

State News for NSPE Members

Tennessee DOT Enhances Safety for Vulnerable Road Users

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and other partners signed a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) for 2025-2029. The goal of the plan is to “take a proactive approach to zero deaths,” according to the agency, [Roads&Bridges reports](#).

Multiple agencies, including the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DOS&HS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) collaborated to develop the SHSP. TDOT said that at this time in 2023, the state had seen 187 deadly crashes involving “vulnerable road users.” The new plan seeks to reduce that number.

Butch Eley, Tennessee deputy governor and TDOT commissioner, emphasized communication in the plan and said each network partner plays a critical role.

“Every component of our transportation system interacts, and we must work together, coordinate our efforts, and commit to a unified vision for safer travels for everyone,” he said.

To address the needs of those vulnerable users, TDOT said it would continue to invest in infrastructure, including sidewalks, crosswalk visibility enhancements and bikeways. Over the past five years, TDOT said the agency implemented more than 300 safety projects totaling \$239 million. Nearly 15% of those improvements were focused specifically on vulnerable road users.

Additionally, within the emphasis area of vulnerable road users, the SHSP outlined many action items, including promoting existing bicycle and pedestrian laws. The plan also listed a goal of amending legislation so that cyclists could use either arm to signal a right turn. [Read more](#).

Farms, Small Businesses Awarded \$3.6M for Tennessee

Clean Energy Projects

Tennessee farms and businesses will receive more than \$3.6 million in federal grants to support clean energy projects, the [Tennessee Lookout reports](#).

The projects include solar power installation and measures to improve energy efficiency. Combined, they are expected to generate or save enough electricity to power 415 homes annually, equating to thousands of dollars in savings for businesses.

The awards are part of a batch of 1,147 projects nationwide selected by the United States Department of Agriculture for investment through the Rural Energy for America Program. The department announced more than \$256 million in loans and grants in its latest round of awardees this month. All 20 of Tennessee's selected projects will receive grants.

Most of the projects are funded by President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, a 2022 law that authorizes hundreds of billions of dollars in investments toward clean energy and sustainability, among other things. President-elect Donald Trump has put Biden's climate and energy policies in the budget-cutting crosshairs, calling for any unspent IRA funds to be rescinded. As Trump's inauguration draws near, the Biden administration has moved to swiftly allocate remaining IRA funds. [Read more](#).

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

Call for Nominations: NSPE Vice President and Treasurer

NSPE is seeking nominees for two key positions on the Board of Directors - Vice President and Treasurer. The Vice President serves four consecutive years as 2025-26 Vice President, 2026-27 President-Elect, 2027-28 President, and 2028-29 Immediate Past President. The Treasurer serves a two-year term, 2025-2027, with eligibility to run for a consecutive two-year term.



To learn more about qualifications, time and financial commitments, and the nominations process, [view the call for nominations packet in the leadership toolbox](#). **Nominations are due to the NSPE Secretary at executive@nspe.org by January 6, 2025.**

NSPECon25 - Call for Presentations Now Open

NSPECon25 is being held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8, and NSPE needs your help to get the momentum started with a roundup of can't-miss sessions. This is your opportunity to share your expertise, innovative ideas, and research with a diverse audience of professional engineers.

We welcome presentation proposals in the areas of career development, leadership, and industry issues and trends. **The deadline to submit a presentation is January 6.**



[Submit a Proposal](#)

2025 Engineers Week—Design Your Future

Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 16–22, 2025) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. This year's Engineers Week theme “**Design Your Future**” is about celebrating engineers and engaging students! As we celebrate the accomplishments of engineers, past and present, who have designed the future we currently live in, we also look to the next generation and how we can inspire kids to pursue engineering careers that will be focused on designing our future! [Access more information and promotional resources.](#)



Register for Upcoming Engineers Week Webinars

Are you looking for inspiration, ideas or advice for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2025 activities? DiscoverE will host two webinars in January to help you to increase engagement and plan successful events - [Engaging Kids in Engineering](#) (January 22) and [Celebrating Engineers & Promotion Tips](#) (January 29).

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

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