



# **No Boundaries Transportation Maintenance Innovations Pooled Fund Overview and Update**

**AASHTO Committee on Maintenance,  
Maintenance Operations TWG  
6<sup>th</sup> National Briefing  
2025**

**Todd May, Indiana DOT**

# Overview

- What is No Boundaries?
  - Purpose, goals and history
  - Members and partners
- Highlights of how No Boundaries can help agencies share innovations and information
  - Peer Information Sharing
  - Innovation Database
  - Research Syntheses



## Purpose

- The No Boundaries pooled fund project ([maintainroads.org](https://maintainroads.org)) is a community of practice for transportation maintenance professionals around the country.
- The group identifies innovative technologies and practices used by state DOTs and then promotes their use by other agencies.



# Purpose

- Note that No Boundaries...
  - Complements AASHTO MAC, the AASHTO Innovation Initiative, and other national efforts
  - Focuses on spring, summer, fall, and winter maintenance topics





## Goals

- To help members share
  - Innovative equipment solutions
  - Innovative material solutions
  - Innovative process solutions
- To increase network and collaboration among other agencies
  - Members learn firsthand: what works, what doesn't (and why), what needs more investigation
- To promote consistent maintenance activities among agencies
  - Align policies, procedures, and technologies... when it makes sense



## Goals

- To facilitate meetings and in-person interaction
  - Provide a showcase for state innovations and technologies
  - Create a forum for direct questions and frank answers
- To increase cost-effectiveness
  - Minimize duplication of effort
  - Maximize products and services



# History

- Began in 2011
  - Developing relationships with several DOT member states
  - Build synergy to address common challenges and opportunities among DOTs
  - No sense in “reinventing the wheel”
  - Share home-grown and off-the-shelf innovative solutions that **work**
- Initially eight member states
- Missouri and Ohio were previous lead states; currently led by Colorado





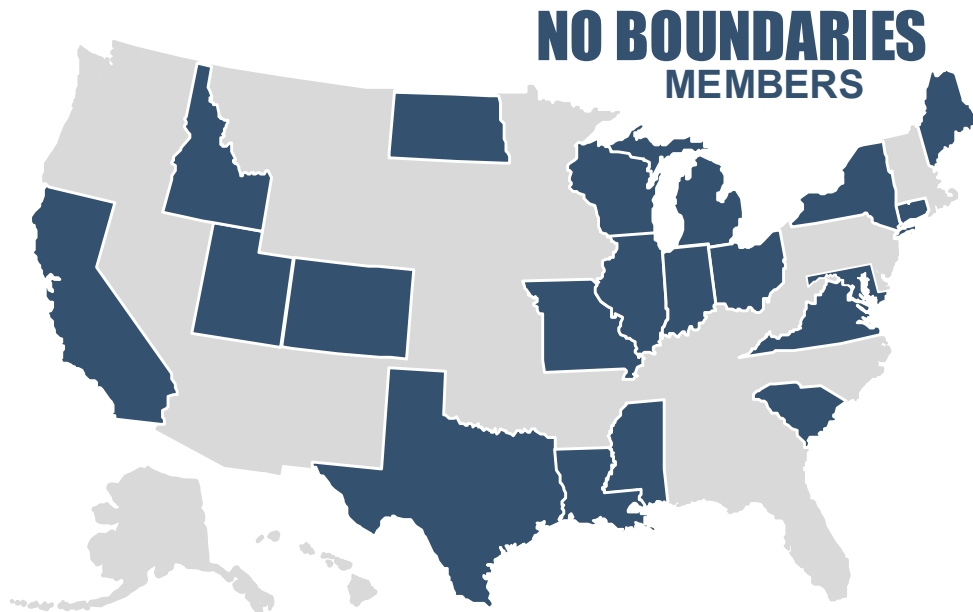
# Today

- 20 member states
- Focus areas include:
  - Core maintenance areas (bridges, pavements, operations, roadside, equipment)
  - Asset management for maintenance
  - Training, recruitment and retention
- [maintainroads.org](https://maintainroads.org) documents all resources
- Two in-person meetings annually provide peer exchanges and technical site visits
- Weekly news posts
- Informal surveys of peer agencies





# Current Member States



# Current Partners and Liaisons

- Federal Highway Administration
- AASHTO
- Transportation Research Board
- American Public Works Association
- Front Range Community College (Colorado)
- Clear Roads pooled fund



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD



# Highlighted Activities and Resources



## Peer Information Sharing

- Two in-person peer exchanges and technical site visits in the past year.
  - Fargo, North Dakota in September 2024
  - Portland, Maine in April/May 2025
- Highlights
  - Technical presentations
  - Roundtable discussions
  - Innovation show-and-tell
  - Equipment and product demonstrations



# Fargo, North Dakota - September 2024

- Highlights
  - Roundtable discussions
    - Innovations Show-and-Tell
    - Outside Vendors for Maintenance Training
    - New Minimum Retroreflectivity Levels for Pavement Markings
  - Technical Presentations
    - Highway Maintenance Management Program (Front Range Community College)
    - Virtual Reality Training





# Portland, Maine - April/May 2025

- Highlights

- Roundtable discussions

- Equipment Used for Sign Crew Trucks
- Innovations Show-and-Tell
- Hauling Skid Steers

- Technical Presentations

- FHWA's Strategic Workforce Development program
- Flared Outlet Diffusers: A Maintenance Approach for Increasing Culvert Capacity and Resilience





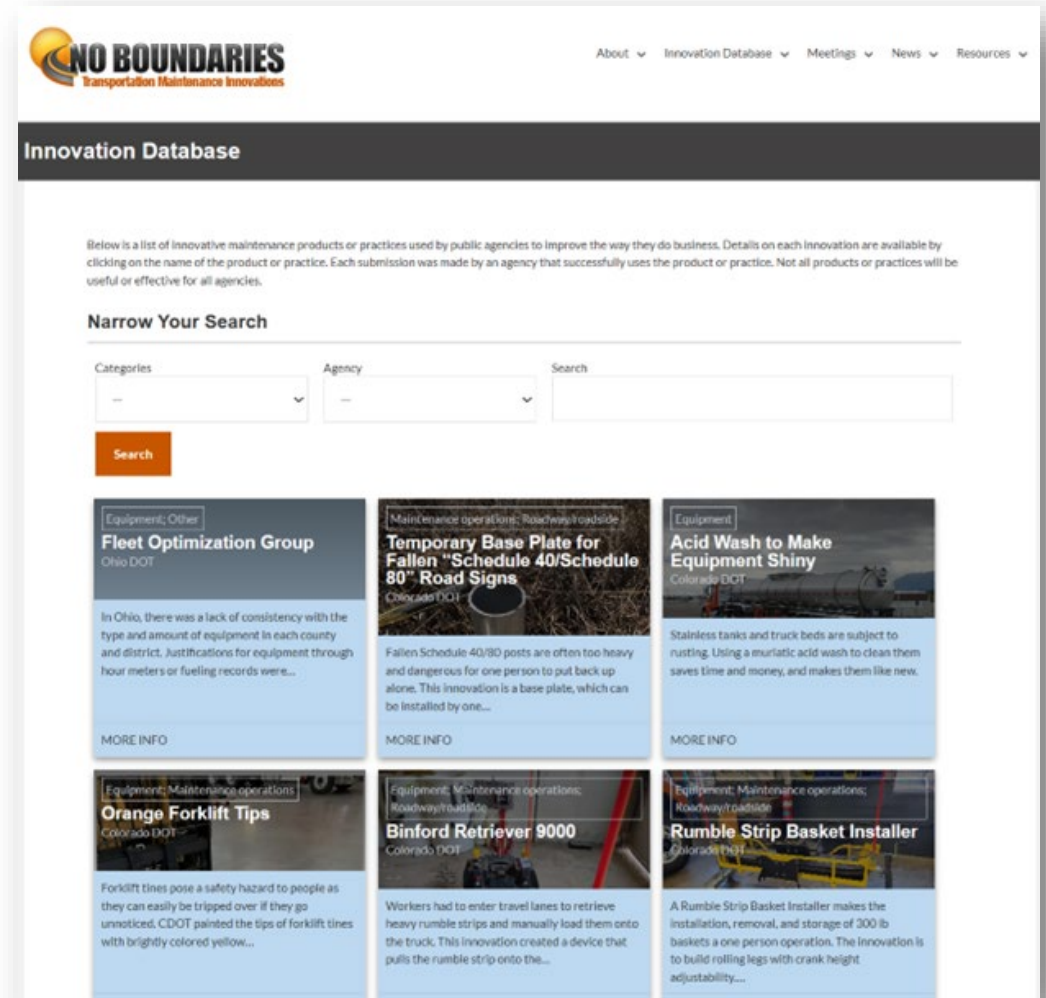
# Peer Information Sharing

- **Research Syntheses** - Quick-turnaround searches of published literature combined with a survey of practice to identify the current state of knowledge and possible pathways for further action.
- Recent topics
  - Maintenance Training with Virtual Reality Technologies
  - Equipment Acquisition and Management: Challenges and Solutions
  - State Innovation Programs
  - Maintenance Training with Virtual Reality



# Peer Information Sharing

- **Innovations Database** - No Boundaries' online repository of tried-and-tested products and practices.
- **Informal Surveys** - Opportunity to pose questions to the group at any time to get quick responses from peer experts.
- **News Updates** - Maintenance-related research, news, and upcoming events delivered to members' inboxes each week.



# Learn More

- Upcoming events
  - South Carolina, Spring 2026
- On our website: [maintainroads.org](https://maintainroads.org)
  - Explore the Innovation Database
  - Subscribe for weekly news posts
  - View videos on YouTube
  - Photos available on Flickr

