



Transportation Vanguard Award Nomination Form

2014

INFORMATION ON NOMINEE:

Last Name: Pence	First Name: Alice	Date: September 24, 2014	
Email: alice.pence@itd.idaho.gov		Position Title: GIS Analyst	
Department: Idaho Transportation Department D1 Traffic		Phone: (208)772-1216	
Street Address: 600 W. Prairie Ave	City: Coeur d'Alene	State: Idaho	Zipcode: 83815
AASHTO Committee Membership (optional) Click here to enter text.			

NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Last Name: Hawkins	First Name: Ryan	Date: September 24, 2014	
Email: ryan.hawkins@itd.idaho.gov		Position Title: Traffic Engineer	
Department: Idaho Transportation Department D1 Traffic		Phone: (208) 772-1218	
Street Address: 600 W. Prairie Ave	City: Coeur d'Alene	State: Idaho	Zipcode: 83835
Endorsement of Member Department Secretary/Director: Brian Ness, Director, Idaho Transportation Department			

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. Nominations must be submitted as a single file in MS Word format using ***TVA2014_Nomination_Nominee_Name.doc*** as the file name.

Within the first eight months of coming to work at the Idaho Transportation Department, Alice Pence was able to revolutionize the way in which the department gathers highway sign asset data in Idaho. Previous to her arrival, ITD gathered data like most agencies -- maintaining electronic records of manually written inventories. The act of inventory on one sign was a two-person operation, one person gathered the data in the field and another performed the data entry back at the office. On a per sign basis, the manual method took roughly 20 minutes per sign. In addition to the time and effort expended to inventory the sign, the maintenance of that data mirrored the initial collection effort. One person would fill out a form and send it into the office so that someone else could enter the data. This created an environment in which updates rarely occurred. Asset management was becoming a costly endeavor.

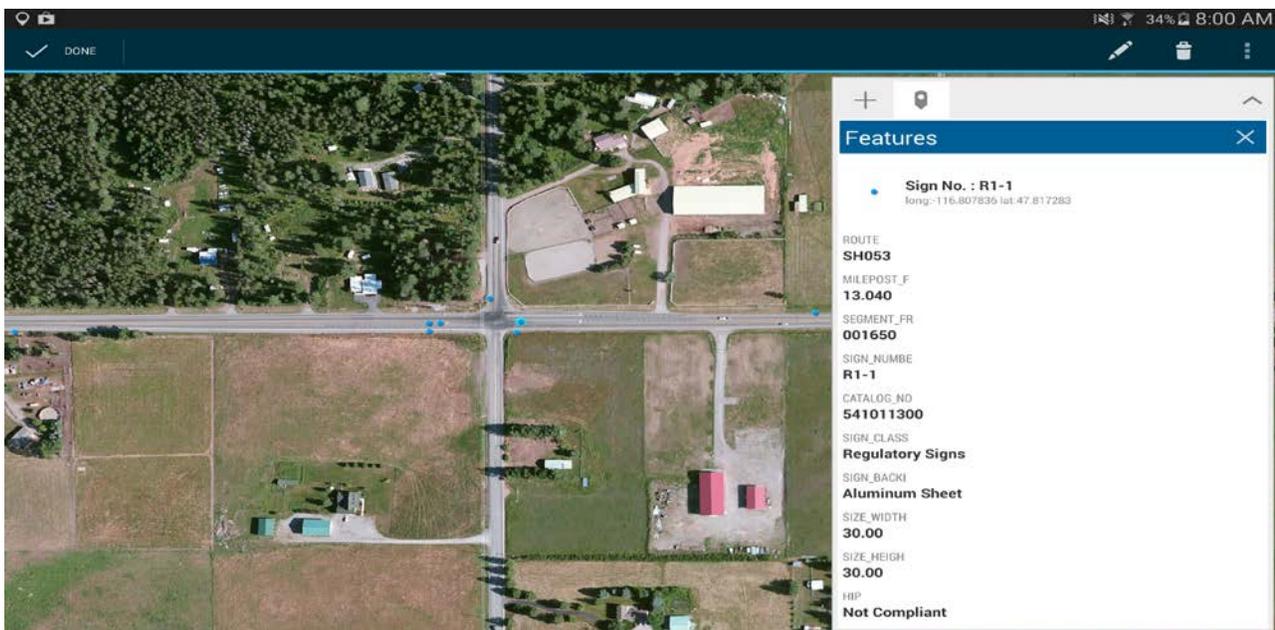
Alice collaborated with others to create a data collection method for sign assets that was not only easy to perform, but easy to maintain. The solution was a web-based application that could be used on any tablet or smartphone. The form that was previously used was transformed into an interactive GIS mapping software (Esri) for location identification and drop-down menus for individual sign attributes. It was based on the principle that if the process was to be successful it needed to be simple and intuitive. With 30 minutes of training, hourly employees with no transportation-related experience could perform the inventory. Results were immediate; the process described above that took 20 minutes was reduced to two minutes. System updates will likely have similar time-savings.

Many assets needed to be put into the system and maintained. The district where Alice works has 16,000 signs. Use an average of \$20 per hour for wages, the cost savings for the sign inventory alone was \$96,000. If there are similar results for other assets, the savings will be tremendous and will free up maintenance personnel to perform core maintenance functions.

Alice and her integration into the transportation industry represent the future of how ITD will conduct business. She was not only up to the challenge, but was excited to try to solve an old problem in an innovative way. Alice is continuing her application development. She is working to streamline overhead bridge height calculations, migrating the encroachment permit database into ArcGis and associated web application, as well as adapting her existing asset application into other areas. Given her natural curiosity and willingness to tackle any problem she is given, we are confident Alice will continue to drive innovation and excellence at ITD.



Alice Demonstrates App to Director Ness



Tablet View of Sign Inventory App