Better Streets, Better Michigan Award
Call for Entries Deadline: Feb. 16, 2018
About the Award

Better Streets, Better Michigan Award recipient(s) demonstrate a commitment to creatively improving the function and aesthetics of a busy street for a variety of transportation modes – cars, bikes, and pedestrians. Examples include road diets, complete streets projects, and similar investments within existing rights of way. The improvement should have a positive impact on the community’s economic activity as well as attracting and retaining residents, workers, and businesses.

In doing so, the recipient adheres to the following criteria:

1. Employing creativity
2. Achieving a positive impact on the community’s economic development and placemaking
3. Partnering with transportation agencies and stakeholders
4. Developing a street project that is replicable by other communities.

Eligibility Requirements

1. All entrant communities must be current members of the Michigan Municipal League.
2. Projects may be entered by local, regional or state transportation agencies with the cooperation and participation of the League member community in which the project was undertaken.
3. Project must be substantially complete and ready for use between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2017

Application Criteria

Include information that you consider important to your project including unique aspects and obstacles that were overcome. Applications must address the four criteria noted above. Failure to do so may disqualify the entry. Each of the four criteria are of equal importance in the judging process.

Entry Procedures

1. The applicant will upload and submit the application online at: https://www.research.net/r/BetterStreetsBetterMichigan2018. The maximum size accepted for each uploaded file is 16 MB.
2. Entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2018.
3. When applicable, the League member community and the partnering agency must each sign the entry form to confirm that they concur with submission, that the project team worked well together and that the resulting project exemplified the criteria of the Better Streets, Better Michigan Award. Entries not signed by both the League member community and the partnering agency will not be judged.
4. Applicants are solely responsible for identifying other significant participants in their projects. If there are multiple individuals nominated on an application, all must be listed and all must sign the entry form. This information should be included at the time of submittal.
5. A maximum of 5 single-sided pages in 12 point font will be accepted. This includes supporting material (i.e. visual graphics, charts,
graphs, etc.). Please note that additional supporting information may be required if your entry is selected as a winner.

6. All entries become the property of MDOT and Michigan Municipal League and will not be returned.

7. Include at least three high-resolution digital images of your project. At least one photo should be approximately 8x10 in. or larger, with a vertical (portrait) orientation.

8. The winning project will be published on both MDOT and MML websites as well as in future Better Streets, Better Michigan Award Call for Entries brochures. The best photo from the winning project will be selected for the cover.

After You Submit An Entry

Judging: Applications will be evaluated and a final determination of the winning project will be made by the joint MDOT and MML Executive Committee. Projects will be judged in competition with each other on their merit relative to the contest criteria. Awards will be based on the inherent qualities of each project as perceived by the judges. Winners will be notified by e-mail.

Awards: The award will be presented at the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference in Lansing on March 21, 2018. Additional awards may be ordered for a fee.

Rating Guidelines for Judging

Each entry will be evaluated based on the following four criteria, which are key elements of the Better Streets, Better Michigan Award.

1. Employing Creativity…………………………25%

Has the project improved a street’s function and aesthetics in an imaginative way?

2. Achieving a positive impact on the community’s economic development and placemaking…………………………25%

- Has the project led to increased economic activity, improved traffic safety, and made the community more inviting to residents, workers and businesses?

3. Partnering with transportation agencies and stakeholders……………………………………………………………25%

- Have the League member community and the partnering agency both played an active and effective role in the process?

4. Developing a street project replicable by other communities……………………………………25%

- Does the project have elements that can be replicated in other communities with similar street challenges?

Questions?

For any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Interested in entering a project for this award? Submit your completed official entry form online at:
https://www.research.net/r/BetterStreetsBetterMichigan2018