

State News for NSPE Members

Why is it so hard for the Bay Area to build megaprojects?

When the newly opened Salesforce Transit Center closed to repair cracked steel beams in September 2018, local-news junkies and transportation boosters felt a sense of déjà vu. The steel beam situation was eerily similar to the saga of the defective “steel rods” on the eastern span of the Bay Bridge, which needed structural reinforcement just as the new bridge was about to open. Both projects shared another defect: ballooning budgets that bore no resemblance to initial estimates.

These recurring difficulties with the Bay Area’s megaprojects have become the stuff of negative headlines around the country, and are seized upon as ammunition by opponents of visionary infrastructure projects. But a frank reckoning with the state of megaproject delivery in the Bay Area is just as important for supporters of mass transit and green infrastructure as it is for the naysayers. With even more (and more complex) projects on the horizon—including the high-speed rail, which will connect LA with SF via the Central Valley, and a second Transbay Tube—the Bay Area needs to get megaproject delivery back on track.

[Read the full story.](#)

Learn About NSPE’s New Strategic Plan



Join NSPE Executive Director Mark Golden as he [shares NSPE's recent strategic](#)

[planning process](#) in a new animated video. The NSPE Strategic Plan—including our vision, mission, values, and goals—is developed by the NSPE Board of Directors in collaboration with NSPE’s representative House of Delegates. It is not a static document. Rather, it is a commitment to ongoing, open, and transparent strategic planning and execution.

[Access NSPE’s Who We Are and What We Do page.](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and NSPE

Diversity is a major theme in [NSPE’s Strategic Plan](#) , and it recently gained a place in the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#) . For any future-focused, proactive profession or professional society, diversity is increasingly a strategic imperative. But there needs to be an acknowledgement of the missed opportunities created by the biases in our personal, professional, and societal lives.

[Learn more about how NSPE is making strides toward its goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion.](#)

Can You Meet the 2020 Ethics Challenge?



How should ethics factor into the development of artificial intelligence or in guiding the future of the profession? These are just two of the issues that professional engineers and engineering students can address in this year’s [NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#).

NSPE members can participate through their state societies and local chapters (including student chapters). State societies and local chapters are encouraged to consider using this contest as a state or chapter activity to generate member discussion and spur greater interest in engineering ethics.

Participants can select from one of four issues to develop a submission (video, photo essay, poster, essay, or PowerPoint presentation) that demonstrates an understanding of the ethical issues involved. Participants are encouraged (but not

required) to consider and cite in the submission the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#) and previous NSPE Board of Ethical Review opinions.

NSPE will award the author of the winning entry \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine. All submissions must be received by **April 20**.

Boost Your Professionalism With These Upcoming Webinars!



Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits with NSPE's webinars. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss the Ethics Forum each month, presented by NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz. Register for individual ethics webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **March 17**. All webinars are held 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Eastern.

March 4

[The 2020 EJCDC Engineering Agreements](#)

March 18

[Engineering Ethics – Disclosure, Payment, Expert Testimony and Conflicts of Interest](#)

March 25

[Emotional Intelligence at Work](#)

April 15

[Engineering Ethics – Conflicts of Interest, Licensure, Confidentiality and Public Criticism](#)

May 13

[Engineering Ethics – Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings and Misrepresentation](#)

Check Out the New 15 Free Courses

Included with your NSPE membership are 15 free on-demand webinars. Take

advantage of the courses to further your professional development and meet your continuing education requirements.

[Access the 2020 courses.](#)

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