

State News for NSPE Members

Long Key Bridge Replacement Receives Federal Funding

The Florida Department of Transportation will receive \$114.16 million from the US Department of Transportation to replace Long Key Bridge in Monroe County and more, [according to the Florida Phoenix](#).

According to the US Department of Transportation, the bridge has been rated fair or poor for 15 years. It opened in 1982. Federal investments for the bridge total \$66.5 million, half-funded in fiscal year 2025 and half-funded in fiscal year 2026. It is estimated that \$2 billion in freight crosses the Long Key Bridge each year. Approximately 72,000 people live south of the bridge, which serves as an evacuation route.

“The replacement bridge will provide wider 10-foot shoulders, a bicycle/pedestrian shared use path, a 75-year service life design, and greater resilience to severe tropical storms,” according to the US Department of Transportation. “Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Biden-Harris administration is carrying out ambitious, complex transportation projects that will shape our country’s infrastructure for generations to come,” said US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in a news release.

The Long Key Bridge project is one of 35 large bridge projects under the President Joe Biden’s National Infrastructure Project Assistance and Infrastructure for REbuilding America grant programs. [Read More](#).

Duke Energy Uses Smart, Self-Healing Systems to Restore Power

Year-round grid-strengthening work and the use of advanced technology by Duke Energy Florida, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, helped reduce power outages and enable swifter restorations during hurricanes Helene and Milton.

“With storms increasing in frequency and intensity, Duke Energy Florida’s Storm Protection Plan, year-round infrastructure work, and preparedness efforts are critical to our ability to respond quickly and safely,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “We’re working around the clock to improve reliability for our customers, strengthen the grid against severe weather, and enhance our response after a major storm.”

The company’s self-healing technology, for instance, prevented more than 300,000 customer outages during those hurricanes, saving customers more than 300 million minutes of total outage time, [according to Duke Energy Florida](#).

Similar to a GPS navigation system that can identify an accident ahead and update the route, self-healing grid technology quickly identifies power outages and reroutes power to restore service faster for customers when an outage occurs.

The advanced technology can help isolate the cause of an outage and reduce the number of customers affected by up to 75%, often restoring power in less than a minute, Duke Energy Florida says, adding that roughly 77% of its customers are directly served by this technology.

In addition to investing in advanced technologies, the company manages vegetation near power lines, installs stronger poles, upgrades wires, and places lines underground to make the energy grid more resilient, reduce outages, and restore power faster. [Read More](#).

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



NSPE members are encouraged to participate in the [2025 Engineering Outlook Survey](#). Your thoughts and expertise on emerging technology, professional practice, diversity in the workplace, and key legislative issues are crucial to shaping the future of the engineering profession.

Participants can enter a drawing for one of five \$100 Amazon gift cards. The results of the survey will be presented in *PE* magazine, as well as other NSPE

communications (website, newsletters, social media, etc.). The 10-minute survey will remain open until November 26. [Access the survey](#).

NSPECon25 - Call for Presentations Now Open

NSPECon25 is being held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8, and NSPE needs your help to get the momentum started with a roundup of can't-miss sessions. This is your opportunity to share your expertise, innovative ideas, and research with a diverse audience of professional engineers.



We welcome [presentation proposals](#) in the areas of career development, leadership, and industry issues and trends. The deadline to submit a presentation is January 6. Check out the [conference website](#) to view NSPECon24's conference program and amazing highlights video.

[Submit a Proposal](#)

Engineers Week—Design Your Future

Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 16–22, 2025) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. This year's Engineers Week theme “**Design Your Future**” is about celebrating engineers and engaging students! As we celebrate the accomplishments of engineers, past and present, who have designed the future we currently live in, we also look to the next generation and how we can inspire kids to pursue engineering careers that will be focused on designing our future!



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access more information and promotional resources.](#)

Save the Date and Register for Event Planning Webinar

Are you looking for inspiration, ideas or advice to plan an event for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2025? Join DiscoverE's Sarah Moore and an expert panel of speakers on **Giving Tuesday (December 3 – 12 p.m. ET)** for resources and tips you can use right away to plan a successful engineering event and engage volunteers who are passionate about giving back. [Register Today!](#)

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