



New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

NYSAMPO Transportation Planning Awards Program

October 2025

Welcome to the 2025 New York State Transportation Planning Awards hosted by the New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSAMPO).

NYSAMPO is launching this award program to recognize outstanding contributions to metropolitan transportation planning in New York State, highlight innovation, collaboration, technical excellence, and leadership, and celebrate the value of MPOs across the state.

This annual award program will provide a platform to acknowledge outstanding planning initiatives that are making a positive impact on communities.

Nominations are due by November 10, 2025.

Award Categories and Evaluation Criteria

The 2025 award program has five categories:

1. General Excellence in MPO Planning:

Recognizes an innovative plan, study, project, or approach, led by or significantly involving a NY MPO, that advances transportation planning.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Innovation or creativity in approach
- Demonstrated outcomes or influence on decision-making
- Transferability to other MPOs

2. General Excellence in Planning – Non-TMA MPO:

Recognizes an innovative plan, study, project, or approach, led by or significantly involving a NY non-TMA MPO, that advances transportation planning.

Evaluation Criteria: (submissions will be judged in context of smaller staffing and resource capacity)

- Innovation or creativity in approach
- Demonstrated outcomes or influence on decision-making
- Transferability to other MPOs

3. Senior Planner Award:

Recognizes an individual with 15+ years of experience who demonstrates leadership and enduring impact. Open to staff of MPOs and/or MPO planning partners.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Leadership in planning or engaging/mentoring others
- Significant career achievements or innovations
- Contribution to NYSAMPO, NYSDOT, or the broader transportation community

4. Future Leader Award:

Recognizes a planner with less than 8 years of experience showing initiative and promise. Open to staff of MPOs and/or their planning partners.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrated initiative beyond job description
- Impactful contributions on a project or team
- Evidence of leadership potential or innovation

5. Lifetime Achievement Award:

Recognizes an individual with a sustained and distinguished career supporting metropolitan transportation planning. Open to any individual.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Length and depth of service
- Leadership, mentorship, and advocacy in the transportation planning field
- Legacy contributions to NYSAMPO, MPO advancement, or public service

Eligibility

Any staff member, team, or initiative within the NYSAMPO membership is eligible for an award. This includes NYSDOT and other State partners and staff from MPO member agencies

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by the following:

- MPO Directors or their designees.
- NYSDOT Office Directors or their designees, and NYSDOT Regional Office Directors, Regional Planning and Program Managers, or their designees.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.

How to Submit:

Nominations are accepted via a form available on the NYSAMPO website at this address:

<https://tinyurl.com/NYSAMPO2025Awards>

The following information is to be provided:

- Name and contact information of the nominee(s).

- Award category
- Description of plan, study, project, approach, or achievement (<=500 words)
- Statement of impact: how this effort improves or influences outcomes (<=200 words)
- Optional supporting materials

Award Timeline

Nominations must be received by **November 10 at 11:59 pm EST**.

Award winners will be announced at the December 5th, 2025 NYSAMPO Directors Group meeting.

Evaluation and Scoring

Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of 5–7 jurors. The top-scoring nominee in each category will receive the award. Jurors are under no obligation to grant an award in any category.

Questions and Inquiries

Questions related to the award or applications should be emailed to Rich Denbow, NYSAMPO Staff Services Manager, at rdenbow@camsys.com.