MDOT Awarded $60 Million Mega Grant to Widen I-10

The Mississippi Department of Transportation was recently awarded a $60 million grant from the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program, also known as the “Mega” grant program, to support a project to widen a section of I-10. A competitive grant, the project was one of only nine to receive funding from hundreds of applications submitted across the country. Created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the grant will be administered by the US Department of Transportation.

“This funding and the project it supports will have a huge positive impact on South Mississippi residents and the 51,000 vehicles that travel I-10 each day,” Tom King, chair of the Mississippi Transportation Commission, stated in a news release. “This project will strengthen access to southern cities across the entire Gulf Coast region, providing greater opportunities for economic development as well as a more efficient flow of goods and services.”

The grant funding will support a widening project on I-10 that will involve expanding the interstate from four to six lanes starting just west of Diamondhead to just east of County Farm Road in Harrison County where an existing 6-lane segment ends. Other components of the project include intelligent transportation system improvements, construction of a sound wall in the Diamondhead area, and drainage improvements. Read more.

USACE Enters Project Partnership Agreement with City of Jackson

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District entered into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as part of the Environmental Infrastructure Program (Section 219) as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1992.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba and Col. Christopher Klein, Vicksburg District
commander, signed the agreement during a ceremony at city hall on February 6. “We are committed to delivering vital solutions in collaboration with our partners,” Col. Klein stated in a news release. “Through the Section 219 program, we are able to work together, with the City of Jackson, to provide water and wastewater infrastructure improvements to the community.”

Congress has authorized $125 million for improvements to the City of Jackson’s water system infrastructure. To date, the Vicksburg District has received $25 million, and the other $100 million is to be subsequently appropriated. The first increment of work will be the purchase of a 100 million gallon per day pump at the Savanna Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. Future projects will be determined by the City of Jackson subject to federal law and regulation. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Meet the FEYA Top 10 Finalists

NSPE is pleased to announce the 10 finalists for the 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year Award, honoring engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide. All have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The winner of this year’s award will be announced during a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24, and will be selected from the following finalists.

- **Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer, networks/WAN specialist; Tennessee Valley Authority
- **Steven C. Dunn, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer; General Services Administration Public Buildings Service
- **Chad C. Hogan, P.E.**, lead engineer; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Material Command
- **Capt. Jeneé A. Jagoda, P.E., PMP**, engineering flight commander; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command
- **Capt. Christopher C. Jankowski, P.E., PMP, ENV SP**, chief of operations engineering; US Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces
Andrew R. Lawrence, P.E., salvage engineering response team principal architect; US Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard

- Nicholas Brian Melly, P.E., fire protection engineer; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Dr. Brandon L. Toliver, P.E., branch chief, basing and beddown; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Installation & Mission Support

- Brian R. Wybrecht, P.E., civil engineer; US Department of the Army, US Army Europe and Africa

**2023 Lineup of 15 Free PDHs Are Available**

NSPE membership offers the benefit of access to 15 on-demand webinars. This year’s webinars address various topics of interest to professional engineers
including ethics, emerging technologies, construction projects, and licensure. Upon successful completion of each webinar quiz (with a passing score of 70% or higher), the quiz taker will receive an attendance certificate with the appropriate credits earned for that session. Access the free webinars.

---

**2022 NSPE Scholarship Winners**

The NSPE Education Foundation awarded several scholarships to support talented students pursuing engineering degrees in ABET-accredited programs.

**Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship**

**Leah Griesmer**, from Broadview Heights, Ohio, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

**Katelyn King**, from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering**

**Sebastian Rodriguez**, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is attending Carnegie Mellon University to study mechanical engineering.

**The George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship**

**Tyler Kleinsasser** is a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota.

**Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship**

**Eli Ordaz** is studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University.

**Steinman Scholarship**

**Kathleen Abrams** is attending the University of South Carolina, majoring in biomedical engineering.

**Michael Chavez** is studying electrical engineering, with an emphasis on renewable energy, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Jake Schneider**, of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, is pursuing his degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Louisville.

**Lindsay Steis**, of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, is attending Gannon University, majoring in environmental engineering.

**Jonathan Windham**, of Sumrall, Mississippi, is pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Mississippi State University.

**The 2023 Scholarship Season Opens**

The NSPE Education Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2023
scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is April 1.

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to PE Matters e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of PE Matters, click here to unsubscribe.

Share with your network

National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314