# "$25K Find a New Way" Caltrans Innovation Contest - Application

**Innovation Award Contest:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) was selected to conduct an Innovation Award contest to find the best unique idea about how to improve the state's transportation system, as a result of Assemblyman Mike Gatto's Assembly Bill 2138, which was signed into law in September 2014 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Caltrans is authorized to award up to $25,000 to the person who submits the idea with the highest likelihood of being successfully put into action and will announce the winner by December 31, 2015.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to any individual who is a California resident, except for current and retired State of California employees and their immediate family members. Any contestant under 18 years of age must have his/her parent or guardian's permission to enter the contest. Each entry is limited to an individual submitting a single idea.

**Deadline & details:** Entries must be postmarked or submitted online by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on October 13, 2015. The completed application must not exceed three single-sided 8.5" x 11" pages, and 500 words. An optional, supplemental one-minute video and/or five images (one five-slide PowerPoint or one five-page PDF file) are not required, but may help give the judges a better understanding of your overall concept. The supplements do not count toward the three-page maximum for the application. Please submit your questions to **25KFindANewWay@dot.ca.gov**.

**Who we are and what we do:** Caltrans manages more than 50,000 road and highway lane miles, manages two intercity rail lines, maintains more than 12,500 state bridges, and inspects more than 400 public-use and special-use airports and heliports. Under the Active Transportation Program (ATP), Caltrans partners with local communities to develop and maintain safe, healthy, and convenient daily travel options. We are broadening our scope of projects to benefit active transportation users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and mass transit riders. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

**Caltran's Goals:**

- **Safety and Health:** Provide a safe transportation system for workers and users, and promote health through active transportation and reduced pollution in communities.
- **Stewardship and Efficiency:** Money counts. Responsibly manage California's transportation-related assets.
- **Sustainability, Livability and Economy:** Make long-lasting, smart mobility decisions that improve the environment, support a vibrant economy, and build communities, not sprawl.
- **System Performance:** Utilize leadership, collaboration and strategic partnerships to develop an integrated transportation system that provides reliable and accessible mobility for travelers.
- **Organizational Excellence:** Be a national leader in delivering quality service through excellent employee performance, public communication, and accountability.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** Is the idea innovative and unique? Is its goal clearly stated? Is there potential to produce a breakthrough or a major change that will improve Caltrans' operations, increase safety or efficiency, save money, or improve California? (Worth one half of the overall score.)
- **Potential Benefit(s):** Does the idea solve an important issue? Could it significantly improve or potentially replace current practice(s)? Will the innovation contribute to furthering a Caltrans goal/objective? (Worth one quarter of the overall score.)
- **Implementation:** Is the idea practical and effective? Is it economically feasible? If selected, could Caltrans realistically put the idea into action? (Worth one quarter of the overall score.)

## CONTEST RULES

**PUBLICITY:** By accepting the contest Terms and Conditions, participants consent to Caltrans' use of the contestant's name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration.

**ORIGINAL WORK, PLAGIARISM, AND COPYRIGHT:** The contestant must be the sole author and owner of the original idea submitted. By accepting the contest Terms and Conditions, the participant agrees that they are not knowingly submitting an idea that infringes on any copyright or any other rights of any third party.

**INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Before any money is awarded, the selected winner of the contest will be required to sign an Intellectual Property Assignment stating that no current patents exist related to their submission. Upon signing the Assignment, the selected winner grants Caltrans all intellectual-property rights related to the contest submission. If the selected winner does not wish to sign the Assignment, their submission will be disqualified and Caltrans will either select another winner or cancel the contest.

**PRIVACY:** Caltrans will make every effort to protect your personal information. Be advised that any personal information provided to Caltrans is a potentially-disclosable public record under the California Public Records Act and other applicable legal authority. In addition, Caltrans may record, broadcast, and distribute by any means (e.g., print, radio, television, internet, photograph, video, audio, digital, or otherwise) any portion of your submittal, including details, data, information, plans, text, images, etc., for publicity and promotion in current and future years.

**Additional information is available in the contest Terms and Conditions.**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## I. Innovator Information: (If Innovator is younger than 18 years of age on date of application, please name parent or legal guardian as the Contact.)

* **Name of Innovator:** Innovator First Name | Innovator Last Name

* **Contact Name:** ◯ Same as above or Contact Name, if different from above

* **Mailing Address:** Street Address

Street Address line two, if needed

* **City:** City | * **Zip Code:** 00000 - 0000

* **Phone:** (xxx) xxx-xxxx | * **Email Address:** Email Address

* **How did you hear about this contest?**

◯ Social Media ◯ News Media ◯ Word of Mouth ◯ Other Other: Please Describe

## II. Directions: The word "idea" is used interchangeably to describe an idea, concept, program, plan, approach, design, policy, or procedure. In 500 words or less, tell us about your innovative idea to improve California's state transportation system. Explain its goal, how it will work and how we could put it into action.

- What is the innovation idea and why is it unique?
- What is its goal?
- How will the idea help Caltrans to be safer, more efficient, save money, improve operations, or improve California.?
- How can Caltrans realistically put your idea into action?
- *See "Evaluation criteria" for additional information about how your submittal will be judged.*

***Optional supplemental material** - check all that apply:*

◯ 1.) A five-slide PowerPoint presentation or a five-page PDF file: Add File | Remove File | Open File

◯ 2.) URL to your one-minute video*:

* Participants must provide the correct URL address to their optional one-minute video; Caltrans is not responsible for viewing a video submitted with an incorrect URL.

Signature of Contestant | Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if contestant is under 18 years of age) | Date

**ADA Notice** For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in alternate formats. For information, call (916) 657-5060, TTY 711, or write to Public Affairs, Attn: Caltrans Innovation Awards Contest, 1120 N Street, MS-49, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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## III. Your Idea

**Idea title:**

**An overview of your innovative idea in 20 words or less:**

**My innovative idea to improve the state's transportation system:**

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