Governor Signs Landmark Transportation Modernization Act Into Law

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee recently signed the Transportation Modernization Act. This legislation will create a new strategy and invest $3.3 billion to accommodate Tennessee’s record growth, address traffic congestion, and meet transportation needs across rural and urban communities. The Act received bipartisan legislative support and was backed by dozens of organizations across the state, according to a news release.

“As families and businesses move to Tennessee in record numbers, we need a transportation plan to keep up with the pace,” said Governor Lee. “Our strategy will meet our state’s transportation needs across rural and urban communities, without new taxes or debt. I commend the General Assembly for its partnership to prepare Tennessee for continued growth and economic opportunity.”

The plan will give the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) the resources needed to solve the state’s current and future mobility challenges, including seeking the use of public-private partnerships to preserve state funds for rural infrastructure priorities, exploring Choice Lanes to decrease congestion and increase economic impact statewide, and expanding the alternative delivery model to save taxpayer dollars and deliver road projects more efficiently.

“Tennessee is facing a critical juncture when it comes to mobility, and our new transportation strategy will prepare TDOT to build and maintain roads across rural and urban communities,” said TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley. “I appreciate the work of the legislature and key partners to ensure continued prosperity throughout Tennessee.” Read more.

Vanderbilt Students Design Park Underneath I-40 Bridge

Vanderbilt University engineering students Baker Harrington, Alex Holzke, Katie Reed, and Rachel Roberts presented a plan to bring new life to the space
underneath I-40 near 2nd and 4th avenues, WKRN reports.

For the last year, these students created a new park, filled with pickle and basketball courts, bathrooms, parking lots, and even a pedestrian bridge. “Initially, we wanted to provide access for both sides to just pass through, but our thought was, if we provide a park in the middle, it will bring people together,” said Harrington.

Joe Mayes with the Civic Design Center has seen a lot of ideas sent his way to redevelop this space over the last several years. “Right now, they look very empty, so how do we create something for the community?” he said.

The Civic Design Center, along with engineering firm Barge Design Solutions, partnered with these students to help them bring their ideas to life. Drawing inspiration from other cities like Birmingham, Portland and Boston help these students create and engineer this park design key stakeholders within the community were able to visualize. Read more.

---

**Tennessee Titans Receive Approval for New LEED-Certified Enclosed Stadium**

The Tennessee Titans football team has received final approval from the Metropolitan Nashville Council to move forward with plans to build a new, enclosed, LEED-Certified stadium on Nashville’s East Bank of the Cumberland River, the E+E Leader reports.

The deal, a historic $2.1 billion agreement, is the largest in Nashville’s history and includes at least $1.26 billion in public funding. This will make it the largest public subsidy for a stadium in US history.

The stadium agreement includes a new 30-year lease and non-relocation agreement between the Titans and Sports Authority. The new terms end the current obligations of Nashville’s General Fund, which were maintaining and upgrading the stadium. The new lease will return 66 acres of land to the city of Nashville.

The city plans to renovate and develop the current stadium area into a new neighborhood along the Cumberland River. It is anticipated that the neighborhood will bring in over a billion dollars to Nashville’s General Fund over the next 30 years.

Over the life of the new lease, the Tennessee Titans will contribute nearly $48 million to Nashville Needs Impact Fund. The fund directed by Metro Council supports city needs such as public education, public transit, and affordable
housing, to name a few. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Network and Learn at NSPECon23 (August 2-4)

NSPECon23 registration is now open! NSPE members, PEs, EITs, engineering students, and anyone interested in the issues facing the industry today are invited to attend NSPECon 2023 in Louisville, August 2-4. Early-bird registration rates are available until June 29. Preview the preliminary program of sessions designed to foster leadership skills, address industry trends, and to boost your career.

Register Now!

Keynote Speakers

Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker’s Mark Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, “Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer.”
Megan Bendtzen, CEO and Founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myths and mysteries of work-life balance and the pursuit of happiness during the keynote speech “P.L.A.Y. to Win: It Actually is All Fun and Games...The Secret to Increasing Profits, Positivity and Productivity.”

**Sponsor and Exhibit Opportunities**

NSPECon23 offers sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. Access the Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus for more information.

---

**NSPE Welcomes New VP for Membership, State Engagement**

NSPE recently welcomed Rodneikka Scott, MSc, CAE, as its new Vice President of Member and State Engagement. In this role, Scott will be responsible for executing NSPE’s strategic vision and the association’s approach to membership, professional practice, and learning. She will also oversee NSPE’s current state engagement efforts, the customer service center, and the ethics team.

Prior to joining NSPE, Scott spent four years as the Chief Membership and Diversity Programs Officer of the Endocrine Society. She played a crucial role in managing the organization’s membership approach, engaging with internal and external stakeholders, and revamping the member value proposition to include a suite of new member benefits. Scott draws on more than 17 years of diverse experience in the membership, marketing, communications, volunteer relations, and education sectors to support member services and diversity programs. Read more.
Get Involved – Volunteer for an NSPE Committee

Volunteers are the heart of NSPE. NSPE is committed to building valuable experiences for all our members by offering a variety of long term and short-term opportunities to get engaged. Visit the Get Involved Page to learn more about available opportunities. Submit an application for a 2023-24 committee by June 2.

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to PE Matters e-newsletter.

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

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of PE Matters, click here to unsubscribe.

Share with your network

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