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## The STIC Wins Again: 2019 STIC Excellence Award

The Pennsylvania STIC received the 2019 STIC Excellence Award from FHWA's Center for Accelerating Innovation and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Innovation Initiative. The award was based on the development and deployment of the *STIC Moving Forward* strategic plan.



The Pennsylvania STIC received the STIC Excellence Award in 2017 and 2019.

The Pennsylvania STIC is the only state to receive this award twice. The STIC first received the award in 2017 for its success with the Local Government Safety Seminar and other local government outreach initiatives.

The 2019 award submission focused on the success of the *STIC Moving Forward* strategic plan, which reorganized and rightsized the STIC organization. The submission cited combining the STIC's 10 TAGs to four, the development of a structured yet flexible process that supports a wider range of innovations, and the enhancement of various STIC

communication platforms, such as the updated [STIC website](#) and the online [2018 STIC Year-End Report](#). Since the launch of the *STIC Moving Forward* strategic plan, nine innovations have been submitted for consideration and approved for further development.

## Innovations Approved for Detailed Development

Two new innovation submissions were presented at the November STIC Business Meeting and approved by the STIC members to move into the detailed development phase of the [STIC Innovation Development Process](#). The TAGs' next steps include assigning innovation owners and identifying development team members.

- **Environmentally Sensitive Area Signage** - The Design Technical Advisory Group's (TAG) Environmental Subcommittee is working on the Environmentally Sensitive Area Signage innovation, which will help to protect environmentally-sensitive areas through sign installations. These unique signs can be used to mark areas that are environmentally sensitive or have been planted as mitigation. They alert the public and PennDOT construction and maintenance crews to not disturb these areas.



Above is an example of Environmentally Sensitive Area signage.

- **Loader Brushing Attachment** - The Maintenance TAG is working on a Loader Brushing Attachment innovation, which is a tool that can be connected to loaders 25,000 pounds and larger to trim trees and brush along the roadway. The TAG expects this tool to help crews be more efficient, increase operator visibility, and reach overhead obstacles that would otherwise prevent effective tree or brush trimming.



**Disclaimer: This video should not be considered as an endorsement of a particular product or company.**

## First Innovation Advanced for Deployment



The Stormwater Training and Field Guidebook innovation has advanced to PennDOT Highway Administration for deployment.

The Maintenance TAG's Stormwater Management Facility Training and Field Guidebook is the first innovation to completely advance through the [STIC Innovation Development Process](#) established in 2018. STIC Members agreed at the November 2019 STIC Business Meeting to advance this innovation to deployment with PennDOT's Highway Administration.

The Stormwater Management Facility Training and Field Guidebook innovation will help PennDOT maintenance crews and local governments take care of these vital features. The innovation development team has developed the training outline to include eight modules covering different aspects of stormwater control measures (SCM) management and maintenance.

The training and related guidebook will review the different types of SCMs, identify key characteristics of each, and explain their associated maintenance needs. The planned eight training modules include:

- Program Overview
- How to Identify SCMs
- Vegetation Identification
- Maintenance Equipment
- Routine Maintenance
- Corrective Maintenance
- Assemblies and Responsibility Rules
- Maintenance Review of Design Plans

This innovation received 2019 [STIC Incentive Funds](#), which is allowing PennDOT to develop the training materials and delivery methods, and plan and organize statewide training events. The team anticipates that the training and guidebook will be completely rolled out by early fall 2020.

## 2020 STIC Incentive Funding Now Available!

The availability of 2020 STIC Incentive Funding was announced at the November STIC Business Meeting. The amount of STIC Incentive Funding available is \$125,000 (\$100,000 federal with an additional \$25,000 state match).

If you have an innovation that you would like to have considered for the STIC Incentive Funding, please submit your request to Karyn Vandervoort ([karyn.vandervoort@dot.gov](mailto:karyn.vandervoort@dot.gov)) at FHWA by **Friday, Feb. 14, 2020**. Please ensure your request includes a brief description or white paper about the innovation and the estimated cost. Provide as much detail as possible for us to fully understand your innovation and how the funding can assist in its implementation.

Do you have an innovation that needs a little help to get off the ground? To see just how far STIC Incentive Funding can go to advance innovation in Pennsylvania, check out a new video featuring four projects that have received STIC Incentive Funding.



## October National STIC Meeting Highlights the Value of Peers

FHWA held their [National STIC Meeting](#) on Oct. 24, 2019, which focused on the "value of peers" and discussed the need for finding ways to share information from STICs across the country. The meeting covered various communication avenues for sharing information such as building an innovation library, hosting peer exchanges and regional summits and developing a mentoring program. The success of Every Day Counts Round 5 and the open call for the 2020 STIC Incentive Funding was noted as well. The meeting included a live question and answer session with FHWA leadership, who responded to attendee inquiries on various aspects of national innovation initiatives.



FHWA held their National Meeting on Oct. 24, 2019 focusing on the topic "value of peers".



Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil-Integrated Bridge Systems (GRS-IBS) specification received 2017 and 2018 STIC Incentive Funding.

### Did You Know?

You can learn more about what each state is doing with their FHWA STIC Incentive Funding by visiting the [STIC Incentive Projects](#) page on FHWA's website.



The STIC meets three times per year.

### Calendar of Events

Coming Soon! Specific STIC Business Meeting dates for 2020 will be posted on the [STIC website](#) early in the New Year! STIC Business Meetings are held in March, July and November.

For more information, please contact the STIC Team at [penndotstic@pa.gov](mailto:penndotstic@pa.gov).