Pedestrian Deaths Continue to Plague Sunshine State

Florida continues to top the list of places in the US where a pedestrian is most likely to be struck and killed by a driver, reports the Miami Herald. The article covers the findings of a new report that places nine of the 15 most hazardous US cities for pedestrians in Florida. Orlando ranked as least safe.

In a 2020 PE magazine article, NSPE member Jeff Smithline, P.E., said traffic engineers can have a major positive impact on pedestrian safety, and it starts by asking a simple question: Have I done all I can within all the project constraints to make this roadway safer? “It’s about infusing safety into the roadway project design —whether it’s lower speeds or better visibility and taking that beyond what the standards require. It’s what we try to do as [professional] engineers,” said the national director of traffic engineering at Sam Schwartz.

In the article “How Many Deaths Does It Take to Question ‘Standard Practice’?” Bill Schultheiss, P.E., argued that transportation design is suffering from “an apparent disregard for ethics.”

Two Companies to Build Vertiport Infrastructure in Florida

Infrastructure firms AECOM and Ferrovial have signed on to build a network of vertiports strategically connecting Florida cities. Vertiports facilitate the sustainable travel offered by electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. The low-noise emitting aircraft will be able to land, recharge, and take off at the vertiports, which will also feature comfortable customer terminals with touchless technology.

As communities begin discussing urban air mobility and vertiports, questions about their regulation remain, reports Inside Unmanned Systems.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.
FAA safety engineer goes public to slam the agency’s oversight of Boeing’s 737 MAX

Haunted by the two deadly crashes of Boeing 737 MAX jets and his agency’s role in approving the plane, veteran Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety engineer Joe Jacobsen is stepping forward publicly to give the victims’ families “a firsthand account of what the truth is.” In a detailed letter sent last month to a family that lost their daughter in the second MAX crash in Ethiopia two years ago this week, and in interviews with The Seattle Times, Jacobsen gave the first personal account by an insider of the federal safety agency’s response to the MAX crashes. Jacobsen should have been among the FAA specialists who reviewed the MAX’s critical new flight control software during its original certification, which was largely controlled by Boeing. He’s confident that he and other FAA engineers would have flagged its serious design flaws.

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Wanted: 2021 NSPE Emerging Leaders

NSPE is fostering a new generation of engineers who can think strategically, build effective teams, and lead successfully through its Emerging Leaders Program. This intensive seven-month, professionally facilitated, virtual program is now accepting applications until May 31.

Early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession are encouraged to apply. The program graduated its first class of diverse, super achieving professionals in February.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 participants will learn how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility. Participants will engage in 90-minute leadership training sessions each month with learning discussions and mentoring on topics such as ownership, team development, communication skills, giving/receiving feedback, and presentation skills. There will also be ample
networking opportunities with peers and national NSPE national leaders.

Learn more and apply.

**Ethics Webinars for PEs and Those on the Licensure Path**

Don’t miss NSPE’s upcoming ethics webinars on truthfulness and fidelity to employers and clients, with insight from Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq., NSPE’s senior director for ethics and professional practice and NAFE executive director, and other NSPE ethics experts.

**April 7**  
**Engineering Ethics–Canon III–Truthfulness**  
Learn from a variety of situations in which circumstances can tempt (and even encourage) engineers to dance around the edges of Canon III.  

**May 5**  
**Engineering Ethics–Canon IV–Fidelity to Employers/ Clients**  
Examine the duties to employers and clients, and circumstances under which those duties can be pre-empted by higher duties, especially to the public health, safety, and welfare.  
*Presenters: David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., Jeff Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.*

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