

State News for NSPE Members

Guam Awarded \$9.5 Million for Transit Projects

The Guam Regional Transit Authority will receive \$9.5 million to revitalize the island's bus infrastructure and enhance mobility for transit riders, according to an article in *The Guam Daily Post*.

US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced the Federal Transit Administration's award for Guam that will go toward the purchase of new electric buses and related charging infrastructure. The money will also be used to construct a new park and ride facility in the village of Dededo.

[Read more.](#)

State Licensing Board Temporarily Closed

The Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors will be temporarily closed by [Executive Order 2020-27](#) issued on August 14 by Governor Leon Guerrero. This closure is an effort to take every precaution to safeguard the community in its efforts to fight the spread of COVID19.

Board staff will continue to telework with limited services. Office phone lines will be attended to 8a.m.–5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Board can also be reached by email at peals@guam.gov.

NSPE-GU Meeting Update

The Guam Society has cancelled its August luncheon due to Governor Leon Guerrero's order to place the island in PCOR1. We hope to resume activity in September.

Client Selection Is More Important Than Ever

By Rich Friedman

(Friedman & Partners)

When the economy starts to look rocky and project opportunities may be diminishing, it can be tempting to start saying yes to work that's not a great fit (but it's work) or chasing RFPs.

I saw a lot of this happening during the Global Financial Crisis (2008-2009), and I'm seeing it again now. In times of uncertainty, of course, we may be more willing to take on a project that is not ideal. But too often, firms start to convince themselves that throwing best practices out the window is their best option.

In this article, I discuss why that's not a good idea and offer some helpful guidelines for creating and implementing a thoughtful client selection process, one that strengthens your firm for the future.

[Read more.](#)

How Is the COVID-19 'New Normal' Affecting your Organization?

For the upcoming issue of *PE* magazine, an article will address how months later the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the work lives of NSPE members from different practice areas: construction, education, government, industry, and private practice.

How have your projects or organizational priorities changed? What have been some challenges or changes for the better? Have there been any new opportunities? Share your experiences with *PE* at pemagazine@nspe.org.

At Virtual PECon, NTSB Chair Discusses Florida Bridge Collapse

In a session on August 5, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt III explained the role of the NTSB and the agency's investigation and [report](#) on the deadly pedestrian bridge collapse at Florida International University in Miami.



In March 2018, a pedestrian bridge under construction at FIU collapsed—claiming six lives. Despite evidence of severe cracking, the engineer of record insisted that the cracking did not pose a safety problem, according to the NTSB report. The university wanted to enhance pedestrian safety by constructing the bridge over a multilane highway that had

been the scene of a pedestrian fatality. It would also serve as a unique gathering place for students, faculty, and university visitors.

“We all know that cracking in concrete is going to happen. That’s acceptable. But in this case, we saw structural cracks that were 40 times larger than is typically acceptable,” Sumwalt stated. The bridge was designed using an “accelerated bridge construction” design method.

The NTSB identified three critical errors: 1) The bridge was under-designed. 2) The peer review was insufficient; and 3) There was a failure to close the bridge to traffic and workers.

During the session, Sumwalt outlined how failures at all levels to stop work on the project or to close the highway to vehicle traffic and pedestrians played a significant role in the tragedy. He emphasized the responsibility to speak out for public safety no matter what.

“I saw those crushed cars. Six people lost their lives because of what I will call hubris and professional arrogance,” he stated. “I don’t care where you fit on the totem pole, if something doesn’t look right, you have an ethical and moral obligation to wave the flag.”

Access Virtual PECon Webinars

NSPE members who registered for an all-access pass and individual sessions can access webinar recordings at their convenience. Members who were unable to attend **PECon** can [purchase and access](#) some individual sessions at a discounted member price.

Coming Soon: ‘Fireside Chat’ Series

NSPE is hosting a set of fireside chat style webinars on legislative issues affecting the future of the engineering profession, as well as the here and now.

Monday, August 31 (TBD)

Diversity is the Future of Engineering: Opportunities in STEM Education

Monday, September 14 (3 p.m. ET)

Building for the Future, with US Rep. Bruce Westerman, P.E. (R-AR)

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