Transportation Commission Makes a Case for More Infrastructure Funding

The Mississippi Transportation Commission addressed the critical need for new, recurring sources of revenue and warned of the effects of underfunding infrastructure at a press conference on April 10, at the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) administration building, vicksburgsnews.com reports. Commissioners say long-term funding sources should be established to help MDOT meet current demands and expand capacity for future transportation needs.

"The money we received recently puts us in a position of investing in Right-of-Way acquisition and design, but we're not going to be able to complete those projects. We need recurring dollars," said Commissioner Willie Simmons. "With inflation going the way it is, if we look in the future, capacity projects that we delay today are only going to cost us more money and delay the process of putting Mississippi where it should be in recruiting industry and maintaining infrastructure."

As vehicles become more fuel efficient and electric vehicle use rises, MDOT's primary source of revenue—the gas tax—is declining. Meanwhile, inflation has driven up costs for materials and labor. Inadequate funding paired with increased costs will create a sizable funding shortfall in the coming years.

While MDOT was fortunate to receive significant funding from state and federal sources in the past few years, those funds are considered "one-time money," not recurring. Several proposals have been made to establish long-term funding sources for MDOT without raising taxes. Proposed new streams of revenue include readdressing the formula for lottery funds, diverting a portion of unobligated funds from the use tax and diverting unobligated funds from gaming revenue. Read more.

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

Connect and Learn at NSPECon24
Registration is open for NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers to engage and connect with their peers and to advance their careers. The early-bird discount rates are available until June 27. Access registration information and rates here. Access the preliminary conference program for details on keynote speakers and session topics.

The deadline for reserving a hotel room at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley for the NSPECon24 rate is July 15. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference rate hotels rooms available.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

**Welcome to Our 2024 Sponsors!**
New Program: Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE’s Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute.

Access more information and register.

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2024 QBS Awards. The QBS Awards program promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process in three categories: federal government sector, state governor sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment
sector. The deadline for nominations is June 7 (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form.

Read a PE magazine article about a longtime champion of QBS.

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