



# Transportation Vanguard Award 2020 Nomination Form

## Who is being nominated?

<b>Last Name:</b> Sexton	<b>First Name:</b> Timothy	<b>Date:</b> September 23, 2020	
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:timothy.sexton@state.mn.us">timothy.sexton@state.mn.us</a>		<b>Position Title:</b> Assistant Commissioner, Chief Sustainability Officer, and Director, Division of Sustainability and Public Health	
<b>Department:</b> Minnesota Department of Transportation		<b>Phone:</b> 651-366-3622	
<b>Street Address:</b> 395 John Ireland Blvd.	<b>City:</b> St. Paul	<b>State:</b> MN	<b>Zip code:</b> 55155
<b>AASHTO Committee Membership (optional):</b> Committee on Environment and Sustainability (Steering Committee) and Transportation System Security and Resilience (Steering Committee), Center for Environmental Excellence Technical Working Group			

## Who is nominating this person?

<b>Last Name:</b> Daubenberger	<b>First Name:</b> Nancy	<b>Date:</b> September 23, 2020	
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nancy.daubenberger@state.mn.us">nancy.daubenberger@state.mn.us</a>		<b>Position Title:</b> Deputy Commissioner & Chief Engineer	
<b>Department:</b> Minnesota Department of Transportation		<b>Phone:</b> 651-366-4826	
<b>Street Address:</b> 395 John Ireland Blvd.	<b>City:</b> St. Paul	<b>State:</b> MN	<b>Zip code:</b> 55155
<b>Endorsement of Member Department Secretary/Director (signature):</b> 			

### 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.

I am pleased to nominate Tim Sexton, the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Assistant Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer, for AASHTO's Transportation Vanguard Award. In Tim's career with MnDOT, and previously at the Washington State DOT, he has been at the forefront of new developments, leading the creation of new processes and technologies in environmental stewardship, public health and transportation sustainability, which have influenced actions in Minnesota and the US. Tim exemplifies a commitment to excellence and innovation in all that he does and in the leadership he provides for Minnesota and nationally.

Tim leads the Division of Sustainability and Public Health, which coordinates across the agency to move MnDOT forward in extraordinary ways to address internal agency sustainability, reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector, increase resilience of the transportation system and improve public health in transportation. He was chosen to lead this new effort due to his expertise and passion for understanding transportation's role in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, how our industry can prepare for extreme weather impacts to transportation and unique public health background. Tim was swiftly promoted to Assistant Commissioner for his strong leadership in establishing sustainability and public health performance measures and reporting to ensure agency focus and accountability on this important endeavor. MnDOT is now committed to lead by example in reducing emissions from our agency operations and in partnering with the public, private and nonprofit sectors to reduce emissions from the transportation sector as a whole.

Examples of Tim's leadership and innovation include:

- Leading the Office of Sustainability and Public Health, whose influence expands over the entire agency.
- Establishing MnDOT's first Sustainable Transportation Steering Committee in 2016 to provide leadership, strategic direction and oversight for high-priority natural resource issues and agency-wide environmental sustainability activities. Sponsored by the Chief Engineer, the Steering Committee is composed of leaders representing many functions, including operations, maintenance, construction and program delivery areas.
- Establishing MnDOT as the first state agency to apply the state's Next Generation Energy Act GHG reduction goals to all agency operations, including fleet fuel use and electricity. MnDOT was also the first state in the country to create GHG reduction goals for the transportation sector and the state highway construction program.
- Leading several innovative MnDOT partnerships with state and federal agencies, philanthropic foundations and the private sector to advance sustainability and improve MnDOT's relationships and reputation with traditional and non-traditional transportation partners.
  - Led development of Memo of Understanding with five states, US Department of Energy and the City of Detroit to designate I-94 as an alternative fuel corridor for electric vehicle charging. Coordinated internally to install the first related signage and MUTCD updates in the US.
  - Led development of a 13-state comment letter to the FHWA about GHG performance reporting and a five-state comment letter on proposed changes to NEPA.
  - Led creation of transportation pooled funds to address EPA PM2.5 reporting and updates to the FHWA Infrastructure Carbon Estimator.
  - Led new partnership with Xcel Energy (largest utility in Minnesota) to support electrifying the entire MnDOT passenger vehicle fleet.
- Creating new performance measurement-driven processes at MnDOT to make progress toward state and agency sustainability goals focused on saving money and reducing pollution. These goals are outlined in the agency's annual sustainability report (now in its fourth year), which includes 38 performance measures that address agency goals, statutory requirements and Governor's Executive Orders.
  - Initiated RFP for solar energy that resulted in two, 25-year agreements to purchase over 7 million kilowatt-hours (24% of total agency electricity), with cost savings of over \$1M. This increased progress from 0% to 8% toward MnDOT's goal for renewable energy at our facilities.
  - Led development of the state's first state strategic plan for EVs that set the state EV goal for all vehicles in Minnesota and informed the distribution of Volkswagen settlement funds for EV chargers.

- Oversaw creation of a tool to guide MnDOT vehicle purchases toward electric options, when they meet the business need and result in lower total cost of ownership to the department. This will help MnDOT make progress toward the goal of 100% of our passenger vehicles being EV by 2030.

I would like to especially highlight one innovative effort that Tim initiated and led, *“Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation.”* Tim invited other state agencies, nonprofits and philanthropic partners to coordinate on projects designed to make progress toward the state’s statutory GHG reduction goals. The three-part process included working with state and national transportation experts to identify options for reducing GHG emission, contracting with national experts to model options and hosting extensive statewide public outreach with more than 1,500 Minnesotans to get their feedback on the future of transportation. The project achieved the following outcomes:

- Governor’s Executive Order 19-35, which established the Governor’s Council on Biofuels.
- Rulemaking by the state environmental agency to adopt California vehicle emissions standards.
- Creation of nation’s first EV toll credits for managed lanes.
- Development of MnDOT Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council with public, private and nonprofit sector stakeholders and elected officials to advise the agency on how to reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector.
- Decision by MnDOT to evaluate GHG emissions on transportation projects and creation of a new tool to streamline analysis.
- Support for stakeholder process, led by nonprofit partner, to evaluate potential for a low-carbon fuel standard in Minnesota.
- Creation of new \$2M/year Clean Transportation Funding Program focused on supporting adoption of clean transportation technologies by rural communities, tribal governments and communities of color and low-income residents.
- Notable Document Award by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Tim is also leading new MnDOT efforts to understand how our investments can improve public health outcomes for all Minnesotans; there is no national precedent for this work. His team led outreach to over 300 partners and used input to develop pilots for new approaches to Complete Streets, public health narratives to improve understanding of health and transportation and is developing new approaches to identify and reduce public health impacts on MnDOT transportation projects.

Tim is a frequent presenter at national events and has leadership roles in national and international transportation organizations, including TRB (Chair, Sustainability Section), US Climate Alliance (Co-Lead, Transportation Working Group), Panel Member and Chair for over 10 NCHRP projects, PIARC (US delegate, TC 14 Climate Change and Resilience) and Greenroads International (Board of Directors). In 2018, Midwest Energy News recognized Tim as one of its “40 under 40.”

Prior to joining MnDOT in 2016, Tim demonstrated similar innovative leadership in his roles with the Washington State DOT (WSDOT), including serving as Lead for the first WSDOT sustainability report and Co-Lead for the first state DOT guidance in the US for addressing climate change in NEPA, and leading nationally recognized research in quieter pavements and bridge expansion joint noise, authoring the state’s noise policy, and supporting the first Health Impact Assessment for a large bridge replacement project in the US.

Tim has keenly followed transportation industry changes and sees that technological advancements like electric vehicles can help reduce environmental impacts, reliance on foreign oil and the cost of driving. He has also stepped up to support me in leading AASHTO’s Electric Vehicle Working Group as the Chair/Convener.

Thank you for your consideration of Tim Sexton for this important and prestigious award. With his foresight on where we need to move as a transportation sector in Minnesota and nationally, coupled with his strong leadership skills and innovative spirit, Tim is very deserving of this award.