

State News for NSPE Members

Arizona Transportation Investment Proposal Advances

Arizona state officials said \$230 million has been proposed for a series of transportation investments, including support for Interstate 10 Gila River Bridge construction and varied road repaving projects, according to a *Transportation Today* article.

"Despite the pandemic, Arizona's economy is strong and families and businesses continue to relocate here in record numbers," Governor Doug Ducey said during the recent announcement with Arizona Department of Transportation personnel. "Now is the right time to use our state and federal dollars to make investments that create jobs, modernize our infrastructure and improve highway safety."

The funding allotment would involve \$33 million to rebuild and widen the Gila River Bridge on I-10 between Phoenix and Tucson, paving the way for a full expansion of I-10 between the two cities; \$41 million to widen US Route 93 north of Wickenburg; \$40 million to add capacity to Interstate 17 north of metro Phoenix; and \$117 million to improve more than 600 highway lane-miles statewide.

The funding plan is in partnership with ADOT and follows prior formal action by ADOT's Priority Planning Advisory Committee. The proposal is slated to be presented to the State Transportation Board for consideration.

[Read more.](#)

ADOT Program Inspires Kids During Engineers Week

When many school children started staying home when the pandemic hit last year, the Arizona Department of Transportation launched a new outreach campaign called "[ADOT Kids](#)," which seeks to educate children on transportation through videos, games and activities geared for them.

With National Engineers Week, ADOT Kids launched new content to get children

interested in engineering as a career, including videos and activities to help kids learn about different areas of engineering. Part of the content includes Joselyn Valero, a development engineer with ADOT, who shares her story in a video to encourage kids to pursue engineering careers. “I always loved math and I wanted to be where math is a big part of it. The idea of building a bridge or a skyscraper fascinated me,” Valero said.

The program was recognized by the National Academies for Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Transportation Research Board at its annual meeting in January. It also won the 14th Annual Communicating Concepts with John and Jane Q. Public Competition which showcases creative and fresh ways of communicating technical transportation issues with a general audience.

[Read more.](#)

How Arizona Universities are Meeting Demand for Skilled Talent

Grand Canyon University, Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Phoenix, and Maricopa Community Colleges are a sampling of another growing list—a catalog of higher education institutions that are supplying talented, forward-thinking and dynamic graduates to fuel innovation and entice new businesses to the state, according to an *AZ Big Media* article.

“After infrastructure, the labor supply and labor production of a market is its second most critical ingredient,” says Chris Camacho, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. “What I’ve observed in the last decade with the manifestation of our engineering capacity within ASU, UArizona, GCU, University of Phoenix, and a lot of the regional university systems and community colleges, is we’re constantly iterating and modernizing the way that we induce curriculum to meet industry needs.”

The local markets for which Camacho refers range from healthcare and bioscience to software and cybersecurity to advanced business services and financial services to startups and advanced manufacture, to a host of operations-based industries—and then some. And, to ensure these business sectors and others receive the talent they require, higher education leaders are remaining attuned to the pulse of growing industries.

[Read more.](#)

State Licensing Board Meeting

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, March 23**. The meeting agenda can be accessed [here](#).

Individuals that want to attend the meeting remotely must make a request in advance. Contact Kurt Winter at kurt.winter@azbtr.gov if you're interested in attending remotely.



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FAA safety engineer goes public to slam the agency's oversight of Boeing's 737 MAX

Haunted by the two deadly crashes of Boeing 737 MAX jets and his agency's role in approving the plane, veteran Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety engineer Joe Jacobsen is stepping forward publicly to give the victims' families "a firsthand account of what the truth is." In a detailed letter sent last month to a family that lost their daughter in the second MAX crash in Ethiopia two years ago this

week, and in [interviews with The Seattle Times](#), Jacobsen gave the first personal account by an insider of the federal safety agency's response to the MAX crashes. Jacobsen should have been among the FAA specialists who reviewed the MAX's critical new flight control software during its original certification, which was largely controlled by Boeing. He's confident that he and other FAA engineers would have flagged its serious design flaws.

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Wanted: 2021 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is fostering a new generation of engineers who can think strategically, build effective teams, and lead successfully through its [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This intensive seven-month, professionally facilitated, virtual program is now accepting applications until **May 31**.

Early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession are encouraged to apply. The program graduated its [first class of diverse, super achieving professionals](#) in February.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 participants will learn how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility. Participants will engage in 90-minute leadership training sessions each month with learning discussions and mentoring on topics such as ownership, team development, communication skills, giving/receiving feedback, and presentation skills. There will also be ample networking opportunities with peers and national NSPE national leaders.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Ethics Webinars for PEs and Those on the Licensure Path

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Don't miss NSPE's upcoming ethics webinars on truthfulness and fidelity to employers and clients, with insight from Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq., NSPE's senior director for ethics and professional practice and NAFE executive director, and other NSPE ethics experts.

April 7

[Engineering Ethics—Canon III—Truthfulness](#)

Learn from a variety of situations in which circumstances can tempt (and even encourage) engineers to dance around the edges of Canon III.

Presenters: Hugh Veit, P.E., Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.

May 5

[Engineering Ethics—Canon IV—Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

Examine the duties to employers and clients, and circumstances under which those duties can be pre-empted by higher duties, especially to the public health, safety, and welfare.

Presenters: David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., Jeff Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.

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