

State News for NSPE Members

Transportation Money Takes a Hit

MnDOT estimates it will take in \$440 million less than anticipated over this year and next due to the severe reduction in driving caused by COVID-19, according to the [Star Tribune](#). Traffic volume has fallen by 30 to 50%, and the result will be less gas tax revenue, car tab fees, and motor vehicle sales taxes.

A \$2 billion construction bonding bill that could have given a boost to transportation funding failed in the Minnesota House before adjournment. A special legislative session could give a bonding bill another chance, [reports the Twin Cities Pioneer Press](#).

Fix the Pipes

A coalition of labor, business, environmental, city, and legislative leaders wants the legislature to allocate money to help replace the state's aging and failing sewer and water systems, according to the [Duluth News Tribune](#). The Fix the Pipes Alliance is calling for at least \$300 million this year. One state senator said the \$300 million is just a small part of the billions needed.

Welcome New Members!

- Peter Walker, Moorhead Machinery & Boiler
- Maura Klimisch, P.E., CenterPoint Energy
- Silas Parmar, Bolton & Menk Inc.
- Matthew Engebretson, P.E.
- Randy Peterson, P.E., AllianceRx Walgreens Prime
- Gary Gabe, P.E.
- Karth Whiteside, E.I./E.I.T., Bolton & Menk Inc.
- Emily Suppes, E.I.T., CenterPoint Energy
- Cassandra Barr Isackson, P.E., MnDOT
- Adrian Nistler, P.E., Fabcon Precast

- Michael Braulick, P.E., Pinnacle Engineering, inc.
- Ross Haugen, P.E., WCEC
- Josh Haukom, CenterPoint Energy
- Colton Lee, Bolton & Menk Inc.
- Jason Fisher, P.E., Jamar Company
- David Stark, P.E., Bolton & Menk Inc.

Get Ready for *Virtual PE Conference 2020* (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (**PECon**) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon 2020**;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and

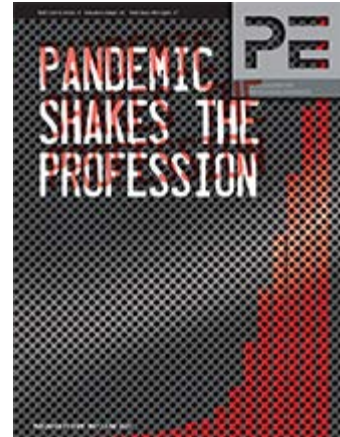
Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#), as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars

PE[®] INSTITUTE

EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace - May 27](#)
- [Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - June 3](#)
- [Ethics in our Changing World - June 10](#)
- [Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - June 24](#)

[Visit NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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