



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Transportation Advisory Commission 2025 Achievement Award Evaluation Criteria & Nomination Process

Purpose

The Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) Achievement Award recognizes the most significant contribution of a person or group during calendar year 2025 in advancing or supporting the objectives of Fairfax County transportation priorities, such as the Comprehensive Policy Plan and the Transportation Priorities Plan, or for original contributions toward enhancing the quality of transportation in Fairfax County. This document establishes evaluation criteria to ensure consistency and fairness among all submitted nominations.

Eligibility

- Nominations may be submitted for an individual or a group.
- Any Fairfax County government employee who, through their exceptional performance, makes a significant contribution to improving transportation in the County is eligible to be nominated.
- At least one member of a nominated group must be an employee of Fairfax County for the group to be eligible.
- Contributions must have occurred within calendar year 2025.
- The nomination must not exceed ten (10) pages, inclusive of supporting documentation.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominations will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with County Transportation Priorities

- Demonstrates a clear connection to the objectives of Fairfax County transportation priorities such as the Comprehensive Policy Plan and the Transportation Priorities Plan.
- Supports initiatives that improve transportation infrastructure, accessibility, or sustainability within Fairfax County.

- Addresses key transportation challenges and contributes to the County's long-term goals.

2. Innovation and Originality

- Introduces a novel approach, idea, or method to improve transportation in Fairfax County.
- Represents a first-of-its-kind implementation in the County.
- Demonstrates creativity in problem-solving or program execution.

3. Impact and Effectiveness

- Clearly articulates measurable benefits to the transportation system.
- Demonstrates tangible improvements in transportation efficiency, safety, accessibility, or sustainability.
- Provides supporting data, case studies, or testimonials to verify impact.

4. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

- Engages relevant stakeholders such as government agencies, community groups, businesses, and residents.
- Demonstrates successful coordination among multiple parties.
- Shows strong community support and involvement in transportation-related initiatives.

5. Sustainability and Long-Term Benefits

- Contributes to lasting improvements in the County's transportation infrastructure or policies.
- Demonstrates potential for scalability or replication in other parts of the County.
- Supports environmental sustainability and resilience.

Evaluation Guide

Criterion	What Judges Are Looking For	Tips for the Nomination
1. Alignment with County Transportation Priorities	How well the contribution supports the objectives of Fairfax County transportation priorities, such as the Comprehensive Policy Plan and the Transportation Priorities Plan and addresses key Fairfax County transportation challenges.	Clearly describe which County goals the project supports and how the work contributes to long-term improvements.
2. Innovation & Originality	How new, creative, or unique the approach is. Judges are looking for first-of-its-kind	Highlight what makes the approach different from standard practices or

Criterion	What Judges Are Looking For	Tips for the Nomination
3. Impact & Effectiveness	<p>solutions or particularly inventive ways to solve transportation challenges.</p> <p>The tangible results of the contribution. Judges look for measurable improvements in efficiency, safety, accessibility, or sustainability.</p>	<p>past efforts. Include examples of creative problem-solving.</p> <p>Provide data, reports, or testimonials that show the difference the work made. Concrete examples strengthen the nomination.</p>
4. Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement	<p>How well the nominee involved others—government agencies, community groups, businesses, or residents—and built support for the work.</p>	<p>Describe who the nominee worked with, how they coordinated efforts, and how the community was involved. Highlight key partnerships that contributed to success.</p>
5. Sustainability & Long-Term Benefits	<p>Whether the work will have lasting benefits, can be scaled or replicated, and supports environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>Explain how the contribution will continue to benefit the County over time and how it could be used as a model elsewhere.</p>

Tips for a Strong Nomination

- Be clear and concise; stick to the page limit.
- Provide supporting evidence such as reports, project documentation, or testimonials.
- Show the significance of the contribution—don't assume judges know the background.
- Highlight collaboration and community involvement.
- Emphasize long-term impact and sustainability.

Nomination Format and Submission Requirements

- Nominations should be clear, concise, well-organized, and must include:
 - Nominee's name(s) and contact information.
 - Description of the contribution and its significance.
 - Description of Accomplishments: Please describe the accomplishments of the nominee or group in sufficient detail that the judges can understand the significance of the accomplishment(s).
 - Additional Information: Please provide any additional information about the nominee or group you believe the judges should be aware of, to include relevant information about previous accomplishments.
 - Relationship with Nominee: Please describe your relationship with the nominee or the group and how you became aware of their accomplishments. Individuals or teams can nominate themselves for this award.

- Supporting materials such as reports, testimonials, or project documentation can be provided as long as the nomination stays within the 10-page limit. Acceptable formats include only PDF, Word, or regularly used image formats. Submissions should be limited to no larger than 100MB total.
- Nomination packages should use standard 1-inch margins everywhere, a 11- or 12-point font, and all pages in the nomination should be numbered.
- Applications must be submitted by February 13, 2026.

Selection Process

- A panel of evaluators from the Transportation Advisory Commission will review all nominations.
- Assessments of the nominations will be based on a holistic evaluation of the criteria outlined above.
- The panel will recommend the winning nomination for consideration and final approval by the Transportation Advisory Commission. The panel may also recommend an honorable mention be awarded where it believes the acknowledgement is justified.

Notes

- The panel of evaluators will avoid conflicts of interest.
- Nomination materials will be treated confidentially during the review process, but winning nomination packages may be released publicly.
- Previous winners of the TAC Achievement Award can be found on the [TAC website](#).

Conclusion

This evaluation framework ensures that all nominations are assessed fairly and consistently, recognizing outstanding contributions to transportation in Fairfax County. Any questions about the evaluation criteria or nomination process should be directed to Calvin Lam, FCDOT staff liaison to the Transportation Advisory Commission at Calvin.Lam@fairfaxcounty.gov.