



Showcasing Local Innovation: Building a Better Mousetrap



California LTAP & Caltrans DLA

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“How can we help you be a part of Build a Better Mousetrap 2025?”

Build a Better Mousetrap

A celebration of local transportation innovation
2025 APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

[Submit an Innovation](#)

[Browse Submitted Innovations](#)



<https://caltrans.brightidea.com/BuildaBetterMousetrap2025>

Local Innovation 101

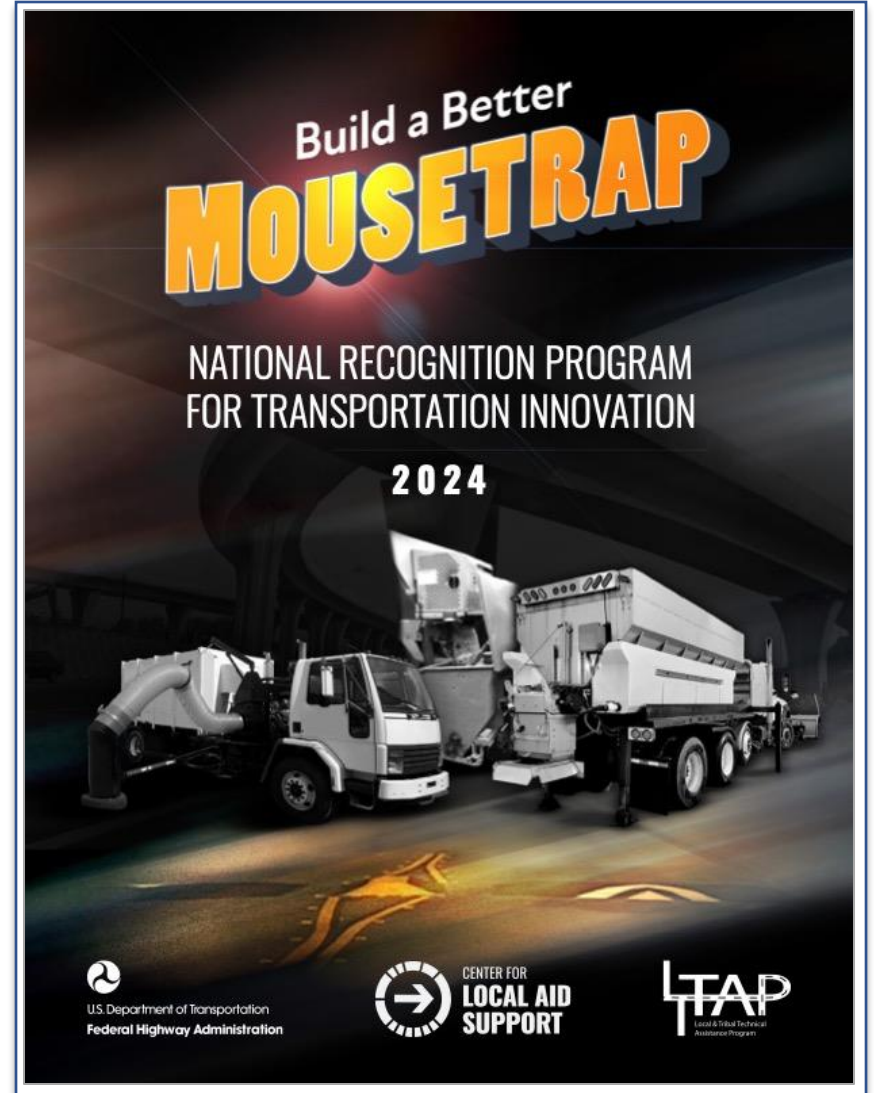
- What does local innovation look like?
 - *Efficient, locally relevant solutions to everyday problems*
 - *Improves transportation quality/safety while cutting cost*
 - *Doesn't need to be tech-dependent or expensive*
- Why should local governments innovate?
 - *Provides effective response to community need*
 - *Shows good stewardship of limited public resources*
- How do I establish a culture of innovation?
 - *Encourage experimentation & creative problem solving*
- Why promote our innovation?
 - *Contributes to success of other agencies*
 - *Raises project profile across stakeholders*
 - *Creates framework for information exchange*



The Build a Better Mousetrap Initiative

Showcasing Local Innovation

- Designed for national recognition
- Focused on transportation road agencies
- Solutions to everyday challenges local/tribal roads & public works teams encounter
- Covers tools/equip mods or new processes that increase safety, reduce cost, improve efficiency
- Statewide campaign facilitated through CALTAP
- All applications advance to national competition
- <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/babm/>



What's in It for You?

The Benefits of Applying

- Enjoy national recognition
- Be the pride of your community
- Help other agencies solve problems
- Cash-in on free Local Assistance training

The Value of Winning

- Enjoy national fame
- Present at all the cool events
- Be visited by award-carrying officials



2023 National Winner City of Walnut Creek

- National Pioneer Award for “Safe Sightings of Signs & Signals”
- Dash-mounted smartphone captures traffic signal sightlines throughout city, correlated to GIS for sight distances
- Reduced city’s signal sight clearance procedure from weeks to 1-day!



2024 National Winner City of Moreno Valley

- National Innovative Project Award for “Slow & Safe, Save a Life”
- Custom Speed Cushion design allows emergency vehicles to pass unrestricted without vehicle deflection or slowing
- Design meets city goals of slowing traffic w/o slowing emergency response times



Win for California in 2025!

- Apply online (link below)
- Open to CA local/tribal gov agencies (and their consultants/contractors)
- No application limit (originals only)
- 4 national winners selected
- Submission deadline is May 30th
- Winners announced July 24th
- Criteria: overall impact, community/agency benefit, originality, applicability to others, cost/time savings, submission quality

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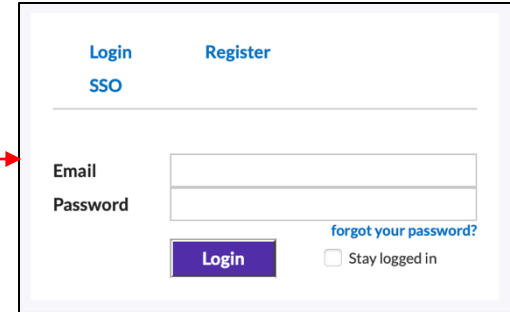
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Browse Submitted Innovations



Submitting Your BABM Entry

1. Visit our BABM website
2. Create an account & log in
3. Press “Submit an Innovation”



Login Register

SSO

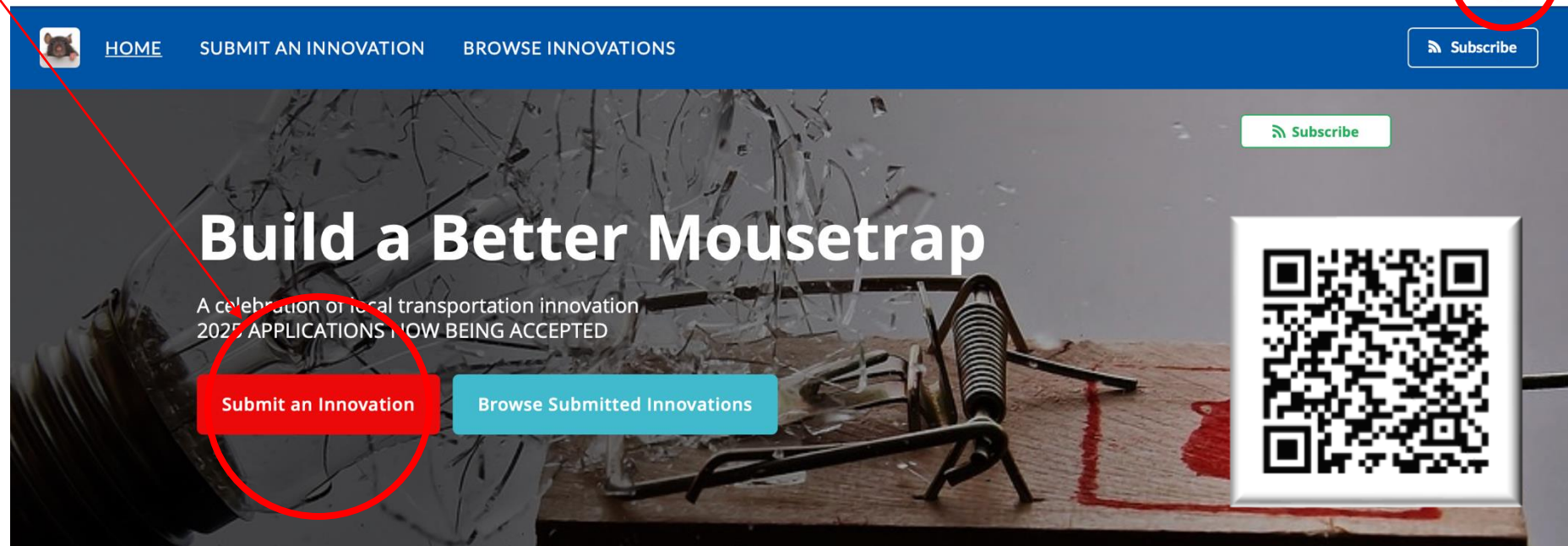
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forgot your password?

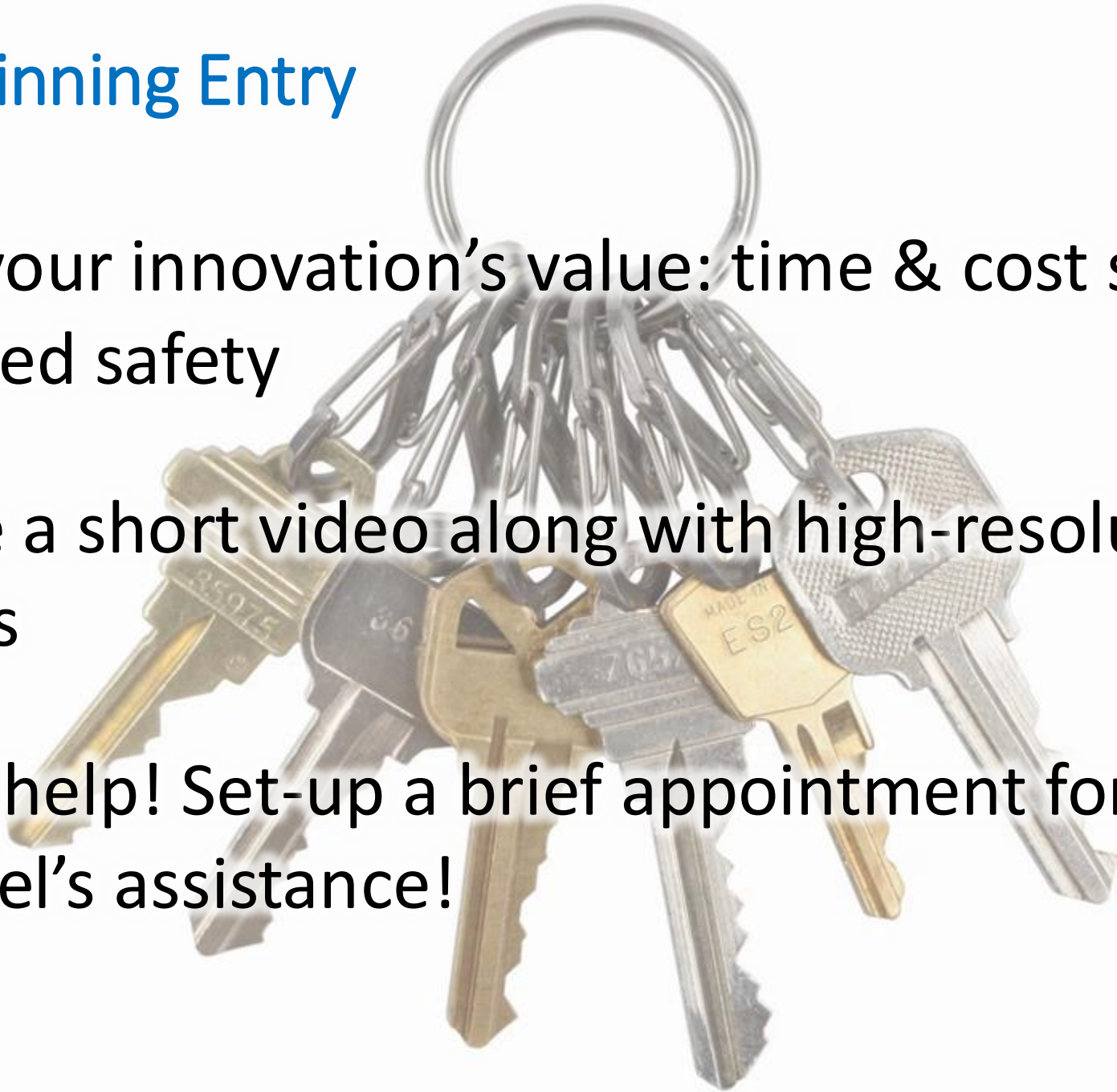
☐ Stay logged in

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Keys to a Winning Entry

1. Stress your innovation's value: time & cost savings, enhanced safety
2. Provide a short video along with high-resolution pictures
3. Ask for help! Set-up a brief appointment for Scott or Daniel's assistance!





Need Help? Contact Us:



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