

## State News for NSPE Members

### West Virginia 1,200 Roads to Prosperity Projects Complete

The hard work put in by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) in implementing Governor Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program is paying off for the citizens of West Virginia, the governor said in a press briefing on November 8.

Of 1,263 bridge and highway projects undertaken through the Roads to Prosperity program, approximately 1,200 are currently complete. Since 2017, the WVDOT has paved approximately 9,000 miles of road, more than at any time in the state's history.

"You have done an amazing job," the governor told state Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E. "That's all there is to it. I hope to goodness that this audience and the media and many others would take heed to what has happened in the state department of transportation. We walked into a situation a few years back where we were upside. There were people who could not get to the grocery store because of the damage to the roads. Think about how this has changed."

When Governor Justice took office in 2017, West Virginia was in dire financial straits and struggling with a highway system plagued by decades of underinvestment in infrastructure. The governor envisioned Roads to Prosperity as a way to immediately put people to work and rejuvenate the state's ailing roads.

"The Roads to Prosperity program saved the department of transportation; it saved the state," Wriston said. "It laid the foundation for all the growth that we've seen in every sector across the state. [Read more.](#)"

---

### WVU Engineer Aims to Combat Climate Change with Fleet of Marine Robots

A West Virginia University engineer is working as part of a nationwide project to develop marine robots to probe underneath ocean ice and collect data to track the

impact of climate change, [The State Journal reports](#).

WVU associate professor Dr. Xi Yu is one of seven engineers and oceanographers from across the United States working on the project, which includes principal investigators from Oregon State University, Temple University, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The project has an end goal of sending a fleet of marine robots — led by a “mothership” — underneath ocean ice to reach otherwise inaccessible waters and crevices to collect critical climate change data.

Yu explained that ice melting underneath the glacier is problematic, explaining that the melts create cavities filled with fresh water, which flows out while ocean water flows in.

“This kind of circulation ... will destabilize the glacier and speed up the whole melting procedure even further,” Yu said. “It’s essential to take some sampling and measurements inside those cavities to understand how this melting is happening, how fast it’s happening and how bad the situation is.” [Read more](#).

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

---

## Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

### Future Forward

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology are revolutionizing the world. But these technologies are developing at a pace much faster than can be effectively absorbed into critical engineered infrastructure. The NSPE Emerging Technologies Committee is laser focused on ensuring that new technologies can benefit society and the profession with minimal risk to safety and security.



### Claiming a Seat at the Table

Does it ever seem like your ideas go unnoticed? Do you sometimes feel like you have stalled in your organization? Does it seem like your team is not getting the support it needs? If you want to “claim a seat at the table,” how you show up, use your influence, and communicate can be the difference between winning opportunities or not.

[Access the full issue online](#). Members who subscribe to the digital edition of *PE* can also access the current and back issues.

---

**Engineers Week 2024 — Welcome to the Future!**

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 18–24, 2024) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week — **Welcome to the Future!** — seeks to inspire the next generation to play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

---

## Share Your Views: Outreach to the Next Generation

What are you doing to promote the engineering profession to young people? Send your comments (250 words or less) to [pemagazine@nspe.org](mailto:pemagazine@nspe.org).

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

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://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**

