

State News for NSPE Members

Louisiana to Receive \$63M in Federal Grants for Infrastructure

Governor John Bel Edwards and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., announced that five Louisiana applicants are set to receive a total of \$63.1 million in federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants from the US Department of Transportation. The RAISE grant program is the first discretionary funding program to accept applications as directed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, according to a [news release](#).

The RAISE grants will be allocated as follows:

- **\$22,164,000: Roadway and intersection improvements on the healthcare corridor near the intersection of I-49 and I-20 in Shreveport** (includes reconstructed roadways and transit bus pull-outs, bus rapid transit with electric bus technology, ADA improvements, traffic signal and emergency vehicle preemption improvements, pedestrian facilities including a pedestrian bridge, protected bicycle lanes, and street lighting).
- **\$20,000,000: Right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction of the Baton Rouge Train Station and Gonzales Train Station along the planned Baton Rouge-New Orleans Inter-City Rail Service** (including ADA accessible platforms and stations and supporting infrastructure).
- **\$17,253,272: Rehabilitation of the Texas Street Business Corridor from the Highway 1 South Bypass to Washington Street in Natchitoches** (includes rehabilitation of roads and drainage facilities, new pavement, new and widened sidewalks, walking paths, and dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes).
- **\$2,626,679: Replacement of the existing closed, dilapidated Valentine Pontoon Bridge over Bayou Lafourche on LA 1 and LA 308** between

Lockport and Larose with a more modern pontoon bridge.

- **\$1,099,455: Replacement of a gravel roadway with a hard-surface roadway to the Pointe-a-la-Hache ferry facility** (includes the addition of a new southbound left turn lane on LA 23, a northbound deceleration turn lane and acceleration lane, subsurface drainage improvements, and a parking area to accommodate commuters).

River Commission Inspection, Public Meetings Scheduled

The Mississippi River Commission will conduct its annual low-water inspection trip on the Mississippi River, August 22 – 26, 2022. Four public meetings are scheduled aboard the Motor Vessel "Mississippi" in selected towns along the river. A meeting in **Morgan City, Louisiana**, will take place on **Friday, August 26**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the **Port Commission Dock**.

Commission members will meet with local partners, stakeholders and residents and hear their concerns, ideas, and issues. Interested parties are invited to present their views on matters affecting the water resources infrastructure needs in the valley, including flood control, the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, and other water resources challenges.

Additional meetings will be held in Tiptonville, Tennessee (Riverside Park) on August 22; in Memphis, Tennessee (Beale Street Landing) on August 23; and Vicksburg, Mississippi (City Front) on August 24.

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

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon22 in Philadelphia.

NSPE Award

Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE, received the Society's most prestigious award presented to a professional engineer who has been committed to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Harclerode, the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, has been an active member of NSPE and the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since 1980. He is also a past chair of the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers.



Engineering Education Excellence Award

Mohamed El-Sayed, Ph.D., P.E., a professor of mechanical engineering at Eastern Michigan University, received this award for licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. El-Sayed has vast technical and industrial expertise in the areas of vehicle realization, quality, reliability, durability, and optimization. He has also worked in various positions in the automotive industry. He has several granted patents, one authored book, and over a hundred technical and educational publications.



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.

Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM, is employed with Freese and Nichols in the firm's stormwater group. Throughout her career, Ahumada has specialized in stormwater and floodplain management, as well as supporting public entities with long-term planning, and the analysis and mitigation of flooding issues. She is an active member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and serves as the chapter's president.



Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA, is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky and oversees the Engineering, Mass Transit, and Safety/Training divisions. For the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, he serves as vice president for the Western Region and is president of the Green River Chapter.



Fact Check: The Myths of Anti-Licensing

Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. The NSPE-led [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#) takes a closer look at those myths and sets the record straight.

Myth #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.

Fact: Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensors are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

Myth #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.

Fact: Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and create business insurance and liability implications.

Myth #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.

Fact: Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

Myth #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.

Fact: Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.

[Read more on the truth about professional licensing.](#)

EJCDC Documents: 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released the [2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series](#). This series is completely new to EJCDC and is intended

for projects in which the owner's primary representative during construction will be the Construction Manager as Advisor (CM).

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