

State News for NSPE Members

State Awarded Another \$55.9M in Federal Infrastructure Funds

Rhode Island will receive an additional \$55.9 million in federal funding for public transportation, [Providence Business News reports](#). The funding, part of the \$21 billion infrastructure law, will help the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority expand service and renovate the transit tunnel from North Main Street to Thayer Street on the East Side of Providence, RIPTA CEO Scott Avedisian said.

“We are grateful for the continued support from our congressional delegation, who never stop championing for investments in public transit,” Avedisian said. “These funds will be used to modernize and upgrade our vehicles and facilities, making transit more resilient and sustainable.”

This latest award is part of an estimated \$292 million in transit formula funding that the Ocean State is slated to receive over the next five years. It will help public transit agencies invest in expanding service, job training and new low- and no-emission buses. [Read more](#).

Rhode Island Grants to Focus on Downtowns

A new round of state grants focused on downtowns are now up for grabs in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Commerce will administer Site Readiness and Main Street Rhode Island Streetscape Improvement grant funding to spur local economic development around the state, [The Center Square reports](#).

The programs, according to the release, will partner municipalities and developers in an effort to fund technical assistance and site-specific planning and improvements. Eligible projects include property and engineering surveys, environmental studies, site clearing or demolition, infrastructure improvements, and training for zoning board members, and grant writing.

Municipalities and economic development agencies will be able to apply for competitive grants that would be used to improve commercial districts, including sidewalk projects, street furniture, and way-finding signage. Funds can also be used to upgrade facades and improve street lighting. In addition, those projects must be walkable and attract residents and visitors. [Read more.](#)

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

Meet the FEYA Top 10 Finalists

NSPE is pleased to announce the 10 finalists for the [2023 Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#), honoring engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide. All have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The winner of this year's award will be announced during a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24, and will be selected from the following finalists.

- **Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer, networks/WAN specialist; Tennessee Valley Authority
- **Steven C. Dunn, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer; General Services Administration Public Buildings Service
- **Maj. Dustin L. Gooden, P.E., PMP, LSSBB**, chief, strategic basing corporate branch; US Department of the Air Force, Headquarters US Air Force
- **Chad C. Hogan, P.E.**, lead engineer; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Material Command
- **Capt. Jeneé A. Jagoda, P.E., PMP**, engineering flight commander; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command
- **Capt. Christopher C. Jankowski, P.E., PMP, ENV SP**, chief of operations engineering; US Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces
- **Andrew R. Lawrence, P.E.**, salvage engineering response team principal architect; US Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard
- **Nicholas Brian Melly, P.E.**, fire protection engineer; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- **Dr. Brandon L. Toliver, P.E.**, branch chief, basing and beddown; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Installation & Mission Support

- **Brian R. Wybrecht, P.E.**, civil engineer; US Department of the Army, US Army Europe and Africa



2023 Lineup of 15 Free PDHs Are Available

NSPE membership offers the benefit of access to 15 on-demand webinars. This year's webinars address various topics of interest to professional engineers including ethics, emerging technologies, construction projects, and licensure. Upon successful completion of each webinar quiz (with a passing score of 70% or higher), the quiz taker will receive an attendance certificate with the appropriate credits earned for that session. [Access the free webinars](#) .

2022 NSPE Scholarship Winners

The NSPE Education Foundation awarded several scholarships to support talented students pursuing engineering degrees in ABET-accredited programs.

Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship

Leah Griesmer, from Broadview Heights, Ohio, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

Katelyn King, from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering

Sebastian Rodriguez, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is attending Carnegie Mellon University to study mechanical engineering.

The George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship

Tyler Kleinsasser is a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship

Eli Ordaz is studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University.

Steinman Scholarship

Kathleen Abrams is attending the University of South Carolina, majoring in biomedical engineering.

Michael Chavez is studying electrical engineering, with an emphasis on renewable energy, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jake Schneider, of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, is pursuing his degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Louisville.

Lindsay Steis, of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, is attending Gannon University, majoring in environmental engineering.

Jonathan Windham, of Sumrall, Mississippi, is pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Mississippi State University.

The 2023 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2023 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is **April 1**.

Congratulations to the 2022 Scholarship Winners!



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Steinman Scholarship



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