meeting. He is a true change agent in how he is shaping individuals, groups, and the agency as a whole every day with his knowledge and can-do attitude. Greg brings a unique blend of self-taught technical skills, an ability to embrace new tools and strategies, a broad based understanding of business processes, a commitment to growing agency wide capabilities, and personal and professional leadership that is simply unrivaled in the agency.

The CTDOT community is proud to have him as an employee and to acknowledge the trusted and valued contributions he is making to grow the agency’s enterprise GIS capabilities on a daily basis. Greg has both initiated, led and been highly involved in the following cutting-edge technology initiatives:

* *Data Analytics and COVID Pandemic Support*
  + Played a lead role in setting up a remote work environment for the CTDOT staff working with IT to assure network access, hardware and software applications were available to continue business operations.
  + Worked extensively with the CTDOT leadership team to establish business intelligence capabilities regarding how the pandemic was affecting roadway and mass transit patterns including its impact on accessible bus routes for hospital and emergency workers as well as on traffic volumes/vehicle speeds and their impact on crash rates.
* *GIS Capability Development, Team Leadership, and Technical Support*
  + In a very short period of time, Greg has consolidated and ratcheted up the GIS capabilities of the agency responding to a pent-up demand for technical support in geodatabase development, management, and visualization. Through his leadership he has been able to bring together IT and business users into collaborative partnerships related to GIS capability development. He was instrumental and successful in negotiating the first ever GIS enterprise license agreement with the leading provider of GIS software.
  + Current multi modal projects include publishing dashboards for tracking AADT, support for collecting drainage network data, mapping at grade rail crossing data and integrating functional class with crash data to auto populate a new Highway Safety Office e-grant system.
  + Under his leadership, the GIS team has also led the migration of technology such as FME to read and transfer data across data platforms; an ad hoc tool is being developed to enable users to easily populate enterprise metadata. Greg’s team is now routinely a part of every major asset database discussion and business solution across the agency.
* *Development of Innovative Roadway Data Collection Technologies* 
  + As a result of Greg’s leadership, CT is one of the first States in the country to develop a Web-based desktop application to collect intersection/ approach attribution quickly and accurately utilizing an LRS, aerial photography, and crowd sourced street level imagery. This work is so innovative that FHWA asked Greg to present on this effort at peer exchanges around the country as well as at AASHTO’s 2018 GIS-T conference in Little Rock. An FHWA peer exchange group has recently recommended that this tool be adopted as a *national standard* for the collection of MIRE compliant intersection data.
  + In addition, Greg initiated and led a development team to build a state-of-the-art browser-based roadway and asset data collection tool. Features include an innovative process for loading and transmitting data across multiple platforms, an ability to observe and collect data using multiple views, an ability to be used in the field and the office, scalability to include new assets and a new level of capability to support timely Federal reporting of roadway mileage and attributes. The application is in final testing mode and will be deployed shortly. The application has been presented to national audiences and has received extremely positive responses.
  + FHWA requested that Greg serve as a State lead in a pilot “pooled fund” study to develop guidance documents for the collection of non-State-owned roadway and asset information. This effort will explore several technology options that can be used to improve the quality and timeliness of local data collection. Greg has also led an internal effort to automate with GIS mapping software the agency’s ENG 29 data collection tool, an annual exercise to update local roadway data for national HPMS reporting.
* *Transportation Enterprise Data Development*
  + Greg has been a remarkable leader and contributor to the Department’s efforts to build a first class transportation enterprise wide data system (TED); he serves as a pivotal point of contact among all internal and external partners involved in the initiative. He has been part of all TED architecture and operational model discussions and has worked directly with national GIS experts in testing methodologies to migrate data through different levels of development.
  + Greg continues to lead his team on all major data governance responsibilities including oversight of a multi-tier GIS developer and business user structure implementing best practices and required data management standards. His team has partnered with UCONN to develop GIS publishing standards to assure consistency and reliability of all internal and public facing data.

We would like to finally note that Greg has been recognized for a long time by FHWA as one of a small group of young and innovative national technical leaders breaking new ground in the area of roadway safety data collection, management, analysis and reporting. He just recently presented his intersection inventory model at a FHWA sponsored peer exchange for the Agency’s Enterprise GIS Data in Transportation project (AEGIST). Greg’s commitment to excellence, insatiable curiosity in new forms of business intelligence coupled with his willingness to help colleagues find pragmatic and useful solutions are considered exceptional within the Department. Coupled with his excellent communication and collaboration skills, he provides the CTDOT with an invaluable resource with which to confidently move forward with new cross cutting tools and technologies that continue to add value to its mission and core functions. We believe he is highly deserving of this year’s AASHTO Vanguard award.