

State News for NSPE Members

MDOT Sees ‘Historic’ Year for Infrastructure Funding

Leaders with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) said 2023 was a “historic” year for the agency. They said MDOT received record levels of funding to improve and build upon Mississippi’s infrastructure, [wjtv.com reports](#).

From the Mississippi Legislature, MDOT received a total of almost \$2 billion, which includes a nearly \$1.5 billion earmark-free appropriation as well as a \$620 million supplemental appropriation.

“2023 was an exceptional year for MDOT, not only in terms of the historic funding received, but also for our increased commitment to efficiency and the exciting, large projects we have embarked upon,” said Brad White, MDOT Executive Director. “The people of Mississippi will benefit for decades to come from MDOT’s work and funding in 2023. We remain grateful to Congress, the Mississippi Legislature and Governor Tate Reeves for entrusting us with significant funding that allows MDOT to accomplish more.”

According to officials, the \$620 million supplemental appropriation from the legislature will pave the way to start work on eight major capacity projects that will increase safety, alleviate congestion, and help grow Mississippi’s economy.

Governor Calls Special Session to Approve Battery Plant Incentives

Governor Tate Reeves has called a special session to approve incentives for a battery plant in northern Mississippi that state officials say will have a capital investment of nearly \$2 billion and employ 2,000 people, [The Center Square reports](#).

The deal will cost taxpayers \$350 million, of which Reeves said half will be spent on infrastructure at the plant and the other half in direct grants to the company. Some of that, the governor said, will come from bonds, but an unspecified amount

will come from direct appropriations. According to the governor, the state has \$650 million in unallocated money in its general fund that could be used to fund the project.

State officials say the average salary for the jobs at the plant, which will manufacture batteries for electric trucks and industrial applications, is approximately \$66,000 or nearly \$20,000 more than the average statewide annual salary. Reeves said the project would have the highest payroll of any industrial project in the state's history.

The plant will be located on 500 acres at the Chickasaw Industrial Park in Byhalia. The deal will be the second-largest in state history behind the \$2.5 billion Steel Dynamics project announced last year. [Read more.](#)

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

Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award: The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional 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. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

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