

State News for NSPE Members

State Launches Applications for \$20 Million Local Road Infrastructure Program

Local cities and towns will now have the chance to apply for state funding to help cover costs of road, bridge and sidewalk repairs, [the Providence Business News reports](#).

Governor Daniel J. McKee and other state officials, including from the RI Department of Transportation, recently announced that the state has launched its #RIReady Municipal Road Fund Program application process. The \$20 million grant program, according to state officials, is available for local communities needing to make infrastructure improvements on locally maintained city and town roads.

McKee's office says about 80%, or 5,000 miles, of roads within Rhode Island are maintained by local municipalities. According to recent data submitted by the Federal Highway Administration, close to half of all municipal roads are in poor condition.

Under the program, which is funded by the state's share of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, each city and town provides two-thirds of the project costs – RIDOT takes care of the balance. With this investment, McKee's office says the fund can make up to \$60 million available for local road projects through October 2026. [Read more](#).

Rhode Island Receives \$6.6M for Clean Energy Efforts

Clean energy, security, and resiliency efforts in Rhode Island are receiving an infusion of federal cash, [The Center Square reports](#).

Rhode Island's Office of Energy Resources is poised to receive \$6.6 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support administrative and program efforts in the department. Funding will also be put to work for energy security

planning and enhancing the state's electric grid.

The funding, according to a release, will assist Rhode Island in achieving Act on Climate goals. Rhode Island is receiving \$3.4 million through the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program and \$3.2 million through the State Energy Program. [Read more.](#)

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

Vermont PE Rises to Top Leadership



William (Bill) Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2023–24 president during a ceremony at NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3. He has spent most of his career volunteering for NSPE and various engineering organizations that hold true to his passion for protecting the public through licensure and ethical engineering decision making.

Atkinson serves as the engineering manager and lead engineer at Vermont Mechanical Inc., a mechanical and plumbing design build contractor that focuses on healthcare and commercial construction (where he has been employed since 2001). He currently directs the service and engineering departments.

Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Engineering Education Excellence Award

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the

ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.



Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E., is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

New Professional of the Year 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.



Sri Kumar, P.E., is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company's strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico's employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the nation's most complex infrastructure challenges.

Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates



The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the

engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are [invited to apply](#).

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

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