

## State News for NSPE Members

### Florida to Receive \$2.65 Billion for Transportation Projects

Florida is slated to get \$2.65 billion this fiscal year for transportation projects as part of a major federal infrastructure law, [FOX 51 reports](#).

The money is part of \$59.9 billion that will be released from the Federal Highway Administration for 12 programs under the \$1.2 trillion law signed by President Joe Biden. The agency estimates that under the current formula, Florida would receive \$13.3 billion for highways and bridges over five years.

"On an average annual basis, this is about 26% more than the state's federal-aid highway formula funding under current law," a report from the agency said. Portions of the funding, for electric-vehicle charging stations and transportation-resiliency efforts, had already been announced. [Read more](#).

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### Florida University Helps Launch AI Curriculum in Public Schools

Florida is among the first states to adopt a K-12 artificial intelligence, or AI, education program designed to prepare its youth for the growing global demand for an AI-enabled workforce.

Tapping into the expertise of the University of Florida and its AI initiative, the Florida Department of Education recently added a three-year program of study called AI Foundations to its Career and Technical Education Program, or CTE, according to a [news release](#). Three Florida school districts are participating after specialized AI training was available to teachers over the summer.

Nearly everyone is accessing AI or being influenced by the technology every day, and that will only increase, said UF Associate Provost David Reed, who leads the university's Artificial Intelligence Academic Initiative Center.

"More and more people with all levels of education and technical skills are exposed to AI, including on their phones, their watches and in their homes," Reed said. "Through several initiatives, including an AI curriculum program developed for Florida public schools, the University of Florida aims to increase understanding among students about how their data is being used, improve their skills in computer science and also impact the AI workforce shortage." [Read more.](#)

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## Historic Ford Plant to Be Razed for Industrial Project

After a Jacksonville City Council vote, the 97-year-old Ford Motor Co. factory in Talleyrand will be demolished. Previously, an order from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission had blocked the owner of the riverfront landmark from tearing it down. Amkin Hill Street LLC wants to raze the structure for a possible maritime industrial redevelopment project.

The Council's 17-0 vote overruled the previous decision. The factory served as an assembly plant for the Model T and Model A cars that city historic preservation staff said automaker Henry Ford helped plan and operate, according to the [Jacksonville Daily Record](#).

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

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## Mark Your Calendar for Engineers Week 2023

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are **Creating the Future!** Engineers play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



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 promotional resources.](#)

### DiscoverE Outreach Grants

Don't miss your chance to fund your events for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

There are \$250-\$1000 grants available:

- [Bell Girl Day grants](#) for girl-centered programs
- [Engineers Week grants](#) for underserved students

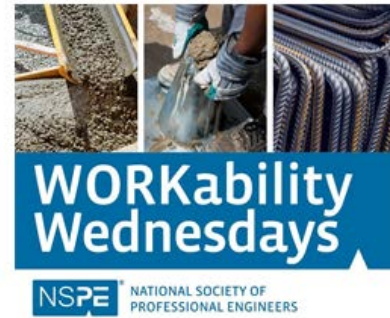
The deadline to [apply for the grants](#) is November 4.



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### Workability Wednesdays Webinars

The fall series of [Workability Wednesdays webinars](#) recently launched with a webinar on [What Separates Good Engineers From Great Engineers](#). The series is free for NSPE members and covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession.



### Upcoming Webinars

- [Ethical Case Insights: Lessons in Disclosure](#) (October 12)
- [Setting and Verifying Corporate Sustainability Goals Across Environmental, Social, and Governance Topics](#) (October 19)
- [How Blockchain Protects Public Safety: A Working Solution](#) (October 26)
- [Navigating the Ethical Dilemmas that Arise in Everyday Engineering Practice](#) (November 16)

If you missed the spring lineup of Workability Wednesdays webinars, you can still [view the recordings](#) and receive PDH credit.

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## Last Call for FEYA Nominations

Nominations for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award are open until **October 31**. The award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.



Nominations must be made by the federal agency. Access the application [here](#).

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