

State News for NSPE Members

Florida Budget Includes \$15.1B for Transportation

Governor Ron DeSantis recently signed the state's fiscal year 2025-2026 budget that includes funding for \$15.1 billion in transportation investments, [Transportation Today reports](#).

The budget provides the State Transportation Work Program with \$13.7 billion. Funding will be allocated: \$90.5 million for spaceport investments, \$120.7 million for seaport improvements, \$172 million for Local Transportation Project grants, \$253.8 million for safety initiatives, \$254.9 million for aviation investments, \$275.1 million for Florida Trails, \$787.7 million for freight, rail and community transportation systems, \$961.2 million for the repair of 40 bridges and replacement of 21 bridges, \$1.5 billion for improving 2,652 lane miles, and \$5.4 billion for highway maintenance and construction.

Florida Trails includes \$50.1 million for the SUN Trail Network, and highway maintenance and construction includes the addition of 102 lane miles.

"Florida is well known for our world-class infrastructure and the focus on fiscal responsibility budget allows FDOT (the Florida Department of Transportation) to continue strategic and innovative investments to maintain that reputation across a vast transportation portfolio," FDOT Secretary Jared Perdue, said. "Governor DeSantis remains a steadfast champion of investments in our state that truly bring value to our communities and enhance the quality of life for Floridians."

Senate Bill 1662 provides FDOT the framework to invest in vertiport construction.

Duke Energy Invests \$789,000 in Florida's Colleges and Universities to Build Next Generation Workforce

Duke Energy Foundation recently announced \$789,000 to support 23 Florida

colleges, universities and education programs that are creating a pipeline of skilled workers who will help meet the energy industry's growing workforce needs.

Why it matters: As Florida continues to deploy modern energy infrastructure and meet the needs of the growing state, Duke Energy Foundation is investing in programs that will build the next generation workforce and create access to training and job skills that fit community needs. These grants are part of Duke Energy's ongoing commitment to workforce development.

Several of the benefiting universities and organizations include:

- University of Central Florida - \$75,000 to invest in engineering and computer technology, professional event facilitation, disaster preparedness programming and early career exposure for middle and high school students.
- University of Florida - \$75,000 to support middle and high school student utility industry exploration programs, scholarships and summer camps.
- University of South Florida - \$75,000 to invest in high school student career exploration summer programming, a solar project and recycling program.
- Consortium of Florida Education Foundations - \$50,000 to strengthen Florida's local education foundations through impactful programming and professional development. [Read more.](#)

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

NSPE Garners Victory for Tomorrow's Workforce

On July 4, 2025, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act was signed into law as part of the larger One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The new law expands 529 education savings plans to cover expenses related to licensure, certification, and other postsecondary credentials.

As written, the legislation covers programs accredited by organizations such as the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as well as tuition, required materials, and testing fees. These changes will provide more flexible financial tools to support individuals working toward credentials in highly technical fields, including engineering, where continued education and professional development are essential.

This marks a major win for NSPE and the many members who engaged over the years to make it happen. Implementation guidance is expected in the coming months, and NSPE will share updates as federal agencies roll out the new provisions. [Read more.](#)

NSPE Backs Increased Mobility Through International Licensure Agreements

NSPE recently [issued a position statement](#) to express support for and encourage mobility of engineering licensure among US states, territories, and foreign countries as long as public safety, health and welfare is maintained.

To provide mobility with foreign countries, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the National Council of Examiners for Engineers (NCEES) and their foreign equivalent should be encouraged, so long as the methods of establishing licensure in the two countries have been deemed equivalent in rigor. State boards are encouraged to adopt regulations to allow international comity, understanding individual states may continue to have requirements unique to engineering in those states.

NCEES and the Engineers Council of the United Kingdom [signed an MRA in April 2024](#) and 26 state boards agreed to consider adopting regulations to implement the MRA by signing on to it at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2024. The MRA builds on efforts by both organizations through the International Engineering Alliance and International Professional Engineers Agreement.

Professional Liability Trends Every Design Professional Should Know

Each year, NSPE, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Council of Engineering Companies join forces to conduct the annual [Professional Liability Insurance Carriers Survey](#) to provide highlight trends, coverage options, and risk management practices across the industry. Learn what's changing in professional liability and what it means for your firm in 2025 in a [new article](#).

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