ADOT Seeks Comment on Transportation Plan

The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking public comments about the draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which includes a recommended strategy for using anticipated limited funding to preserve existing highways across rural Arizona over the next 25 years.

The draft plan is available for review and comment at ADOT through September 7, and ADOT will also hold a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, August 22. Registration for the Zoom meeting is available here.

The Long Range Transportation Plan is not project-specific. Rather, it provides a blueprint and vision for Arizona’s future transportation system and includes modes of transportation beyond state highways. It sets transportation investment priorities for ADOT and partnering agencies to consider based on anticipated future revenues and costs for improvements.

The draft long range plan includes a projection of $69 billion in transportation revenues, including state, federal and regional funds, between 2026 and 2050, including funding from the new federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It also points to anticipated transportation needs totaling $231 billion over that same 25-year period. Read more.

Raytheon to Open Design Hub at ASU - SkySong

Raytheon, a leading aerospace and defense company, will open a new facility at SkySong, the Arizona State University Scottsdale Innovation Center, adding 28,000 square feet of digital design space to the company’s footprint just minutes away from the university’s Tempe campus.

The new engineering design hub will leverage talent in the metro Phoenix area, housing approximately 150 professional positions — 95% of which will be employees new to Raytheon. The location will focus primarily on digital design
products that support the rapid growth and demand for the company's defense portfolio, which, to date, has mostly been concentrated in southern Arizona.

"We've been working for years to expand our presence in the greater Phoenix area to take advantage of a talent pool that is uniquely qualified to drive this type of innovation," said Wes Kremer, president of Raytheon. "This expansion will also provide greater opportunities to collaborate with other tech companies and suppliers in the region."

In addition to expanding its presence to the Valley, the move strengthens Raytheon's partnership with ASU and its Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, the largest engineering university in the country, to create a steady pipeline of talent for the future and further many research and development projects. Read more.

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**Open for Applications: 2023 Arizona Innovation Challenge**

The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is accepting applications for the 13th annual Arizona Innovation Challenge (AIC). The authority is accepting applications until **August 31**. The Arizona Innovation Challenge, which is the largest state-sponsored business plan competition in the nation, advances innovation and technology commercialization opportunities in Arizona by helping early-stage ventures to scale, according to a news release.

Since 2011, the ACA has selected 130 AIC awardees from over 2,700 applications, representing a total portfolio evaluation of $2.8 billion and $1.6 billion in follow-on capital raised by awardees since winning. AIC awardees include sectors such as IT and software, bio and life sciences, cleantech and renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing. Previous awardees include notable startups such as Botco.ai, CampusLogic, Paradox, Ampcera, ReSuture, Air2O and more.

Up to 10 companies will be selected as awardees and gain access to the ACA’s flagship entrepreneurship program Venture Ready Accelerator, which connects companies with serial entrepreneurs, high-level executives and subject matter experts. The awardees will complete a series of panels and workshops within nine months of receiving the award where they will learn how to refine their business plans, improve go-to-market execution strategies, and increase investor readiness. Read more.

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**State Licensing Board Meeting**

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, August 22**. Access meeting information [here](#).
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.

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**Vermont PE Rises to Top Leadership**

William (Bill) Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE’s 2023–24 president during a ceremony at NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3. He has spent most of his career volunteering for NSPE and various engineering organizations that hold true to his passion for protecting the public through licensure and ethical engineering decision making.

Atkinson serves as the engineering manager and lead engineer at Vermont Mechanical Inc., a mechanical and plumbing design build contractor that focuses on healthcare and commercial construction (where he has been employed since 2001). He currently directs the service and engineering departments.

Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board.
He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

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**Honoring Excellence in the Profession**

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Engineering Education Excellence Award**

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.

_Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E._, is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

**New Professional of the Year Award**

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one’s career.

_Sri Kumar, P.E._, is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company’s strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico’s employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the
nation’s most complex infrastructure challenges.

**Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates**

The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are invited to apply.

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

Apply Now

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