



Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance



2026
TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING
AWARDS

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About the Program

The Engineering Consultant Leadership Committee (ECLC) of the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) presents its annual VTCA Transportation Engineering Awards program. This program recognizes outstanding design work in the Transportation industry.

ELIGIBILITY

Any VTCA Engineering Consultant Member is eligible to enter. The project or study must be located in Virginia and must have been managed by a Virginia office with the major portion of the consultant work performed in the Commonwealth. A project/study may only be entered once; however, a single firm may submit multiple entries. Projects must be related to transportation.

PROJECT COMPLETION DATES

Constructed projects must have been completed or substantially complete (open to planned traffic, with full utilization, only punch list and clean up remaining) by May 30, 2026. Planning projects and studies must also have been completed and accepted (by customer) before May 30, 2026.

SCHEDULE

Submissions Due: July 1, 2026

Awards Announced and Presented: September 1, 2026, VTCA-VDOT Consultant Forum

Award Categories

Prizes will be awarded to entrants in the following categories:

OUTSTANDING TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (Overall High Score)

DESIGN-BID-BUILD

- Under \$20M
- Over \$20M

DESIGN-BUILD

- Under \$20M
- \$20M to \$100M
- Over \$100M

PLANNING

- Best Planning Study or Project

SPECIAL RECOGNITION (as submissions permit)

- Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship Award
- Innovation Award
- Community Impact Award
- Public Partner Award

The project size (\$'s) refers to total constructed cost. For Design-Bid-Build projects this is defined as the sum of construction and design contract values. For Design-Build projects, this is defined as the Design-Build contract value. In a change from previous years, all categories are for any public transportation client - Federal, State (VDOT & others), Cities and Municipalities.

A Grand Prize will be awarded in the two main categories (Design-Bid-Build and Design-Build). High scores and Honorable Mentions will be awarded for each of the subcategories.

An Overall Winner will be determined by the entry receiving the highest score across all categories.

Winners will be announced in a VTCA official press release and will be recognized at the VTCA-VDOT Consultant Forum on September 1, 2026, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Judging Criteria

Project and Study submissions will be judged in accordance with the following criteria. Note that submissions do not need to address all five topics but shall address at least three out of the five topics at a minimum. Equal points will be attributed to each topic judged. For each topic, some suggestions have been listed below but are not to be considered exhaustive:

AESTHETICS/CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

- Features that enhanced the overall appearance of the project
- Features that incorporated the theme of the project area
- Use and implementation of context sensitive solutions

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Evidence of interdisciplinary collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Ways the project addressed the social, environmental, and transportation needs of stakeholders
- Inclusion of safety enhancements, speed management, etc.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

- Aspects of the project design that translated into a cost savings for the owner (during procurement, design and/or during construction)
- Modifications to the scope that were included for overall benefit

SCHEDULE

- Decisions made to reduce the design and/or construction schedule
- Challenges that were overcome to address a compressed schedule

TECHNOLOGY

- Introduction of innovation or a new technology into design and/or construction
- Applying proven methods in a new way
- Utilizing new methods, materials, or equipment

Submission Requirements

An entry may be submitted in only one category. To be considered for an award, entries must be received by July 1, 2026, and must be accompanied by the following (please note the difference from past years' submittal requirements):

1. FLASH DRIVE CONTAINING EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. PROJECT WORKBOOK

- Application Form: This form must be prepared, signed by an executive within the submitting engineering firm, and signed by the client/owner's representative.
- Press Release: In 60 words or less, describe the project, the entrant's participation/role, and the benefit the project provides to the transportation industry. Please note the category for which the project is being submitted.
- Executive Summary: On one 8 ½" x 11" page or less (12 pt. font), describe the project's overall design and purpose and explain why the project is worthy of special recognition in the entry category. Explain all the elements and factors that make the project unique or exceptional.
- Project Description: Prepare a detailed description and explanation of the project's features, challenges, and solutions. In 7 pages or less, clearly address (exclusive of photos) how your entry meets each criterion by which the entry will be judged or address why that criterion was not achievable or important on the project. Supporting project photos and/or graphics (minimum of 6, maximum of 12 – with captions) should be included and should span from start-up to completion.

Applicants shall scan the project workbook to the flash drive in the following format: "26EngAwdsWorkbookFirmName.pdf"

B. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

See below for format requirements, and scan to the flash drive in the following format: "26EngAwdsDisplayFirmName.pdf"

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2. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL (HARDCOPY)

A photographic display panel shall be submitted which meets the following criteria:

- Size: 24" x 36"
- The panel shall contain no more than 6 photos and/or graphics
- Panel Title shall contain the following:
 - Project title and location
 - Client/owner's name and location
 - Entering firm's name and location
 - Submission Category
 - VTCA logo (located in the upper right corner, no less than 1" in height)

3. ENTRY FEE

\$200.00 check made payable to "Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance".

Submitted materials will not be returned. VTCA is not responsible for any damage or loss to an entrant's submission materials, including the flash drive or photographic display panel.

Submit all required materials prior to entry deadline to:

Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance
c/o Kevin McGhee
9011 Arboretum Parkway, Suite 320
Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: (434) 981-5214

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Application

Project Name: _____

Category (check one):	Subcategory:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Design-Bid-Build	<input type="checkbox"/> < \$20M	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20M to \$100M	<input type="checkbox"/> > \$100M
<input type="checkbox"/> Design-Build	<input type="checkbox"/> < \$20M	<input type="checkbox"/> > \$100M	
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Project or Study			

Project Location (City/County): _____

Completion/Use Dates: Scheduled: _____ Actual: _____

Construction Costs: Total Project Budget: _____ Actual: _____

ENGINEERING FIRM INFORMATION

Official Name of Entering Firm: _____

Firm CEO: _____

Name of Firm Representative Submitting: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I hereby authorize submission of this project into the VTCA Transportation Engineering Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal Name & Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

CLIENT/OWNER INFORMATION

Name of Client/Owner: _____

I hereby grant permission to enter this project in the VTCA Transportation Engineering Awards competition and authorize publication of its features and innovations. I confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use by May 30, 2026.

Client/Owner Representative Name & Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____