

## **Pedestrian bridge opens in downtown Providence**

State and local officials on Friday morning cut the ribbon on the long-awaited pedestrian bridge that connects the East and West sides of the city over the Providence River and ties together an area of downtown that the governor has billed as a focal point for business in the capital city.

The \$21.9-million-pedestrian bridge was completed about 10 months behind schedule and at a price tag that was \$8.7 million higher than what was projected in March 2016.

Inspiration for the bridge began in the 1990s when it was proposed as a simple structure to be built on granite piers of the old Route 195 bridge, said Rhode Island Department of Transportation Director Peter Alвити. At the time, the bridge was projected to cost around \$3 million, according to Lisbeth Pettengill, spokeswoman for the department.

[Read full story.](#)

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## **NSPE Leads Coalition To Protect Professional Licensure**

NSPE bolstered its efforts to protect professional licensing with the creation of the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), a new coalition of advanced professions dedicated to informing lawmakers and the public of the importance of rigorous professional licensing standards.

In this partnership, NSPE is leading the charge to educate policymakers on the importance of maintaining standards for complex technical professions like engineering that have a clear impact on public health, safety, and welfare. In addition to its ongoing efforts to defend the PE license, NSPE spearheaded this coalition to ensure that professional engineers and other advanced professions are represented amid the growing debate around licensing laws.

In its leadership position with ARPL, NSPE will highlight how professional licensing protects the public by ensuring a baseline of proven qualification and expertise that protects consumers from unqualified practitioners. This public awareness campaign aims to counter the anti-licensing interests that threaten public safety.

Joining NSPE in this coalition are the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of CPAs, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

[Learn more about ARPL at responsiblelicensing.org.](https://responsiblelicensing.org)

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## **The How and Why of NSPE**

NSPE's House of Delegates has approved a new strategic plan for the organization, examining both its *how* and *why*.

A year-long project with extensive stakeholder involvement, the work illustrated the desire for both continuity and change for the Society.

The new plan comprises a new vision, mission, values, and goals, starting from the idea of “a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals.”

And now the real work begins—by the NSPE board, other leaders, and individual members.

[Learn more about the new strategic plan from Executive Director Mark Golden.](#)

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## **‘Dignity, Respect, Fairness, and Without Discrimination’**

Since the 1940s, NSPE has provided members with advice on the proper ethical behavior of engineers. Now that advice explicitly includes an obligation to antidiscrimination and fairness.

During NSPE's Professional Engineers Conference in July, the House of Delegates unanimously accepted the following addition to the “professional obligations” section of the Code: “Engineers shall treat all persons with dignity, respect, fairness, and without discrimination.” The House of Delegates is made up of representatives from all state and territorial societies.

The Board of Ethical Review offered this amendment to the Code based on a review of cases, reported complaints, observed incidents, and ethics code changes made by other professional and technical societies. Those organizations include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, IEEE, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

This change to the Code of Ethics also builds upon a policy adopted by NSPE last year calling for a “diverse and welcoming environment for everyone interested in the licensed practice of engineering.”