

State News for NSPE Members

Montana Passenger Rail Gets \$15 Million for Malta Infrastructure, Southern Rail Planning

[KPVI reports](#) that efforts to expand and upgrade passenger rail service both along the Hi-Line and in southern Montana recently got boosts to the tune of more than \$15 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

That includes nearly \$15 million to upgrade rail infrastructure on Amtrak's Empire Builder line and \$500,000 so the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority can put together a plan to restore the North Coast Hiawatha route through southern Montana.

About \$14.9 million will run through the Federal-State Partnership program to upgrade Empire Builder infrastructure in and around Malta, including track, bridge, and signal construction to try to cut down on delays and issues between freight and passenger trains.

"For years folks have been telling me that we need an upgrade to our rail infrastructure around Malta to improve passenger and freight services, and with the help of my bipartisan infrastructure law, we'll finally be able to deliver," Senator Jon Tester said in a statement.

The Empire Builder runs between Chicago and Seattle and Portland, connecting through Minneapolis, across the Hi-Line from Wolf Point to Libby, with stops along the way. It is currently the only Amtrak passenger rail line through Montana. [Read more.](#)

MSU Awarded \$3 million to Study Use of Microorganisms in Building Materials

[Montana State University](#) has announced that a multi-disciplinary team of the school's experts searching for a way to use living materials to reduce the building industry's reliance on cement and concrete has been awarded a \$3 million Future Research Manufacturing

Proposals may address a number of topics in three key conference tracks that include leadership, issues and trends, and career assistance. Please consider sharing your expertise and insights by **submitting a presentation proposal by midnight, January 10.**

To learn more about potential topic areas, how to prepare a submission, and the benefits of being selected to present, click on the button below.

[Submit Your Presentation](#)

NSPE Member Benefit: On-Demand Webinars

The WORKability Wednesdays fall series wrapped up in November. Recordings of the presentations are available in the [PE Institute](#) . Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the website.

NSPE is always seeking great content and speakers. Those interested in presenting can submit ideas using the online [Call for Webinars form](#) .

Enterprise Membership - Elevate Your Engineering Team



Is your organization looking to bring together a team of engineers, each committed to professional growth and staying up to date with the ever-evolving field of engineering? [Consider launching your NSPE Enterprise Membership!](#)

In today's rapidly changing engineering landscape, having a group of experts with diverse skills is essential. To rise to the challenges of this environment, engineers must commit to continuous upskilling and lifelong learning. The skills demanded by the profession in 2024 include critical thinking, problem-solving, active learning, resilience, stress tolerance, and flexibility.

"NSPE Enterprise Membership has proven to be a valuable program for our

engineering team at Huitt-Zollars. It streamlines our membership process; the ability to make a single payment for multiple employees simplifies our administrative tasks and reduces time. Our engineers appreciate the continuous learning/professional development and networking opportunities provided by NSPE throughout the year.” — John Ho, P.E., F.NSPE, Vice President, Huitt-Zollars

Key Advantages of NSPE Enterprise Membership

- **Unite Your Engineering Team:** NSPE Enterprise Membership brings together five or more individuals from your organization into one cohesive group.
- **Streamlined Billing:** Enjoy unparalleled member benefits and simplify the billing process with a single consolidated invoice and one payment for the entire group.
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[Learn more about the benefits of Enterprise Membership.](#)

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