



# Transportation Vanguard Award 2020 Nomination Form

## Who is being nominated?

Last Name: Siwula		First Name: Jason		Date: September 29, 2020	
Email: Jason.Siwula@ky.gov			Position Title: Acting Executive Director – Office of Highway Safety/Assistant State Highway Engineer – Innovation - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet		
Department: State Highway Engineers Office – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet				Phone: 502-782-5537	
Street Address: 200 Mero Street		City: Frankfort	State: KY	Zip code: 40622	
AASHTO Committee Membership (optional): <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>					

## Who is nominating this person?

Last Name: Ballinger		First Name: James		Date: September 29, 2020	
Email: James.Ballinger@ky.gov			Position Title: State Highway Engineer		
Department: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet				Phone: 502-782-4969	
Street Address: 200 Mero Street		City: Frankfort	State: KY	Zip code: 40622	
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@aaashto.org](mailto:jdawkins@aaashto.org). Nominations must be submitted **as a single file** in Microsoft Word format using **TVA2020\_ LastName\_FirstName.doc** as the file name.

Since 2000, when he began with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) as a Transportation Scholarship recipient, Jason Siwula has been a proponent of innovative transportation systems and doing the careful work that is necessary to make sure new ideas and practices safely and effectively transform how drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users experience and navigate the state's highways. After he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky in 2004, Jason first worked as a Maintenance Engineer before transitioning to a Staff Engineer position. In this latter role he had the opportunity to shift his attention toward safety projects and transportation operations, a focus which endures today. Jason currently serves as KYTC's Innovation Engineer and Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety. Over the past 10 years, he has served as Kentucky's authoritative voice on the national stage on issues ranging from highway safety to strategies for integrating research into agency practice.

Jason sits on many committees at the state and national level. In Kentucky, he is a member of the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety, a multi-agency group that develops holistic strategies to improve highway safety. He has also vocally advocated for the Cabinet to integrate crowdsourced data into traffic operations and was a driving force behind KYTC's partnership with Waze and devising novel methods to push critical information to the public. Another key responsibility is overseeing preparation of Kentucky's State Highway Strategic Plan, which lays out educational, enforcement, and engineering initiatives designed to promote safe driving. Additionally, Jason serves on five AASHTO committees, including the Committee on Safety, the Committee on Performance-Based Management, the Data Management and Analytics Group, the Research Advisory Committee, and the *Highway Safety Manual* (2nd Edition) Steering Committee. This affords him the opportunity to share Kentucky's best practices with officials nationwide. He also serves on the committee for the development of the Highway Safety Manual, second edition, that is currently being developed.

Some of Jason's most important and innovative contributions have emerged through his involvement with the Cabinet's research program. Since 2014 he has played a central role in Kentucky's State Planning and Research (SPR) program. In 2014 he was named Kentucky's first "Innovation Engineer", focusing on the implementation of research initiatives and technology applications to further the mission of KYTC. In addition to safety-related projects, he has taken a particular interest in knowledge management, recognizing that transportation agencies succeed or fail based on how effectively institutional knowledge is preserved and communicated to new and existing staff. He spearheaded the Highway Knowledge Portal, project jointly undertaken with the Kentucky Transportation Center researchers that is converting all of the material found in Cabinet's manuals, policies, and guidance into compact, self-contained articles that can be read, understood, and applied by even the most novice staff. As the Highway Knowledge Portal gradually comes online it will transform KYTC's business operations.

Jason has also brought his passion for and knowledge of research and innovation to the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He served on the panel for NCHRP 20-108 (Guide to Sustaining a Culture of Innovation within Departments of Transportation) and chaired the panel for NCHRP 03-119 (Application of MASH Test Criteria to Breakaway Sign and Luminaire Supports and Crashworthy Work-Zone Traffic Control Devices). He is also a member of TRB's Standing Committee on Performance Based Management.

Although much of Jason's time is spent looking for new ways to push KYTC's practices in new directions, he is also a masterful storyteller who works tirelessly to communicate with the public through local media, social media, and presentations about the importance of safe driving practices, and with agency staffers about how their workflows can be transformed by applying innovative strategies. He recognizes that innovations gain value — in the eyes of both the public and agency staff — when they are visible, and strives to illuminate how they prove transformative in ways big and small and how each day they make our transportation networks a little better.