



City of Abbeville

101 N State Street
Abbeville, Louisiana 70510
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cityofabbeville.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2026

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City of Abbeville Becomes First Louisiana Community to Receive National FHWA Innovation Award

Abbeville, LA — The City of Abbeville has been recognized on the national stage after receiving the 2026 National Winner award in the Putting Families First category of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Program for its Downtown Abbeville Street Improvement Project.

According to the Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center, this marks the first time a Louisiana community has earned a national category award through the Build a Better Mousetrap program.

The Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Program, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, recognizes innovative transportation projects from across the nation that improve how communities plan, design, and build local infrastructure. The Putting Families First category honors projects that make transportation safer, more accessible, and more connected for families and communities.

This recognition reflects the dedication and collaboration of the many individuals and organizations. The City extends its appreciation to the previous administration, the City Council, city employees, engineers, contractors, state and local partners, downtown businesses, and residents whose commitment and teamwork helped bring the project to life.

While the award does not include additional funding, national recognition through the Federal Highway Administration highlights Abbeville as a leader in innovative transportation planning and community-focused infrastructure improvements. The recognition also strengthens the City's visibility for future grant opportunities, partnerships, and continued investment.

As part of the award, representatives from the City of Abbeville will present the project during the 2027 Louisiana Transportation Conference, where transportation professionals from across the state will learn about the Downtown Project and its national recognition.



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About the Federal Highway Administration's Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Program

The Federal Highway Administration's Build a Better Mousetrap Innovation Program recognizes local transportation agencies that implement innovative solutions to improve safety, efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life through creative transportation projects. Winning projects are recognized nationally as examples of excellence and innovation in local transportation.