

2026



The Horizon Award acknowledges an individual whose work demonstrates the qualities of a successful network improvement plan. These award winners can demonstrate decision-making where the health of the overall network is central to planning processes. Many of these awardees are just beginning to reverse long-stayed trends of deterioration across their networks by introducing new treatments to their toolbox.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Submitters must include a high-level summary in paragraph form and attach relevant documentation with their submission.

All nominations must be sponsored by a member of AEMA, ARRA, and/or ISSA. Sponsorship, in this case simply means that a member company has agreed to have their name included on the nomination submission. It does not require any cost to the sponsoring company, nor does it require the member company to act as submitters. Member companies may sponsor or submit multiple nomination submissions.

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS:

Word documents, Powerpoints, JPEG and PNG images, PDFs and Excel documents.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE FORM (FOLLOWING PAGE):

Email this form and any documents that demonstrate success or support the submission with the subject line 2026 Horizon Award Submission. Where relevant, we recommend that you include historical data, plans/ approaches, and/or photos to tell the story. In some cases, it may be easiest to compile imagery and graphics into a single file (slide presentation or PDF) to include accompanying commentary or explanation.

QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSION

Email alim@cmservices.com for more information.

SCORING RUBRIC (FOR REFERENCE)

- 01: NETWORK STRATEGIES:** Does the submitter demonstrate decision-making or planning that is beginning to put network improvement at the center or as the primary goal? **(1-10)**
- 02: OVERCOMING HURDLES**
Has the submitter overcome significant hurdles to develop or begin their planning strategy (ex, political, public pressure, internal resistance, significant growth, significant loss, budget related issues or other)? **(1-10)**
- 03: TREATMENT TOOLBOX**
Has the submitter introduced new treatments to their toolbox? Do they show a plan to leverage a variety of treatments across the curve? Preservation, recycling, and emulsions are scored individually for a cumulative score.
- Preservation **(1-5)**
 - Recycling **(1-5)**
 - Emulsion-based material **(1-5)**
- 04: CHANGE MAKER**
We expect Horizon Award winners to be leaders who are prepared to challenge the status quo and lead their agency toward new ways of doing things. How much does the submitter's planning diverge from previous mindsets/approaches? Have they revamped the approach or just made some smart adjustments? Do they demonstrate the ability to continue to lead their department toward network-level change?**(1-5)**
- 05: LEVEL OF DETAIL**
Has the submitter included materials that demonstrate planning or goals with sufficient detail to accurately convey their planning, innovation, or foresight? **(1-5)**
- 06: NEWSWORTHINESS**
Does the submitter demonstrate compelling planning and behavior that should be shared with others as an example of network championship? Are there novel approaches that should be shared with others across the industry? Is it unique/can it add something new to the conversation? **(1-5)**

2026 NOMINATION SUBMISSION FORM

SUBMITTER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

WHO ARE YOU NOMINATING?

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

SPONSORING PPRA MEMBER

Company Name: _____

AEMA

ARRA

ISSA

NOMINATION SUMMARY

Please provide a high-level summary of this nomination (*limit 400 words*)

2026



PLEASE GIVE A CONSIDERATION TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR SUBMISSION.

- 01:** What kind of network level progress can you demonstrate over what time period? (I.e. network condition improved by 10 points in 10 years). Include any additional info like reduction of backlog, increase in roads in good condition or decrease of roads in poor condition, etc.
- 02:** What treatments are in your treatment toolbox today? How have you expanded that treatment toolbox throughout your leadership? What other treatments are you considering introducing?
- 03:** Do you have a plan for how you will improve your network? If so, please include excerpts in supporting documentation. You can include high level principles here.
- 04:** Please share any particular hurdles you have overcome, or points of pride and progress during your leadership tenure. This could include taxpayer communication, engaging elected officials, growing your budget.
- 05:** In your submission, please include a general overview of your network, including # lane miles, budget, and any other pertinent facts that would help us understand your area.