

## State News for NSPE Members

### Could the Dames Point Bridge be at Risk of Collapse?

The National Transportation Safety Board had a stern warning this week for agencies that oversee bridges near ports: Evaluate your bridge's safety, [News4JAX reports](#).

The Dames Point Bridge in Jacksonville was among the 68 bridges flagged by the NTSB in a recent report as we approach the one-year mark of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore.

During the early hours of March 26, 2024, the "Dali" container vessel struck one of the piers of the Key Bridge, causing the bridge to collapse and killing six construction workers.

The NTSB's investigation into the bridge collapse found that if the Maryland Transportation Authority had done a vulnerability assessment of the Key Bridge, it would have realized the bridge's risk level for collapse was nearly 30 times above acceptable levels. Because of that, the NTSB is urging similar bridges near ports that might be a risk of being hit by a large vessel to be proactive.

"Frankly, we've been sounding the alarm on this since the tragedy occurred, and in testimony before the house Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last April. We need action. Public safety depends on it," said NTSB Chairman Jennifer Homendy. [Read more](#).

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### Could More Nuclear Power be Part of Florida's Future Energy Portfolio?

Florida lawmakers should prepare to educate the public about advancements in nuclear safety to build public confidence about attempting to bring more nuclear power back to the state.

That's one of the recommendations made by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) in a feasibility report recently issued to Governor Ron DeSantis, House Speaker Daniel Perez, and Senate President Ben Albritton, the [Florida Phoenix reports](#). The legislature commissioned the study as part of an omnibus energy bill passed last year.

Other recommendations include:

- Ensuring cost recovery for preliminary costs incurred during site evaluations to “mitigate financial risks” during the early phases of project development.
- Commissioning a more comprehensive study beyond any benefit to Florida's electricity needs, including its influence in attracting new economic development, manufacturing, workforce development, and a potential site inventory.
- Moving forward with additional initiatives if the costs associated with advanced nuclear technologies are “more certain and demonstrate clear benefits to utility customers.”
- The Legislature passed a law in 2006 that created an alternative cost-recovery mechanism for new nuclear construction. It was considered controversial at the time because it allowed investor-owned public utilities to collect money for nuclear projects that might never be built. [Read more.](#)

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## Lane Delivers \$97.5M Florida Road Overhaul

Lane Construction has delivered the first phase of an interstate overhaul in Tampa, Florida, the Cheshire, Connecticut-based firm said in a press release shared with Construction Dive, [Construction Dive reports](#).

The company — wholly owned by Italian industrial giant Webuild Group — has received final acceptance from the Florida DOT on the I-275 Section 7 Phase 1 project.

The approximately \$97.5 million overhaul was designed to alleviate congestion, improve connectivity and provide a more efficient transportation corridor for commuters and businesses, per the release. Major enhancements include expanded lanes, improved on- and off-ramps, upgraded signage and modernized roadway infrastructure.

The newly completed section also includes upgraded lighting and improved road markings in an effort to enhance visibility and reduce crash risk. Lane Construction also installed two emergency generators to power Florida DOT cameras at the intersection of critical evacuation routes, per the release, ensuring continued monitoring during extreme weather events should the local region lose power. [Read more.](#)

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

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## Make Your Voice Heard: Support Tomorrow's Workforce

The **Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act** seeks to expand the use of 529 education savings plans, traditionally limited to college tuition, to cover expenses for obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials. NSPE is a strong advocate for this critical legislation, recognizing its potential to enhance workforce development opportunities for engineers and other professionals.

The Act includes technical training, certification programs (including the PE license), and other workforce development initiatives. By allowing 529 plans to cover fees for certifications, testing, and tuition, the Act provides valuable tax-advantaged resources for workers pursuing career growth, mid-career changes, or alternative career pathways.

Show your support by contacting legislators and urging them to support the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act (S. 756 and H.R. 1151)!

[Join the Campaign Now!](#)

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## Nominations Open: Director, New Professionals

Volunteer Engagement leads to cultivating a strong professional community, building leadership skills, and giving back to your profession. Nominations are open for the **Director, New Professionals** position on the 2025-27 Board of Directors.

The Director, New Professionals must be an NSPE member in good standing and a licensed professional engineer who is within the first 10 years of being licensed. To learn more about the process, necessary qualifications, duties, and the time and financial commitment, visit [visit Call for Nominations for 2025-2027 Director, New Professionals](#).

Self-nominations are permitted and are due by **April 25** (Noon ET).

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## QBS 2025 Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2025 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 May 30. [Access the awards information and nomination form.](#)

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