

State News for NSPE Members

McKee Promises 'Reckoning' over Bridge Closure

Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee is pledging to hold parties "responsible" for any shoddy design or work on a major bridge over Interstate 195 after announcing that the state will need to come up with about \$300 million to replace the failing structure, [The Center Square reports](#).

McKee said that an independent review of the Washington Street Bridge — a gateway to Rhode Island's largest city, Providence, that carries about 100,000 vehicles a day over the Seekonk River — uncovered additional structural deficiencies that required that it be replaced.

"We're going to fix the bridge, we're going to make it right, and we're going to make sure we keep people safe," McKee, a Democrat, told reporters during a briefing.

McKee said his administration is investigating the circumstances that led to the need to shut down and replace the bridge. "We will hold all responsible parties fully accountable," he said. "The day of reckoning is coming and coming soon."

The state Rhode Island Department of Transportation said the estimated cost to demolish and replace the bridge was between \$250 million and \$300 million. The state is looking at sources of funding for the project, including federal grants, according to the agency. [Read more](#).

Rhode Island Advances Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Governor Dan McKee, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), recently showcased the accomplishments of Phase 1 of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program at the Ashaway Park & Ride.

Launched in December 2023, Phase 1 of the NEVI Program focuses on deploying electric vehicle DC Fast Chargers (Level 3) charging stations. Two of these

stations are being installed at the Ashaway Park & Ride in Hopkinton, while the Route 117 Park & Ride in Warwick is also slated to receive two new chargers. These Level 3 chargers can charge an electric vehicle up to 80% within 20-40 minutes. Construction at the Ashaway location commenced in February 2024.

Upon completion, the NEVI Program's Phase 1 will feature eight DC Fast Chargers (Level 3) and six Dual-Port Level 2 charging stations along the Alternative Fuel Corridor on Interstate 95 in Rhode Island, strategically positioned to support the growing demand for electric vehicles. [Read more in the Newport Buzz.](#)

Rhode Island to Receive \$47M for Water Infrastructure Improvements

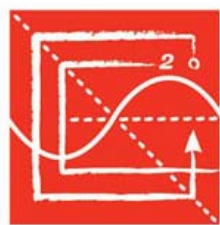
[According to What's Up Newp](#), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced \$47.491 million in funding to help modernize Ocean State water infrastructure. The funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which allocates \$43 billion in federal funding for water infrastructure improvements across the country.

US Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressmen Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo announced the \$47,491,000 in new federal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding to help pay for clean water projects across the Ocean State. The federal funding, which is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) includes allocations of \$16.87 million through the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF), with \$1.44 million set aside to address emerging contaminants (ECs); and \$30.6 million through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, with \$7.64 million earmarked for projects addressing ECs. The EC funding may be used to address emerging contaminants such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). [Read more.](#)

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

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"Workability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinars of the spring season will take place on **April 3**—[NSPE's Board of Ethical Review Presents: The Duty to Act](#); **April 17**—[Second Best Protection Against Risk](#); and **May 1**—[Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slip, Trips, and Falls](#) (Celebration of National Building Safety Month).





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EJCDC® Releases New Teaming and Joint Venture Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released new documents - EJCDC® E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity and EJCDC® E-590, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services (2024 editions). NSPE members [will receive a 50% discount on the](#)

[EJCDC documents](#) .

The [E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity](#) is intended for a collaboration between two design firms that have decided to join together to pursue an opportunity to obtain work. The [E-590, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services](#) is a contract document in which two or more design firms agree to join together to provide specific professional services to a third party.

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