

State News for NSPE Members

Capitol Crossing Project Among Mid-Atlantic's Best

Engineering News-Record has named [Capitol Crossing](#) as the Best Project in the highway/bridge category for the Mid-Atlantic. The \$263.3-million, five-year project involved construction of a seven-acre platform above I-395. Now the three-block section has infrastructure to support up to 2.2 million sq ft of commercial, retail and public open space.

“Developers are losing available space in D.C., which is already limited vertically,” says Alan Le, project manager at Balfour Beatty, referring to the city’s 130-ft height limit for buildings. “They have to be innovative in terms of creating space. When the [Capitol Crossing] concept came out to build over an active highway, it was the first project of this type to be built in the city.”

Geography of Environmental Toxins in the District

A survey of the District of Columbia’s environmental toxins including soil contaminants, air pollution, and water pollution found that people living in Wards 5, 6, and 7 are exposed to more toxins than other District residents, according to the [D.C. Policy Center](#).

These are some of the lowest income areas of Washington. Recent studies have found a 7% increase in incidents of cancer within counties with high environmental toxins. In addition, pollutants in the environment have a negative impact on quality of life, in large part because of health impacts.

COVID-19 Pandemic's Dramatic Impact on Transit

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington, DC, has seen a 66% reduction of ridership on Metrobus and 90% reduction on Metrorail, according to the National Academies’ [Transportation Research Board](#) (TRB).

The TRB executive director said civil engineers and other professionals will need to rethink how transportation will look in the future. Factors that should be considered include public perception of safety, equity issues, and possible long-term teleworking arrangements for many workers. Transit appears to have been the form of transportation most affected by the pandemic.

Are You the Next Federal Engineer of the Year?

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#). Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until **October 31**.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 18, 2021, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Tickets will be available for sale in January and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available.

[Apply or nominate a worthy engineer today.](#)

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

NSPE President Warns Against Broad-Brush Licensing Reform



NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, recently challenged an opinion piece that advocates making temporary licensing deregulation permanent, measures that were enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the editor of the *Oklahoman*, Hatley warns that efforts to weaken licensing, however well-intentioned, make no distinction for highly complex, technical professions. This is a critical distinction that broad-brush proposals like those referenced in the article fail to make—and puts thousands of lives at risk in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

She also states that professions like engineering, architecture, accounting, landscape architecture and surveying are responsible for the safety of our physical spaces and the integrity of our financial systems. Because of this, they are required to meet rigorous standards based on education, experience, and examination to demonstrate a minimum qualification level.

[Read more.](#)

An Adventure to the Moon with Future City

Future City is a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. This year's Future City theme is "Living on the Moon." Teams will be challenged to design a lunar city and provide examples of how their city uses two moon resources to keep citizens safe and healthy.



Due to COVID-19, Future City [transitioned this year's program into a virtual format](#) to offer impactful volunteer opportunities you can do from the comfort of your home or office.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Kay Bailey is a senior research and development engineer currently working on an innovative mechanical device that relieves back pain and pressure. She knows firsthand the added challenges in academia—and professional settings—when few people look like you. "When I was a middle school student, I didn't see many examples of African Americans doing engineering," she says.



This inspired Kay Bailey to volunteer as a Future City mentor in a predominantly African American school in Milwaukee. "I wanted to do whatever I could to show these students that it's okay to be interested in engineering. Right away I could tell Future City would be a great way to get involved."

Over the last two years, Bailey has loved working with these young scholars. Sometimes she helps them shape their creative ideas or explains STEM concepts, and other times they simply want to hear about what she is working on at her job. "I want these young people to be encouraged to pursue whatever they want."

If, like Kay Bailey, you're interested in inspiring the next generation, you can sign up to be a mentor by [clicking here](#) or email Info@FutureCity.org with any questions. This year, the program (including mentoring) will be virtual.

Upcoming Webinars: Roundabout Design Safety, the Engineering Team

PE[®] INSTITUTE

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NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

October 28

[Put Me in Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion](#)

Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by professional engineers closely engaged with technicians. Working as an efficient team, a project moves smoothly and is successfully completed. A panel of PEs and technicians will share engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

This webinar is **FREE** for members and non-members.

Presenters: Kent D. Dvorak, P.E., Chip Hollis (moderator), William Kenneth Johnson, Jr., P.G., Shannon Looney P.E., and John W. Quidley S.E.T.

November 2

[Canon 1, NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: “Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public”](#)

This webinar will introduce you to four of the current members of the [NSPE Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER). Discussion will focus on four ethics cases that illuminate multiple aspects of Canon 1, to “hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.” These cases are personal favorites selected by each BER member from the more than [600 opinions](#) the BER has published since the late 1950s.

Presenters: Mark Dubbin, PE, FPE, Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F. NSPE, David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., William D. Lawson, P.E., Ph.D., F. NSPE

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