

# JOURNEY TOWARD EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECOGNIZE RESULTS

**T**xDOT's 2022 Journey Toward Excellence Awards were presented at Short Course in October. The awards recognize TxDOT teams who demonstrate leadership and commitment to improving the agency's services, products and processes, while obtaining tangible results.

Taking the Gold Quality Team Award was the Maintenance Division and the Amarillo District for work on the Texas Emergency Response Application, or TxERA. Originally intended to track snowplows in the Amarillo District, the application has expanded to an advanced tool that benefits the entire state during emergency operations. The application is a multi-layered map with section and district boundaries that pulls information from different sources. TxERA monitors TxDOT's equipment types, equipment locations in real time and historical locations. It also allows users to monitor and map weather,



*The Maintenance Division and the Amarillo District won the Gold Award: (l to r) Chief Engineer Lance Simmons, Maintenance Division Director James Stevenson, Emergency Management Coordinator Matthew Heinze, Maintenance Division Deputy Director Alanna Bettis, Amarillo District Director of Operations Wes Kimmell, Amarillo District Engineer Blair Johnson and Executive Director Marc Williams.*



*The Professional Engineering Procurement Services Division received the bronze award for its DRIVE Program: Contract Administrator Pamela Mason and DRIVE Program Director Caleb Bryant.*

radar, weather warnings, highway conditions, traffic cameras, dynamic message signs, salt inventory and more. The result is better informed decision-making during disaster events using real-time location data.

The Austin District took silver for its Austin Safety Analysis Program, or ASAP. This collaborative effort resulted in an application that integrates numerous TxDOT databases to help identify crash hotspots. The app identifies targeted project areas by using multiple years of crash data from the Crash Records Information System. Originally developed as a screening tool, ASAP has transformed into a predictive tool to support district traffic safety operations



*The Austin District took home silver: (l to r) Lance Simmons, Austin District Deputy District Engineer Mike Arellano, Director of Transportation Operations Brenda Guerra, Austin District Engineer Tucker Ferguson and Marc Williams.*

to plan and fund safety projects before crashes or fatalities occur. ASAP is also being used to measure the effectiveness of deployed safety countermeasures, which provides the ability to calibrate crash reduction factors.

The Professional Engineering Procurement Services Division received the bronze award for its DRIVE Program. The Diverse Relationships for Informative Value Exchange, or DRIVE, Program reflects TxDOT's commitment to increasing the participation of disadvantage business enterprise firms in the procurement of professional services contracts. It is a mentorship program to support emerging disadvantaged firms through voluntary partnerships with more established firms. Participating firms gain insight and learn best practices. The program started last year with 16 firms and now has a total of 42 firms participating. ■