

## State News for NSPE Members

### Roads, Bridges Improve; Miles to Go

Across Rhode Island, bridge and road improvement projects are in the works thanks to RhodeWorks, a program implemented in 2016. RhodeWorks put in place a data-driven approach to improving roads and bridges, such as the George Washington Bridge, which is undergoing a \$78 million repair project that will take five years. When completed, the project will greatly ease traffic congestion.

Officials say these changes are undeniably positive, but that more progress is still needed, [The Public's Radio reports](#). With the passage of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, Rhode Island will receive \$1.7 billion to help fund ongoing road and bridge improvements, and \$280 million for public transportation.

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### Infrastructure Bank OKs \$11M Loan for Warwick Sewer Lines

Sewer lines in Warwick will be expanded thanks to an \$11 million loan from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, according to the [Providence Business Journal](#). Work under the project will include connecting 900 homes that currently use septic systems and cesspools to sewer lines.

In the works for years, the project has stalled several times due to funding issues. The line of credit from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund means the expansion will be complete by August 2023. Additionally, Warwick Sewer Authority executive director BettyAnne Rogers said in an email to the Journal, sewer construction will protect Narragansett Bay from pollution.

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

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### Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE



NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

## I Am the Future

**Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.**  
**Civil Engineer**  
**NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020**

**"I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day."**



## PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals



NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

### Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

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## **Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director**

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and login to manage your account.

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## Share with your network



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