

State News for NSPE Members

Rhode Island Kicks Off 2023 Construction Season

Rhode Island officially kicked off the 2023 construction season on April 13, [ABC6.com reports](#).

“Construction season is officially underway and this is going to be a busy one thanks to the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law we passed,” said US Senator Jack Reed in a statement.

[Projects are] starting a year ahead because of the \$1.7 billion funding the state received through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. “Across Rhode Island, federal funds are being put to work improving our bridges and roads, and modernizing our transportation infrastructure,” he said.

Reed, along with Governor Dan McKee and the Department of Transportation, launched the I-95 Resurfacing Project in Richmond. The \$19.3 million project will resurface both directions of I-95 — from Connecticut state line in Hopkinton to the Baker Pines Bridge in Richmond — will be resurfaced, covering almost 18 miles of the interstate highway. [Read more](#).

Rhode Island Program Would Make \$20 Million Available For Infrastructure Projects

The proposed RIReady Municipal Road Fund Program in Governor Dan McKee’s fiscal year 2024 budget would make available \$20 million for bridge, road, and sidewalk projects on locally maintained city and town roads, according to [Transportation Today](#).

Local communities often struggle to reach enough capital improvement funds in their budgets to maintain transportation infrastructure properly. The program would provide 33 percent of project costs.

Of the \$20 million, \$15 million will be divided equally among cities and towns, with the remaining \$5 million distributed proportionally to municipalities based on miles

of roads. There would be a quarterly reporting requirement and other accountability measures. The program would use federal American Rescue Plan funds, and projects would need to be completed by the end of 2026. Approximately 5,000 miles, 80% of the state's road miles, are maintained by cities and towns. Nearly half of municipal roads are in poor condition, according to the most recent annual pavement data submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. [Read more.](#)

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

Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023



Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional](#)



Engineer.” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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