

State News for NSPE Members

DC prepares to welcome more self-driving cars to city streets

Now, in the District of Columbia, it appears residents could be just a few years away from seeing an uptick of such vehicles traveling city streets. On Monday, the companies HERE Technologies and VSI Labs tested a fully autonomous Ford Fusion on the streets of Northern Virginia. The car maneuvered and changed lanes on Interstate 66 without the help of a human being on its steering wheel.

Matt Preyss, product marketing manager of location data company HERE Technologies, said the car relies on "HD Mapping" to navigate streets. "This vehicle, right now, is just using our HD lane data to help with lane changing and staying in the lane," he said. HERE Technologies gathers everything from lane width to lane marking data with the help of 400 vehicles that are equipped with GPS software. Interstate 66 west bound, near Rosslyn, had been mapped prior to the car's Monday tour along that busy road. "With autonomous vehicles, we have to provide that information to the vehicle," Preyss said.

There are numerous safety components to reduce the possibility of accidents on the road. Two engineers stay in the car to monitor how it handles travel, with one engineer sitting behind the wheel. If something were to suddenly appear in front of the car, sensors, in conjunction with the HD map, would work to apply braking. HERE Technologies says it's excited to see where self-driving technology can go.

[Read the full story.](#)

NSPE Builds Defense Network Against Licensure



NSPE has long played a critical role in responding to threats to professional engineering licensure. Now the Society has bolstered its efforts to protect professional licensing with the creation of the [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing \(ARPL\)](#), a new coalition of advanced professions dedicated to informing lawmakers and the public of the importance of rigorous professional licensing standards amid growing debate around licensing laws.

In its leadership position with ARPL, NSPE will educate policymakers on the importance of maintaining standards for complex technical professions like engineering that have a clear impact on public health, safety, and welfare. The Society and ARPL partners will also highlight how professional licensing protects the public by ensuring a baseline of proven qualification and expertise that protects consumers from unqualified practitioners. This public awareness campaign aims to counter the anti-licensing interests that jeopardize public safety.

[Read more.](#)

Congratulations to the 2019 QBS Award Winners

The winners of this year's [QBS Awards](#), given by NSPE and the American Council of Engineering Companies, have been announced. Top honors go to the Portland International Jetport (state/local sector) and the Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division (federal government sector) for their exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process. Merit awards were also granted to the City of Austin and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Each year, NSPE and the American Council of Engineering Companies present the QBS Awards to entities that procure engineering services through a process that emphasizes design firms' technical competence rather than simply the lowest bid. Nominations must originate from an NSPE state society, an ACEC member organization, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or

private sector.

Award winners will receive a trophy and recognition during the ACEC Fall Conference in Chicago October 15.

[Review NSPE's Position Statement 08-131 on Procurement of Engineering Services \(QBS\).](#)

Don't Miss...

- [Hear from the NSPE president.](#) Read the installation speech from David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE, the 2019–20 NSPE president, about his vision for the profession and the society.
 - [Celebrating STEM teachers.](#) For 13 years, the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers has honored educators who inspire students in engineering and other STEM topics.
 - [Gas Pipeline Projects Lack PE Oversight.](#) A recent article showcases how few states require licensed engineers to review natural gas pipeline projects due to licensure exemptions, and quotes NSPE's manager of government relations and advocacy Stephanie Hamilton. Also see: [Hamilton's column on how NSPE members can advocate for federal pipeline safety legislation.](#)
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