

2024 MassDOT Innovation Conference Awards

April 30, 2024



Stephen T. O'Donnell Memorial "Can-Do" Award



Stephen T. O'Donnell was a career public servant and MassDOT Highway employee for a majority of his career. Steve worked his way through the ranks as a Resident Engineer in Construction, Highway and Structures Engineer, and Manager of Contracts before being serving as the District 4 Highway Director.

Steve returned to MassDOT in 2008 after four years as Quincy's Commissioner of Public Works. He spearheaded the statewide Highway Maintenance program and helped establish the Accelerated Bridge Program.

Steve's dedication and ability to fix problems and get the job done is he basis for the award.

The "Can-Do" Award is an annual aware presented to the Highway employee who generates timely results to advance the agenda of the Highway Division, despite the odds.

“Can-Do” Silver Award



Alyson Bedard Bridge Preservation Engineer

- Developed a bridge preservation program and established criteria for selecting bridges that benefit from preservation.
- “She has made great strides in streamlining the development and design of preservation projects and holds both consultants and district designers to strict timelines to get preservation projects ready and advertised.”

“Can-Do” Silver Award



Jonathan Satko D1 Highway Maintenance Supervisor

- Supervised the response to the July 2023 rainstorms in the Town of Conway
- “If not for Jon’s command of the situation and ability to coordinate work and provide support to the contractors, the lost roadway could not have been restored within the 24 hours that it was.”

Stephen T. O'Donnell "Can-Do" Award Winner



Tom Donnelly D3 Construction Area Engineer

- Supervised the response to the historic September 2023 flooding in the City of Leominster and the town of Princeton. Including the construction of an emergency access roadway that enabled an isolated neighborhood to regain access to their homes.
- "Tom is 'the go to person' when we've needed oversight and management of emergency construction situations in District 3."

Francis A. DePaola Memorial Innovation Leadership Award



Frank DePaola had a storied career of service to the Commonwealth. Frank's portfolio of government work included stints overseeing construction for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, as the MassDOT Highway Administrator, as the MBTA General Manager, and as Acting State Transportation Secretary.

In 2012, Frank started the first Innovation Conference as a forum for Highway employees to connect and collaborate. From that first small gathering to the platform the conference has gained, Frank's legacy as the ultimate innovator lives on.

The Innovation Leadership Award honors Frank's exemplary career and recognizes the MassDOT employee who best represents Frank's legacy and has made an innovative achievement in either a project or process.

Innovation Leadership Silver Award

7



Jason Benoit State Ancillary Structure Engineer

- Lead the development of a comprehensive MassDOT Ancillary Inspection Program
- “Over the last 18 months, Jason focused his considerable energies to stand up new processes and resources in support of MassDOT’s management of the structural elements of state-owned signs, signals lighting and ITS equipment.

Innovation Leadership Silver Award



Cody Holemo **State Pavement Preservation Engineer**

- Lead the engineering team for the Municipal Pavement Program, which, to date, has paved 341 lane miles for 51 towns.
- “In addition to his normal reviews developing statewide pavement projects and reviewing project pavement designs, Cody quickly made the success Municipal Pavement a personal mission, and through his passion for getting things done drove collaboration across the Division.”

Francis A. DePaola Innovation Leadership Award Winner

9



Bonnie Polin State Safety Engineer

- For her contributions to improving roadway safety across the Commonwealth including the rollout of the 2022 Highway Safety Bill and the development of a new Vulnerable Road User Assessment.
- “Bonnie’s natural work ethic is full throttle, and she is driven to make a difference in order to improve roadway safety for all. No matter what the task is, Bonnie goes all in and does not stop until she is satisfied with the end result.”