

State News for NSPE Members

Governor Signs Bill to Expand Broadband in Arizona

On May 10, Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation (H.B. 2596) that allows private broadband providers to install, operate and maintain telecommunications equipment within the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) rights-of-way. It also allows ADOT to grant access to its own broadband conduit to private telecommunications companies in a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory manner—reducing the cost of installing rural broadband infrastructure.

Additionally, the legislation creates the "Smart Highway Trust Fund" to deposit leasing revenues generated from the use of ADOT rights-of-way, which are to be used for operation and maintenance of telecommunications facilities within ADOT's rights-of-way.

[Read more.](#)

Engineering Experts Offer Perspective on Biden Plan to Improve Infrastructure

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers publishes a [Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#). This comprehensive assessment evaluates the performance and capacity of our national road network, rail system, bridges, ports, drinking water, wastewater and other key resources.

Results are consistently gloomy. For more than two decades, the United States has averaged "D" grades on these engineering report cards. The 2021 report shows a "C-minus," which indicates improvement. But the ASCE notes that our national infrastructure still suffers grave shortcomings that represent risks to America's economy, security and public health.

"Funding infrastructure is a significant problem in part because we've let deficiencies accumulate over time. We spend only when we have to fix something," said Brad Allenby, a President's Professor of civil, environmental and sustainable

engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University.

"Of course, that is a very expensive way to manage infrastructure. It means that we're always tackling significant problems, whether it's roads that become essentially impassable because of potholes or fragmentation of the power grid, the consequences of which Texas suffered very recently," Allenby said. "We continually 'fix' our infrastructure systems, but we don't invest to bring them up to necessary standards. That needs to change."

[Read more.](#)

Report Identifies Shovel Ready Transmission Projects

A new report identifies 22 shovel ready, high-voltage transmission projects—including three in Arizona—that, if constructed, would create approximately 1,240,000 American jobs and lead to 60,000 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity, increasing America's wind and solar generation by nearly 50%. The [report outlines](#) how these projects could begin construction soon if more workable transmission policies are enacted.

These regional and interregional transmission lines would not only bring quality wind and solar resources to areas with high demand but also increase economic development and grid resilience as well as provide cost-savings for consumers.

[Read more](#)

State Licensing Board Meeting

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, **May 25**. 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.



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

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New Jersey Student Wins MATHCOUNTS Title

Marvin Mao, an eighth-grade student from Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, was named the [2021 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition](#) champion during the virtual event held May 8-10. Mao will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.



This year's national competition engaged 224 students representing 56 US states and territories in four rounds: Sprint, Target, Team, and Countdown.

The runner-up for the individual competition was Bohan Yao, an eighth-grader from Redmond, Washington, who will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Ten finalists will receive \$3,000 scholarships.

Mao is also a member of the first-place New Jersey team consisting of fellow eighth-grade students Evan Fan, Ying Lu, and Alexander Wang. The team will receive a trip to the US Space Camp. The California team finished in second place and the New York team placed third.

California Team Captures Math Video Award

A video combining algebraic equations with an exciting heist won the [2021 Math Video Challenge](#) for a team representing the Elite Academic Academy in southern California.

Team members Bradley Carpiuc (eighth grade), Madelynn Carpiuc (sixth grade), Zoe Kim (eighth grade) and Cole Seelman (sixth grade) each won a \$1,000 college scholarship for their [“The Sanitizer Stealers” video](#) during the challenge finals on May 9. The video is about a group of thieves who steal overpriced hand sanitizer from a store.



The crime is caught on camera, and the owner uses math to piece together just how much the thieves got away with.

The Math Video Challenge is a national program sponsored by MATHCOUNTS and the Department of Defense (DoDSTEM). More than 200 students who advanced to the national level of the MATHCOUNTS competition voted to determine the winning video.

[Access the 2021 finalist videos.](#)

Nominations Open for the QBS Awards

Every year, ACEC and NSPE partner to administer the [QBS Awards](#), recognizing public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state, and local levels. Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use or underuse QBS to procure engineering services.

ACEC and NSPE are now seeking nominations for the 2021 QBS Awards by the deadline **Monday, June 7**. The awards are administered in three categories: federal government sector; state government sector; and nongovernment sector.

Nominations may originate from an ACEC member organization, an NSPE state society, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector.

Self-nomination is not permitted.

[Learn more and download a nomination form.](#)

Boost Your Career with NSPE's Spring Webinars



This season's NSPE webinars will take place on Wednesdays starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

May 26: [Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%](#)

June 2: [Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century: A Discussion with Leaders of Engineering Change Lab – USA](#)

June 9: [Tools to Ensure Effective Litigation Preparation and Testimony as an Engineering Professional](#)

[Register now.](#)

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