

State News for NSPE Members

Licensing Board Introduces Second Phase of Licensing Portal

The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists has introduced the second phase of its new application and licensing portal designed to promote effective connection between the board and its applicants and license holders. License renewals are now available for all eligible licenses plus refinements to the current EIT/LSIT application processes.

[Register for BPELSG Connect here.](#)

State Issues Final Report on Causes of August Rolling Outages

The California Independent System Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Energy Commission issued a final root cause analysis of the August 2020 heat wave and rotating outages.

CAISO was forced to institute rotating electricity outages in California on August 14 and 15, 2020, in the midst of an extreme heat wave. Following these emergency events, Gov. Gavin Newsom requested the agencies report on the root causes of the events leading to the outages.

The Final Root Cause Analysis confirms the preliminary report's findings that the three major factors leading to the August outages were related to extreme weather conditions, resource adequacy and planning processes, and market practices.

[Read more.](#)

Transportation Institute Analyzes CA Transportation Revenue Possibilities

Drastic changes to travel behavior during the pandemic have decreased fuel tax revenue, but the extent and timing of financial recovery in the years to come remain uncertain. New Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) research, *The Impact of the COVID-19 Recovery on California Transportation Revenue: A Scenario Analysis through 2040*, estimates the impact the COVID-19 pandemic would have on state-generated transportation revenue under six potential economic recovery scenarios, projecting future transportation revenue in California through 2040.

The six scenarios vary by several variables, including the length of the economic downturn and differences in transportation trends such as vehicle miles traveled (VMT), light-duty fleet size, and the mix of internal-combustion engine (ICE) vs. zero-emission vehicles (ZEV). These projections only consider revenue collected by the state through California Senate Bill 1: The Road Repair Accountability Act (SB1).

[Read more.](#)

Will California-Las Vegas High Speed Line Construction Start in the Spring?

High-speed rail company Brightline West hopes to begin construction of its \$8.4 billion, 168-mile California–Las Vegas high speed line in the second quarter of 2021.

Work on the project was originally scheduled to begin at the end of 2020, but was delayed due to a failure to source buyers for \$2.4 billion of private bonds, according to a *Railway Age* article. The bonds, approved for the project by the states of California (\$600 million) and Nevada (\$200 million), were later repurposed to support affordable housing projects in the two states.

[Read more.](#)

Making Masks Smarter and Safer Against COVID-19

A new tool for monitoring COVID-19 may one day be right under your nose. Researchers at the University of California San Diego are developing a color-changing test strip that can be stuck on a mask and used to detect SARS-CoV-2 in a person's breath or saliva.

The project, which received \$1.3 million from the National Institutes of Health, is aimed at providing simple, affordable and reliable surveillance for COVID-19 infections that can be done daily and easily implemented in resource-poor settings. It is part of the NIH's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Radical (RADx-rad)

program for COVID-19.

“In many ways, masks are the perfect ‘wearable’ sensor for our current world,” said Jesse Jokerst, professor of nanoengineering at the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering and lead principal investigator of the project. “We’re taking what many people are already wearing and repurposing them so we can quickly and easily identify new infections and protect vulnerable communities.”

[Read more.](#)



NSPE’s **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today’s top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

The latest California jobs are pulled from the NSPE Job Board and appear on the [NSPE-CA website](#). New career opportunities are also posted through NSPE-CA social media profiles on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).

Featured Jobs

[Resident Engineer](#)

Ventura, CA

[Public Works Director/City Engineer](#)

Menifee, CA

Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the [NSPE Job Board](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society’s new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

“As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE’s history,” says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. “It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE’s volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika’s expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she’s demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations.”



Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization’s board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization’s 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

“I’m very excited to be joining the NSPE team,” says Schulz, “and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE’s vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers.”

Prior to serving as ASTA’s CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme “**Imagining Tomorrow**,” will take place **February 21–27**, and this year’s focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#) , or “Girl Day,”



will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “ [Chats With Change Makers](#) ” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.

This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

FREE
15

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public *](#)
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design *](#)
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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