

State News for NSPE Members

Nashville Mayor Makes a Move on Transportation Tax

Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell signed an executive order establishing an advisory committee for the city's new half-cent transportation tax less than 24 hours after winning a legal challenge.

Nashville residents approved the sales tax surcharge in November. The \$3.1 billion project dubbed "Choose How You Move" includes sidewalks, improved transit services and new technology. The tax will go into effect February 1. [Read more in The Center Square.](#)

Knoxville Secures \$24.7M Grant for South Knoxville Pedestrian Bridge

Officials in Knoxville held a conference on Wednesday announcing the city was awarded a \$24.7 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT, [Roads&Bridges reports](#)).

The funding will go to build a pedestrian bridge over the Tennessee River, which would connect South Knoxville to the University of Tennessee campus and downtown.

This was Knoxville's third time applying for the grant to help support the bridge project.

"We are so excited to have secured the next round of funding to make the South Knoxville Pedestrian Bridge a reality," Mayor Indya Kincannon said. "The federal RAISE grant, coupled with the \$20 million from the state, will now propel this project to the next stage." [Read More.](#)

Portion of Brownsville Trails to be Razed for ‘Shovel-Ready’ Industrial Plot

Sharon Hayes and Tom Orr trekked down a winding dirt path through rolling hills of old growth trees along a branch of Sugar Creek on a chilly day in December, [the Tennessee Lookout reports](#).

The forested gullies stand out as a prized feature amid West Tennessee’s typically flat plains, Hayes, a Haywood County commissioner, said. The Rockin’ Roll Hatchie Trails lie about 20 miles northeast of BlueOval City, a massive electric vehicle manufacturing campus that will produce batteries and Ford Motor Company’s new all-electric pickup truck.

Hayes and Orr, the director of Main Street Brownsville Haywood County, are advocating to preserve as much of the trails as possible as the city and county prepare to level a portion of the land to make it more attractive for future industry. Haywood County and the City of Brownsville purchased the 160-acre plot of land near Highway 70 from a farmer several years ago with the intention of transforming it into a speculative industrial park to draw more jobs to the rural community.

Now, the Brownsville-Haywood Economic Development Corporation has secured a Tennessee Valley Authority grant of around \$700,000 — with a local \$300,000 match — to clear 13 acres of mature tree canopy and level out land for a 500,000-square-foot concrete slab. Trails are a good thing. Parks are a great thing. Just not in the buildable area of what was purchased by the taxpayers and then zoned appropriately as an industrial park. [Read more](#).

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

Registration Open: Engineers Week Webinars

Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 16–22) 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!



Are you looking for inspiration, ideas or advice for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 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).

NSPECon25 – Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

We invite you to showcase your company at NSPECon25 with a sponsorship or to participate as an exhibitor!

NSPECon25 takes place in Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8. Special discounted exhibitor pricing is available for local Kansas City businesses.

Learn more about the options and download the prospectus on the [NSPECon25 sponsorship and exhibitor webpage](#).



2025 NSPE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Nominate a deserving colleague for the Fellowship recognition, the NSPE Award, and the New Professional Award.

NSPE Fellow

The status of NSPE Fellow is the highest honor bestowed upon members who have dedicated years of exemplary service to the chapter, state and national levels of NSPE. Ideal candidates for this membership grade have 10 or more years of service (including at least two years at the national level). We encourage you to begin the nomination process early to ensure sufficient time for gathering the required materials. Nominations are due by **February 1**. Access more information and the nomination form [here](#).

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award bestowed on an individual by our organization and recognizes the outstanding contributions the individual has made to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is **March 1**. Access more information and the nomination form [here](#).

New Professional Award

The New Professional Award recognizes a young engineer who is either licensed or an engineering intern/engineer-in-training who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and community. The individual must also be an NSPE member who is 35 or younger. The nomination deadline is **March 1**. Access more information and the nomination form [here](#) .

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