

State News for NSPE Members

Louisiana DOTD Launches Statewide Transportation Plan Website

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has launched the Statewide Transportation Plan website to share information and seek public input on transportation needs in the state. The site offers an overview of the statewide planning process, including updates to the aviation, freight, and rail modal plans. The website can be accessed [here](#).

Meeting Highlights Carbon Emissions Reductions in Louisiana

Louisiana's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and transition to clean energy has drawn over \$50 billion in private investments in recent years, one of many measures of progress highlighted by a legislative task force, [The Center Square reports](#).

"In the private sector, capital is moving to the energy transition in unprecedented ways," Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards told the Climate Initiatives Task Force on Thursday, November 9. "This is about a global energy transition that's taking root right here in Louisiana, and one that's going to have tremendous economic benefits for our state and our people for generations to come."

In the last six years, the private sector has announced more than \$50 billion in low carbon and carbon-free projects in Louisiana, which are projected to create over 23,000 jobs, he said.

The meeting centered on progress on the state's climate action plan, which calls for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 26%-28% of 2005 levels by 2025, 40%-50% by 2030, and to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Efforts toward those goals are in large part federally funded by \$9.11 billion in

recent years. The money includes \$3.83 billion for roads, bridges, and safety; \$1.57 billion for internet; \$1.29 billion for clean energy; \$353 million for airports, ports and rail; \$258 million for clean water systems; \$202 million for public transportation; \$164 million for electric vehicles; and \$164 million for environmental remediation. [Read more.](#)

Tulane and LSU Awarded \$22 Million to Save Lower Mississippi River Delta

Tulane University and Louisiana State University have been awarded \$22 million by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to lead a 15-member consortium that will chart a new course for the future of the fragile Lower Mississippi River Delta, [Tulane News reports](#).

The region where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico is crucial for US commerce, energy, wildlife and fisheries and the people who live there, but it's also one of the most vulnerable coastal areas in the world. Recent research shows the lower reaches of the delta retreating both above and below water. The river is also redirecting its flows to the east and west, which poses critical challenges to navigation and implications for water management, including the recent saltwater intrusion crisis.

The Mississippi River Delta Transition Initiative, or MissDelta, as the consortium is known, will include a team of 38 investigators working with the National Academies' Gulf Research Program. The group will begin engaging stakeholders this year as they work to project the evolution of the disappearing delta through the year 2100 should nothing be done to forestall its erosion or counter threats from increasingly intense hurricanes, rising seas, ground subsidence, diminishing river sediment, coastal dead zones, navigation channel changes and growing maintenance costs.

"Preserving the fragile Lower Mississippi River Delta is not just a mission; it's an imperative for our future," said Bren Haase, chairman of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, a key consortium partner, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, local communities and industries. "Together, we'll navigate the challenges of sea-level rise, erosion and shifting river dynamics, forging a sustainable path forward for future generations." [Read more.](#)

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

Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

[Future Forward](#)

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and

nanotechnology are revolutionizing the world. But these technologies are developing at a pace much faster than can be effectively absorbed into critical engineered infrastructure. The NSPE Emerging Technologies Committee is laser focused on ensuring that new technologies can benefit society and the profession with minimal risk to safety and security.



[Claiming a Seat at the Table](#)

Does it ever seem like your ideas go unnoticed? Do you sometimes feel like you have stalled in your organization? Does it seem like your team is not getting the support it needs? If you want to “claim a seat at the table,” how you show up, use your influence, and communicate can be the difference between winning opportunities or not.

[Access the full issue online.](#) Members who subscribe to the digital edition of *PE* can also access the current and back issues.

Engineers Week 2024 — Welcome to the Future!

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 18–24, 2024) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week — **Welcome to the Future!** — seeks to inspire the next generation to play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

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