

State News for NSPE Members

DC Water Releases \$1.5 Billion Plan to Replace Lead Pipelines

DC Water has released a new plan to replace lead pipelines by 2030, including an increase in the cost for the plan to \$1.5 billion. This is an increase from the original planned estimated cost, which was \$300 to \$500 million, and included in Mayor Muriel Bowser's latest budget, [WTOP News reports](#).

The new plan includes discussion of a potential legislative mandate that would require all DC homeowners to replace their lead pipes. DC Water said the goal is to also acquire funding that would avoid the additional financial burden on residents, which could be discounted or free service replacements for residents.

As of May, DC Water has replaced more than 4,200 lead service lines with copper pipes and has leveraged District funding to provide free and discounted replacement programs that saved approximately \$7 million for customers so far, said DC Water Chief Executive Officer and General Manager David Gadis.

But the new announcement comes after DC Water said it estimates there's now about 42,000 lead service lines that need to be replaced. This increase comes after as many as 20% of the lines previously thought to not have any lead, could actually contain lead. [Read more](#).

WMATA Releases New DC Metro Expansion Plans

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority officials have released new expansion proposals, including plans for a new Georgetown stop and an added tunnel between DC and Virginia, [The Hill reports](#).

Implementation of one of the six new proposals, designed to deal with capacity increase on the transportation system, could cost anywhere from nothing to about \$50 billion and could take up to 10 to 20 years to complete, according to officials.

Metro recently completed the Silver Line, which cost \$3 billion and took nearly 60 years to come to fruition. Metro is also headed into its next financial year with a \$750 million operating deficit. Officials said the possible expansions, however, are necessary to increase system reliability.

"Running three lines through one tunnel and set of tracks creates challenges for Metro and our customers, including crowding during peak periods, service reliability issues, a lack of operational flexibility, and threats to long-term sustainability," officials said in a [presentation](#). [Read more](#).

Six Trail Projects in DC Region Get Millions from Federal Grants

A proposed crossing over the Anacostia River that will connect Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens and DC neighborhoods east of the river to the National Arboretum is getting a \$6.5 million federal grant, [according to The Washington Post](#).

Among other projects, Prince George's County is securing \$4.5 million to advance work on 4.5 miles of trails that would link Capitol Heights to Largo along the Central Avenue corridor and connect to four stations on Metro's Blue Line. Meanwhile, a rehabilitation of the popular Sligo Creek Trail that connects Montgomery and Prince George's counties is getting \$7.4 million, nearly two-thirds of the project's budget.

The projects are among six in the Washington region receiving \$25 million in federal funding under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program. Projects funded by the program aim to improve pedestrian and bike connections in historically disadvantaged communities across the region.

Trail advocates said the infusion of federal money will help the region advance an ambitious plan to build a 900-mile trail network connecting the District, Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The proposed trails would fill gaps in a system of roughly 500 miles, improving connectivity linking neighborhoods and public transit to commercial districts and jobs, the Capital Trails Coalition said. [Read more](#).

Licensing Board Meeting

The [DC Board of Professional Engineers](#) will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, July 27**. Access the virtual meeting agenda [here](#).

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

Meet the 2023 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is pleased to recognize 15 talented professionals who recently completed the Society's [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This diverse group of young professionals was selected from around the country to take part in an intensive, unique enterprise designed to equip them as leaders in the engineering field.

- **Nicholas J. Bailey, P.E.** (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- **Frank Block III, Ph.D., P.E.** (Silver Spring, Maryland)
- **Timothy Choma, P.E.** (Iselin, New Jersey)
- **Courtney Cunningham, P.E.** (Houston, Texas)
- **Steven T. Fox, P.E.** (Nashville, Tennessee)
- **Blane Gee, P.E.** (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)
- **Holly Hartley Guillaume, P.E.** (Katy, Texas)
- **Lingbee Chyna Lim, P.E.** (Charleston, South Carolina)
- **Brianne R. Jole, P.E.** (Lubbock, Texas)
- **Corey Kingsland, P.E.** (Kansas City, Missouri)
- **Carter Lytal, P.E.** (Lubbock, Texas)
- **Rebecca Martinez, P.E.** (Cherry Hill, New Jersey)
- **Alissa Neuhausen, P.E.** (Rockville, Maryland)
- **Victor Odili, P.E.** (Conroe, Texas)
- **Skylar Wierzbicki, P.E.** (Grapevine, Texas)

The program is [accepting applications](#) for the next class of rising leaders until August 31.



The upcoming [Professional Engineers Day](#) (Wednesday, August 2) is an incredible opportunity to showcase the value of NSPE and your PE license. We encourage you to post on your social media accounts a highlight from your community, your work, your impact, your story and include the #IAMNSPE, #WeareNSPE, #ProudPE.

NSPE's [apparel shop](#) features the PE Day logo on a variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases. [Shop now.](#)

Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

[The Chatter About AI](#)

OpenAI's ChatGPT came on the scene in November 2022. This type of generative AI has made a noticeable impact in a brief period of time and other versions of chatbots have been released. This emerging technology is sparking discussions about what impact AI could have on the engineering workforce and in engineering practice.



[Reaching Tomorrow's Innovators](#)

DiscoverE has released its latest research on the views of high school students and parents on engineering and engineering careers. The Messages Matter results were encouraging as they reveal that targeted messages and profiles of engineers can spur interest in engineering among the very groups that will ensure a more diverse future for the field.

Members who subscribe to the [digital edition of PE](#) can access the current and back issues.

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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**

