

State News for NSPE Members

EV Charging Stations Coming to Rhode Island Interstate Corridor

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources recently announced the start of construction on the state's first two electric vehicle (EV) DC Fast Charging stations located along the Interstate 95 corridor, [Uprise RI reports](#). The new charging stations will be installed at the Ashaway Park & Ride and the Route 117 Park & Ride in Warwick as part of Phase 1 of Rhode Island's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program.

The Ashaway and Warwick Park & Ride locations will each house two DC Fast Chargers capable of charging an EV up to 80% in 20-40 minutes. The ultra-fast chargers are considered "future proof", meaning they can charge new EVs coming to market for years to come. With many automakers pledging to go fully electric over the next 10-15 years, Rhode Island officials want to ensure adequate charging infrastructure is available across major travel corridors.

Chris Kearns, Acting State Energy Commissioner, noted the new chargers will complete Rhode Island's designated Alternative Fuel Corridor along I-95. The completed corridor and convenient fast charging stations are expected to alleviate range anxiety and other concerns residents may have when considering an EV purchase. [Read more](#).

\$20M Issued for Pawtucket, Woonsocket Drinking Water Upgrades

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank has closed on a \$15 million loan to the city of Pawtucket and two loans to the city of Woonsocket totaling \$5.5 million to finance drinking water infrastructure upgrades in the two cities, [Providence Business News reports](#).

The loan to Pawtucket includes a \$2.25 million forgiveness of principal. The \$15 million from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund will finance water meter

replacements.

Mayor Donald R. Grebien said the Infrastructure Bank's below-market rates will allow the city to save more than \$2.8 million in interest costs over the term of the loan. "Specifically, this loan will allow Pawtucket Water to install, at no cost to customers, advanced water meters that can detect leaks and inform customers about what they can do to better conserve water," Grebien said. [Read more](#).

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

Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional Award : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering

faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#).

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