

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

February 2012

Volume 12, Number 02

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President's Message

*By George Tavoulareas, P.E.
President
gltpe@msn.com*

Our annual math competition (www.mathcounts.org) at JHS 189 was a huge success. I would like to thank **Robert LoPinto** for all his effort in organizing and running the event. I also want to thank **Mary Castora, John Sgouros, PE, Brian Flynn, PE** and all the students and teachers who made the competition a success. We had fun and I'm still working on some of the math problems.

This year, Engineers Week is celebrated from February 19-25, 2012. <http://eweek.org/Home.aspx> Engineers have made a tremendous impact on the world and on our quality of life. We should all tell non engineers what we do at work and what accomplishments Engineers have made to the world. Get the word out, tell someone why engineers have made a difference. Remember, from the minute you wake up in the morning and brush your teeth with clean water on the 20th floor of your apartment to the second you turn the light off and go to sleep, you can thank an engineer. Engineers turn ideas into reality.

As part of the celebrations we have partnered with the other four chapters and will be celebrating Engineers Week in Manhattan on February 21, 2012. The Mayor of the City of New York will be issuing his proclamation for Engineers Week and as I write this message, New York City Dept. of Design and Construction Deputy Commissioner **Eric McFarlane, PE** will be presenting the Proclamation. Gov. Cuomo's office has been invited to speak and we await his response. Please go

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to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSQR5S2> and register for the event.

We will not be holding our regular general membership meeting at Ft. Totten this month. We will hold our general membership meeting in Manhattan on February 21, 2012 at 10:15am. in the UBS building. Please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSQR5S2> and register for the event.

I would like to welcome **Dr. Dennis Whang, PE** into our chapter. Dennis is a new member of the society. I look forward to seeing you on February 21, 2012 at 10:15 am at the UBS building in Manhattan.

Directors 2008-2010

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Peter Boudouvas, P.E.	(212) 594-4340
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ENGINEERS WEEK CELEBRATION

Engineers Week is being celebrated on Tuesday, Feb 21, 2012, 10:15AM - 6PM, at the UBS Building, 1285 Ave of the Americas (51st St) 14th Fl Conference Center. This event is being organized by the five NYC NYSSPE Chapters (MCPC), PEC (PE's in Construction) and PEPP (PE's in Private Practice) interest groups within NYSSPE. There will be opportunity for 6PDHs on two tracks that include the MANDATORY ethics seminar. Topics will include the NYC Fire Code, Second Ave subway, WTC and Port Authority projects, with headline speakers from NYC DOB, Fire Dept, MTA, Port Authority, NYS Board of Engineering and Surveyors, etc. The cost is \$120 prepaid and \$175 at the door. Further info and details at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSQR5S2>

NYC Rules Updates

The following NYC Rules update includes (1) all City agency proposed rules that remain open for written public comment; (2) adopted rules that took effect during the previous week; and (3) adopted rules soon taking effect.

Please visit [NYC Rules](#) to read agency rules, to submit comments online on proposed rules, and to learn about the rulemaking process.

Proposed Rules Open for Written Public Comment

- ** (E) Designations (OER)—Written comments must be submitted by February 29.
- ** Rules Concerning the Registration of Emergency Generators (DEP)—Written comments must be submitted by February 22.
- Removal and Disposal of Derelict Bicycles (DSNY)—Written comments must be submitted by February 22.
- Tow Truck Inspection Fee (DCA)—Written comments must be submitted by February 14.
- ECB's Health Code and Miscellaneous Food Vendor Violations Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Written comments must be submitted by February 14.
- Amendments to 3 RNYC 4900-02, entitled "Schedule of Charges for Fire Department Ambulance Transport Service" (FDNY)—Written comments must be submitted by February 6.
- Amendment of Hoisting Machine Operator Rules (DOB)—Written comments must be submitted by February 3.
- Tow Company Electronic Record Keeping Requirements (DCA)—Written comments must be submitted by January 31.
- Disposal of Sewage (DOHMH)—Written comments must be submitted by January 31.
- Radiation Control (DOHMH)—Written comments must be submitted by January 31.

Adopted Rules That Took Effect During the Previous Week

- Dispatch of Accessible Taxicabs (TLC)—Rule took effect January 22.

Adopted Rules Soon Taking Effect

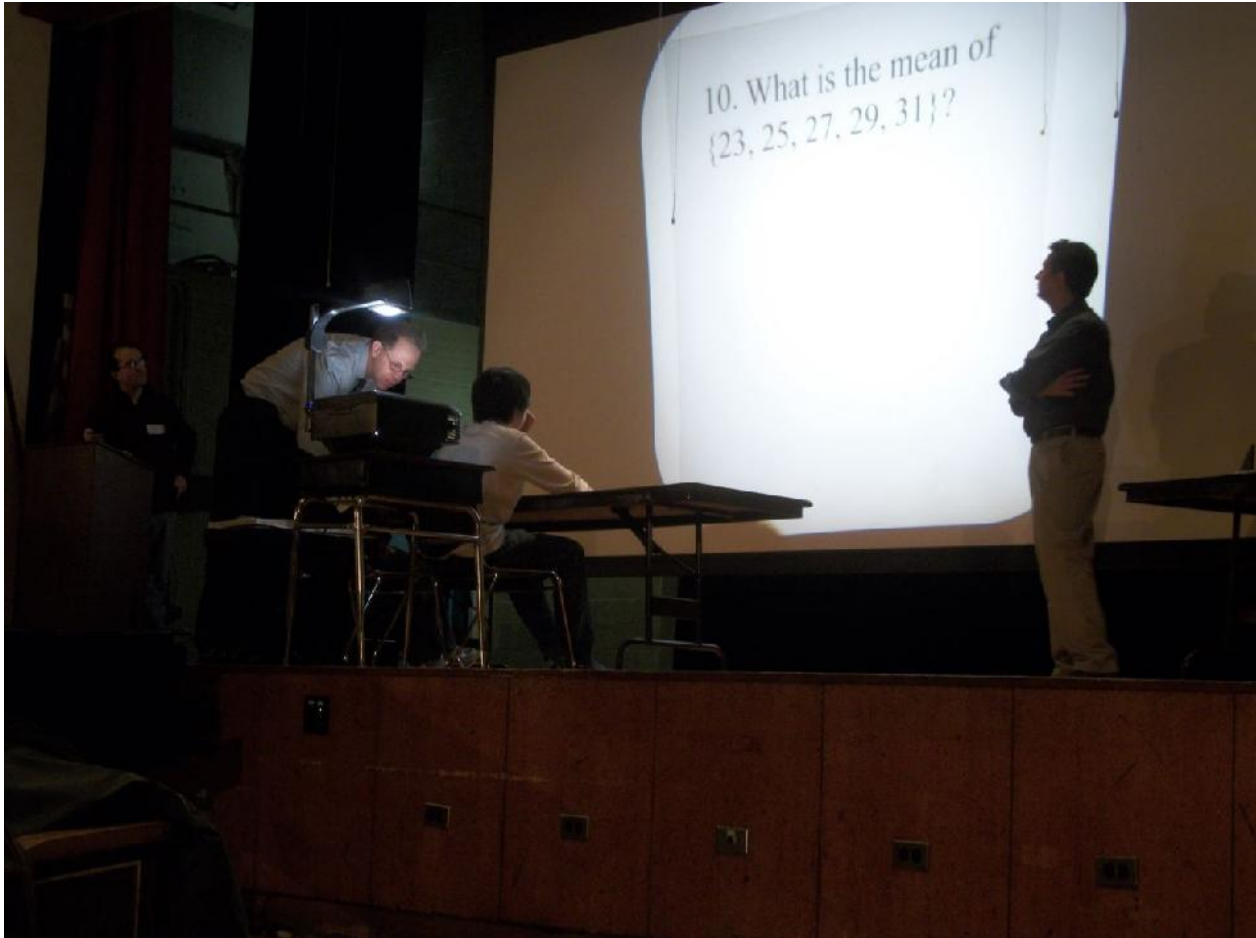
- ** Safety Code Governing Elevators Without Machine Rooms (DOB)—Rule takes effect February 24.
- Amendment of Violation Classifications (Electrical Code)—Rule takes effect February 12.
- EEO Certificates of Compliance, Reports and Client Services and Emergency Contracts (SBS)—Rule takes effect February 5.
- Parking Violations (DOF)—Rule takes effect January 29.

** Rule posted on NYC Rules within past week

To learn more about these and other recent rulemaking actions, please visit the NYC Rules website www.nyc.gov/nycrules. You may also find agency rules in daily editions of the [City Record](#).

MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

*By Robert LoPinto, PE
Mathcounts Coordinator*



The Queens Chapter - NYSSPE annual MATHCOUNTS Competition was held on Saturday, February 4^h, at Junior High School 189, in Flushing. Eleven schools from Queens registered in the MATHCOUNTS Program competed in the competition. MATHCOUNTS is a Math skills building and competition for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students, sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the CNA Foundation, Raytheon Company, US Dept. of Defense, Northrop Grumman Foundation, 3M Foundation and Texas Instruments, Bezos Family Foundation, Conoco Phillips, Think-Fun and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Competitions are held at the local Chapter level, followed by a State competition. The top individuals from the State competition then compete at the Raytheon National Competition, which is being held in Orlando, Florida this year. The top winners of the National Competition can win college scholarships.



Teams of 4 students and up to 6 individuals from the schools spent about 4 hours taking various written and oral tests. There was a 40 minute, 30 question written individual test, followed by four sets of two written questions to be answered in 6 minutes for each set. This was followed by a 20 minute, 10-question team test, where the 4 team members worked together to answer the questions.

The Queens Chapter Team Winners were:

1ST PLACE MS 67- LOUIS PASTEUR MS

COACH: Zachary Boyt
Nichloas Beasley
Michael Gao
Dan Kim
Jongyoul Lee

2ND PLACE MS 158- MARIE CURIE MS

COACH: Freddy Sampson
Amanda Wang
Ethan Cheng
Brandon Lin
Joel Ye

3RD PLACE MS 74- NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE MS

COACH: Brian Annello & Richard Getzel
HAO XIANG CHEN
MATTHEW HO
DAVID KANG
PATRICK NIAN

The top Individual Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	Nicholas Beasley	MS 67
2	Andreas Wang	MS 158
3	Joel Ye	MS 158
4	Yumin Kim	MS 158
5	Cindy Wu	MS 67
6	Brandon Lin	MS 158
7	Ethan Cheng	MS 158
8	Dan Kim	MS 67
9	Justin Kong	MS 158
10	Brian Huang	MS 158

The Oral Countdown Round Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	Nicholas Beasley	MS 67
2	Joel Ye	MS 158
3	Andreas Wang	MS 158



The competitions went off without a hitch, thanks to the help of the Team Coaches, and the Professional Engineer Chapter members. At the end of the competition, an awards ceremony was held, and the trophies and other awards were presented to the Queens Chapter winners by Chapter President George Tavoulareas, PE. Robert A. LoPinto, PE, Past Queens Chapter President and MATHCOUNTS Coordinator set up the day's events and ran the Countdown competition. Chapter Members Brian Flynn, PE and John Sgouros, PE and volunteer Mary Castora

assisted in the competition. All in all, it was an enjoyable morning for all involved. The top three teams now move on to the State Competition in March. Good Luck!

Engineering on the Web

Exclusive valentine's getaway for engineer's and their spouses:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/newtown-creek-wastewater-plant-offering-tours-lovers-valentine-day-article-1.1020190?localLinksEnabled=false>



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

PRESENTS

ENGINEERS WEEK - NYC

FEBRUARY 21, 2012

10 :15AM - 7PM

1285 Avenue of the Americas (UBS Building - c/o 51 Street) 14th Floor

\$120.00 Members prepaid rate**

\$175 Non-member rate*

EARN 7 PDHS

(INCLUDING REQUIRED PDH IN ETHICS)

CELEBRATE YOUR PROFESSION

(Attend Mayor's Engineers Week Proclamation Ceremony)

MEET WITH DOB AND NYFD CODE OFFICIALS

(Attend Building Codes update presentations by DOB and NYFD Officials)

NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW ENGINEERS

(Includes Food and Refreshments)

**GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
SUBJECTS AFFECTING YOUR JOB,
PROFESSION, AND YOUR CITY**

REGISTER ONLINE: www.BxNSPE.org/ew2012

****\$175 for members paying at the Door**

***Non-members who join NSPE are invited as our guests for free.**

SPONSORED BY:

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER PRESIDENTS COUNCIL (MCPC)

Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP) & Professional Engineers in Construction (PEC)



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2012**
February 19-25



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

The Founding Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

[Exit this notification](#)

***** **EVENT NOTIFICATION - February 21, 2012 - NYC Engineers Week
Conference** *****

NYC Engineers Week - CELEBRATE YOUR PROFESSION - 6 PDH Opportunity

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - 10:15 AM - 6 PM - See Schedule of Lectures below.

Location: UBS Conference Center

1285 Avenue of the Americas, 14th Floor, (@ 51st Street), New York, NY 10019.

RSVP your attendance and reserve your seats in the boxes below:

Keynote Speaker:

**Keith Lashway P.E., 2013 President
Elect
New York State Society
of Professional Engineers**

Presenting Mayor's Engineers Week Proclamation:

**Presenter:
Eric C. Macfarlane, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Design &
Construction**

Guest Speaker:

**Joel Miele, P.E.,
Former Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings, and
NYC Department of Environmental
Protection**



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS
AFFECTING YOUR JOB, PROFESSION, AND THE CITY

MEET WITH THE CITY'S CODE OFFICIALS, MTA AND
PORT AUTHORITY DIRECTORS - Attend Building Codes
update presentations by DOB , DEP and FDNY Officials,
including;

TIM LYNCH, PE , DIRECTOR, DOB FORENSIC
ENGINEERING UNIT,

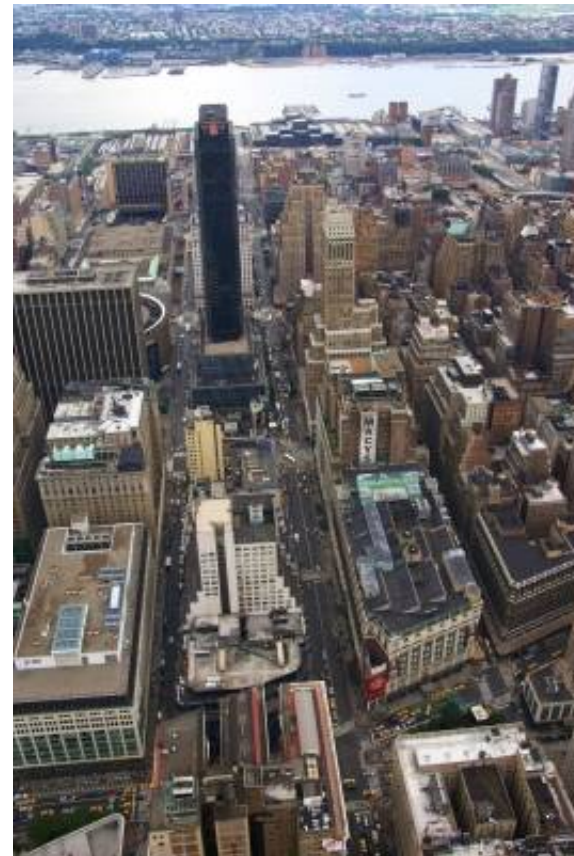
JAMES HANSON, DIRECTOR, NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

JULIE STEIN PE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

SAROJ BHOL PE - DESIGN MANAGER - THE PORT
AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

JOEL MIELE PE - FORMER NYC DOB & DEP
COMMISSIONER

BILL GOODRICH, PE, S.V.P. - METROPOLITAN TRANSIT
AUTHORITY - MTA



JOE PASATURO PE, Member of the NYS BOARD OF ENGINEERING AND SURVEYORS

Conference Schedule:

TIME	CONFERENCE ROOM A	CONFERENCE ROOM B
10:15 - 11:00 AM	RECEPTION - COFFEE - NETWORKING	RECEPTION - COFFEE - NETWORKING
11:00 - 12:00 AM	ENGINEER'S ETHICS COURSE JOE PASATURO PE, MEMBER OF NYS BOARD OF ENGINEERING AND SURVEYORS	Building Exciting Structures with STEEL: Using Hollow Structural Sections (HSS) JACINDA COLLINS, PE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION - AISC
12:00 - 12:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
12:30 - 1:10 PM	MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION AND 9/11 WTC CEREMONIES	MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION AND 9/11 WTC CEREMONIES
1:10 - 2:00 PM	NYC FIRE CODE UPDATE JAMES HANSON, DIRECTOR OF CODE REVISION NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT [FDNY]	High Performance Building Considerations Using Precast Concrete. RITA SERADERIAN, PE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRECAST CONCRETE INSTITUTE [PCI]
2:00 - 3:00 PM	DEP STORMWATER REGULATIONS UPDATE JULIE STEIN PE / ALTERNATE DEP REP. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION [DEP]	MASONRY CODES UPDATE KEITH LASHWAY PE, REGIONAL DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE - IMI
3:00 - 4:00 PM	DOB BLDG RECORDS, VIOLATIONS & COLLAPSES IN NYC TIM LYNCH, PE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOB - FORENSIC ENGINEERING UNIT	WTC Overview and Codes for Port Authority projects SAROJ BHOL PE, Manager CONSTRUCTION DESIGN STANDARDS & QA DIVISION THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ
4:00 - 5:00 PM	2ND AVENUE SUBWAY PROJECT UPDATE BILL GOODRICH, PE, S.V.P. MTA - CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION MTA - METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY	Developmnt & Operation of the NYC Water Supply System Joel Miele PE - 2 PDH LECTURE Former DOB & DEP Commissioner I I
5:00 - 6:00 PM	IBC SPECIAL INSPECTIONS REGULATIONS IN NYC Lawrence J. O'Connor, P.E., L.S. IBC International Accreditation Service [IAS]	Developmnt & Operation of the NYC Water Supply System Joel Miele PE Former DOB & DEP Commisssloner

EARN UP TO 6 PDHS - INCLUDING
REQUIRED PDH IN ETHICS!

ATTEND THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION
OF ENGINEERS WEEK 2012 IN NYC.

NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW
ENGINEERS - Includes Food and
Refreshments

FIND OUT ABOUT TECHNICAL SUPPORT
AVAILABLE TO ENGINEERS BY THE
INTERNATIONAL ACREDITATION
SERVICE (IAS), THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION
[AISC], THE INTERNATIONAL MASONRY
INSTITUTE [IMI] AND THE PRECAST
CONCRETE INSTITUTE [PCI], INCLUDING
PRESENTATIONS BY:

KEITH LASHWAY, PE - INTERNATIONAL
MASONRY INSTITUTE

Lawrence J. O'Connor, P.E., L.S. -
INTERNATIONAL ACREDITATION
SERVICE (IAS)

JACINDA COLLINS, PE - AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION -
AISC

RITA SERADERIAN, PE, - PRECAST

SELECT COURSE SCHEDULE**CONFERENCE ROOM A ***** CONFERENCE ROOM B**

11:00 Engineer's Ethics Course

1:10 DEP Stormwater Regulations Update

2:00 DOB Codes & Standards Update for Foundation

3:00 FDNY - NYC Fire Code Update

4:00 MTA - 2nd Avenue Project Update

5:00 IBC SPECIAL INSPECTIONS FOR BLDG
CONSTRUCTION

11:00 Overview of Precast/Prestressed Concrete

1:10 Masonry Codes Update - Int. Masonry Institute

2:00 Building Exciting Structures with Steel

3:00 WTC Overview and Codes for Port Authority
Projects4:00 Development & Operation of the NYC Water
Supply System5:00 Development & Operation of the NYC Water
Supply System (Continued)

This notification is your invitation to join this Engineers Week Conference to be held on the 14th floor of the UBS Building on February 21, 2012. Refreshments & Networking will start circa 10:15 AM followed by the lectures which will begin at 11:00 AM promptly. UBS Building is located at 1285 Avenue of the Americas, corner of 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

This event is open to the public. Please spread the word throughout your organization.

COST: \$120 for NYSSPE Members pre-paying prior to the day of the event

COST: \$175 for Non-Members* and Members paying at the door.

[TO PRE-PAY BY CREDIT CARD CLICK HERE](#)

All Pre-event payments may be mailed by check or money-order by February 15th to:

Al Brand PE. Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, 14 Penn Plaza, 225 West 34th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10122-0002.

All other payments shall be collected at the door at the beginning of the event, by cash or check payable to NYSSPE. For further information on schedule, registration and/or for ticket purchase, contact George Tavoulareas, PE @ [\(718\)](#)



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

The Founding Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

Don't Miss Out!

Engineer's Week - Full Day Seminar

**A chance for you to let engineers know what your
company can offer!**

Engineering seminars will run all day in two tracks with speakers **Tim Lynch, P.E.** of the New York City Department of Buildings, the NYC Fire Department, the State Board of Engineering and Land Surveying and others! Meet with **New York City Metropolitan area** engineers and other engineers from as far north as Sullivan County and as far east as Montauk.

You are invited to sponsor this event. This event will be an excellent opportunity for you and your company to showcase your products and services.

Sponsorship Opportunities!

SPONSOR BOOTH: This option will allow you to advertise your company and products with a 6'x3' table. Feel free to distribute handouts and flyers to the estimated 120 engineers in attendance. The cost of this package is only \$500.00

When: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 from 10am - 6pm

Where: UBS Building, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY.

Sponsorship space is limited and filling up fast. The deadline for the sponsorship is noon - **Thursday, February 16, 2012.** Don't miss out on this great marketing opportunity!

Call now! 845-357-4411 ext 111 **or email** Djohan Hadiprawira or Kate Sajduk at djohan@brookerengineering.com.

Checks to be mailed to me can be sent to: Payment can be made by check payable to:
New York Chapter NYSSPE and mailed to

Alfred H. Brand PE

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers

225 W. 34th Street,

NY 10122

Subject:

FW: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES NEW REFORMS DESIGNED TO KEEP STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON BUDGET AND ON TIME



STATE OF NEW YORK | EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

ANDREW M. CUOMO | GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release: November 16, 2011

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES NEW REFORMS DESIGNED TO KEEP STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON BUDGET AND ON TIME

Changes Come After Independent Review of Problems Affecting Interstate 287

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced new reforms designed to keep state highway construction projects on budget and on time.

These changes come after a series of recommendations from an independent review, ordered by the Governor, of delays and cost over-runs which have affected I-287 in Westchester for over a decade.

"I have repeatedly said that government must protect every taxpayer dollar by being efficient and effective," Governor Cuomo said. "For over a decade, the I-287 project has been mired in delays and cost over-runs, and that's why I ordered an independent review and that's why the Department of Transportation is making these important reforms."

The I-287 Cross Westchester Expressway Corridor project began 15 years ago. The original cost of the first five stages was expected to be \$490 million, but ended up being \$568 million, as overruns drove the price up by 16%.

In June, Governor Cuomo ordered an independent and comprehensive review of the I-287 project in response to the significant, unexpected costs and delays. Peter Lehrer, a renowned national construction expert, led the review. Lehrer's work includes the restorations of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Grand Central Terminal, and the American Museum of Natural History.

The review team conducted two months of interviews with NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) management staff, contractors and construction experts. The team also reviewed project metrics, project cost and schedule data, contracts, change orders and bid documents. They also conducted research on best practices within DOT and other states.

The key problems identified by the review include:

- Inadequate planning before designing the project
- The use of design teams that were not qualified for such a large project
- Rigid regional funding formulas which forced the project to be broken into six phases, increasing duration, complexity and cost
- Lack of oversight that failed to keep the project on schedule and on budget
- Limited accountability

The review called for two categories of reforms: one for project management and one for agency-wide reform within the Department of Transportation.

Regarding project management, steps DOT has taken include:

- Monthly meetings to review issues and coordinate communication, including with utility companies, to ensure projects stay on schedule.
- The use of expert consultants to analyze the designs of a project before it begins.
- The establishment of a Capital Program Delivery Committee (CPDC), comprised of DOT employees, that will closely scrutinize the complexity and size of each project to make sure the best designers and project managers are used.
- The acceptance or rejection of change order requests within a two week period- a process that previously has taken as long as a year- to save time when unexpected issues arise on a project site.

Regarding agency-wide changes, steps DOT has taken include:

- Monthly meetings to review projects and performance.
- No large project should be approved until CPDC reviews and approves the budget and design.
- A redesign of the funding process to better direct money to major projects.
- DOT will look across all regions when staffing projects and do a better job at sharing resources. This will allow DOT regions to share staffers with specific expertise with other regions, reducing costs and ensuring the project is in the best hands possible.
- The implementation of a revised performance review process to ensure all DOT initiatives and projects meet the highest standards.

DOT has consistently had overruns on its projects in the 7% to 11% range, resulting in \$530 million in total overruns over the past five years. Best-in-class state DOTs have achieved cost overruns that are less than 5% of their capital program. In addition to overruns, nearly half of DOT projects are delayed, with average delays of over six months. During the last seven years, projects over \$25 million have been an average of 306 days late. Best-in-class DOTs deliver 80% to 90% of their projects on-time.

With this new approach to project and agency operations and management, DOT has issued new program goals including 90% of projects delivered on-time and no more than 5% overruns for all projects. As a result of the revamped approach to state construction, the I-287 project will be substantially completed by December 2012 instead of August 2013.

Joan McDonald, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation, said, "Since taking office, Governor Cuomo has made it a priority to make government work more efficiently for the taxpayer and today is another step in this direction. As a result of these recommendations, DOT is transforming the way we manage construction projects across the state, while also making important changes within the agency. As we strengthen New York's infrastructure and build new highways and roads across our state, we must continue to do all we can to make sure projects are managed efficiently and completed on time."

Peter Lehrer said, "While our state and country continues to find ways to fund much needed infrastructure projects, we cannot forget the importance of spending the limited dollars that we do have in an efficient manner."

Although the work on I-287 has created a better highway for the residents of Westchester, our infrastructure dollars could have been spent more wisely. I am pleased that Governor Cuomo tasked me with undertaking a comprehensive review of this project, and I believe our findings and recommendations will help transform DOT into a stronger, more efficient organization that will save taxpayer dollars while building and strengthening New York's infrastructure."

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Additional news available at www.governor.ny.gov
New York State | Executive Chamber | press.office@exec.ny.gov | 518.474.8418



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

6 Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12205 www.NYSSPE.org



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2012**

February 19-25

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Senator Dean Skelos
Majority Leader of the State Senate of New York
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Skelos:

The NYS Society of Professional Engineers represents more than twenty seven thousand Professional Engineers in New York State. I am writing to invite you to our "Engineers Week – NYC" event celebrating the contribution Engineers make to the quality of life that we all enjoy. The celebration and conference will take place on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the UBS Conference Center at 1285 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 14th Floor.

Engineers will play a key role in driving economic growth in New York State with large scale construction projects such as the new Tappan Zee Bridge, World Trade Center, 2nd Ave subway and the largest convention center in the nation. It will be Engineers who will take these ideas and projects and build the new bridge, subway and new convention center.

We would be greatly honored if you join us in our celebration and offer a few words of appreciation and encouragement to the men and women who take good ideas and turn them into reality for a brighter future for the people of our great state.

I will call your office during the week to follow up and answer any questions you may have. If you need to contact me, please call me at 516-742-5360 or email me at gltp@msn.com

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

George Tavoulareas, PE
Chair,
EW-NYC2012

ENGINEER'S WEEK - NYC2012

www.EWeek.org

Metropolitan Chapters Presidents' Council (MCPC)

Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP)

Professional Engineers in Construction (PEC)



**The New York State Society of
Professional Engineers, Inc.**

6 Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12205 www.NYSSPE.org



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2012**

February 19-25

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Assemblyman Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the NY State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
198 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Assemblyman Silver:

The NYS Society of Professional Engineers represents more than twenty seven thousand Professional Engineers in New York State. I am writing to invite you to our "Engineers Week – NYC" event celebrating the contribution Engineers make to the quality of life that we all enjoy. The celebration and conference will take place on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the UBS Conference Center at 1285 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 14th Floor.

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I will call your office during the week to follow up and answer any questions you may have. If you need to contact me, please call me at 516-742-5360 or email me at gltp@msn.com

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

George Tavoulareas, PE
Chair,
EW-NYC2012

ENGINEER'S WEEK - NYC2012

www.EWeek.org

Metropolitan Chapters Presidents' Council (MCPC)
Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP)
Professional Engineers in Construction (PEC)

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Barack Obama

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President Obama's Google Plus 'hangout' claims about engineering demand

Posted by **Josh Hicks** at 01:30 PM ET, 02/06/2012

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"There's a huge demand around this country for engineers. . . . Where you're seeing a lot



(Saul Loeb - AFP/Getty Images)

of specialized demand is in engineering that's related to the high-tech industries."

About

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-- President Obama, during a Google Plus video conference, Jan. 30

Obama's comments came in response to a question from Fort Worth resident Jennifer Wedel, who asked why the government has extended and continues to issue H-1B visas when people such as her engineer husband, Darin Wedel, can't find work.

The president said that not all engineering fields have equal demand at the moment but that "what the industry tells me is that they don't have enough highly skilled engineers" for work in the high-tech domain.

Obama seemed perplexed after Jennifer mentioned that her husband was a semiconductor engineer. He asked her to forward his resume and said he was interested in "finding out exactly what's happening there." We decided to look into the matter as well.

The Facts

To clarify, H-1B visas allow U.S. employers to hire a limited number of foreign workers each year on a temporary basis, generally for jobs that require specialized knowledge. The government hasn't increased the cap on such visas since 2005, when it raised the limit to 85,000. Jennifer Wedel told ABC News on Wednesday that the government should reduce that number by 30,000.

In terms of demand for engineering, the economy has taken a toll on that profession just like most others. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that unemployment "for engineering and architectural occupations" has risen since 2006, but the overall economy has fared worse.

The 2011 unemployment rate for "architecture and engineering occupations" was 5.1 percent, compared with 8.9 percent for the nation overall. Architecture and engineering unemployment stood at a lowly 1.7 percent in 2006, so the situation has clearly deteriorated. (The BLS doesn't publish this information online, so we can't provide a link.)

Darin's work falls under the category of electrical engineering. The unemployment level for that field has risen by 1.7 percentage points since 2006.

The president was right to point out that "there are different kinds of engineers." Civil

engineering had a 2011 unemployment rate of 4.8 percent, which was the second highest behind only industrial engineering at 5.5 percent. Electrical engineering, which represents the type of engineering Darin does, hit 3.4 percent, while mechanical engineering had a rate of 2.4 percent.

The jobless rate for computer engineering has risen just 0.8 percentage points since 2006. It jumped by 1.7 percentage points for electrical engineers.

BLS job-growth projections show even more disparity within engineering. The bureau estimates that civil engineering jobs will increase by a robust 19.4 percent between 2010 and 2020, while electrical engineering is expected to gain just 7 percent.

The BLS projects employment numbers for very specific job categories, so we were able to drill down to Darin's exact profession. The bureau projects that engineering jobs within the field of "semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing" will drop nearly 11 percent by 2020 — bleak expectations compared with the overall engineering sector.

We talked to Darin, who holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M. He said he lost his job with Texas Instruments three years ago after spending nine years with the company. His layoff resulted from a plant closing, he said.

Darin said he found nine months of engineering work through a temp agency, but nothing permanent came of the job because the plant he worked at was shutting down.

So what's going on with this industry? Have semiconductor materials gone the way of the buggy whip? Hardly. They're an essential part of computer chips, so demand has only increased with the explosion of computing and mobile devices.

A 2010 report from the Center for Public Policy Innovation suggests that the industry has just moved abroad, with the U.S. share of global semiconductor production capacity dropping 11 percent between 2005 and 2009. (The New York Times provided an excellent analysis last month of how the U.S. has lost manufacturing opportunities).

Darin blames part of his industry's job-loss problem on the increase in H-1B visas through the years. The government raised the number in 2005 to address a supposed shortage in highly skilled talent.

Darin sees other motives driving the nation's H-1B policies besides filling a talent void.

“There’s a lot of lobbying to raise the immigration-cap level, but there are plenty of engineers here who are American citizens,” he said. “It’s a good way for companies to keep their costs down.”

Economist Jared Bernstein witnessed some of those lobbying efforts firsthand while serving as a member of President Obama’s economic team. “They want all the engineers they can get at the lowest price,” he said. “They say they can’t find enough talent, but what they really mean is that they can’t find enough people at the rate they want to pay.”

Visas and outsourcing aren’t the only factors that affect a laid-off engineer’s job prospects, according to University of Michigan business professor Robert Kennedy, who serves as director of the William Davidson Institute, a business-policy think tank that specializes in emerging-market economies. He explained that some American companies are simply shrinking.

That doesn’t appear to be the case with Texas Instruments, which consistently ranks among the top three globally in semiconductor sales.

Kennedy said some of the other reasons job seekers struggle to find work are more personal, such as experience level, grades and willingness to move.

We learned that Darin has focused his search efforts on areas close to Forth Worth. He and his wife are constrained to that area as part of a custody agreement from a previous marriage. But Jennifer works full time selling insurance, and the couple have paid off their home, meaning their situation is relatively stable.

Darin said his wife’s interview with the president generated a wave of interest in his resume. He told us several CEOs have called him since the “hangout.”

“It’s been a blessing for our personal life and our family,” he said.

We asked the White House for comment about Jennifer’s exchange with Obama. A spokesman pointed us to a Jan. 31 White House briefing in which Jay Carney, the president’s press secretary, said that “the exchange reflected the president’s sincere interest and concern in the experiences of folks out in the country and how they’re dealing with what remains a very tough economy, even as we continue the recovery that we’ve been engaged in now for 10 months.”

The Pinocchio Test

Demand for engineers remains relatively high compared with most other professions, but it's not what it was before the recession. We don't expect Obama to have enough detailed information to know that electrical engineers such as Darin Wedel fared worse than computer-hardware engineers in recent years, but he probably should have known that unemployment has risen for such high-tech fields on the whole.

Job prospects within the semiconductor industry look bleak heading into 2020, and the president should have known that as well. It's one of the more important industries of the future.

Jennifer Wedel suggested that the nation needs to lower its cap on H-1B visas, and she may be correct. But the president never suggested that this wasn't the case. He just said the visas "should be reserved only for those companies who say they cannot find somebody in that particular field."

On the whole, Obama earns one Pinocchio for suggesting that demand remains high for engineers in high-tech industries. He can't gloss over this area of unemployment.

One Pinocchio



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TECHNOLOGY

Cornell Team Snags \$2-Billion, High-Tech Project in NYC

New York City is on its way to becoming the “world’s capital of technological innovation” with the selection of Cornell University and its partner Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to build a state-of-the-art applied sciences campus, says NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The Cornell-Technion team’s proposal for an 11-acre, \$2-billion-plus campus on Roosevelt Island beat out several other proposals under the mayor’s Applied Sciences NYC initiative, which aims to boost the city’s global technological competitiveness, create jobs and generate revenue.

“By adding a new state-of-the-art institution to our landscape, we will educate tomorrow’s entrepreneurs and create the jobs of the future,” the mayor said in announcing the winning bid on Dec. 19, 2011.

The city says it is also in talks with other partnerships including Carnegie Mellon, Columbia and a New York University-led consortium—all of which

placed bids for the applied sciences initiative—regarding other possible science and engineering projects.

Under Applied Sciences NYC, the Cornell-Technion team plans to build a 2-million-sq-ft campus by 2043 that will be its home. The campus will include 500,000 sq ft of green space open to the public, a solar array and four acres of geothermal wells. Plans include building an offsite location in 2012, prior to the start of construction of the Roosevelt Island campus.

The first phase of the Roosevelt Island campus is expected to break ground by the beginning of 2015 and be completed by 2017. The campus is expected to have expanded to more than 1.3 million sq ft by 2027. The campus also will include a 150,000-sq-ft building that aims to be the largest net-zero energy building in the eastern U.S. and among the top-four largest in the country.

The campus, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York City, will

cover three interdisciplinary hubs: connective media, healthier life and the built environment. Cornell will immediately offer master and doctoral degrees in areas including computer science; electrical and computer engineering; and information science and engineering.

The mayor’s office says the partnership was selected because of the large scale and vision of its proposal; its financing capacity; its focus on collaboration between academia and the private sector; its ability to execute the project; and the track records of both Cornell and Technion in generating applied science breakthroughs and of spinning out new businesses.

The project will soon move into the environmental and land use review stage. The review is expected to be completed by fall of 2013.

Long-term deal

The Cornell-Technion team will develop and own the campus and assume financial responsibility for its establishment and operations. The partnership will receive \$100 million in city funding to help with building and related costs and have access to city land under a 99-year lease with the option to purchase the land for \$1.

Cornell received a \$350-million donation from The Atlantic Philanthropies to support the initiative. It was the largest contribution in the university’s history.

According to a New York City Economic Development Corp. study, the campus will generate more than \$7.5 billion and more than \$23 billion in overall economic activity over the next three decades.

The study also forecasts that the campus will generate \$1.4 billion in total tax revenue. The project is expected to create about 20,000 construction and 8,000 permanent jobs.

Stanford University withdrew its \$2.5-billion bid to build a Roosevelt Island campus in mid-December. The Palo Alto, Calif.-based university had proposed a 1.9-million-sq-ft graduate-level teaching and research campus. ■

By Esther D’Amico
with Carolina Worrell



ISLAND DREAM The Cornell-Technion team will receive a 99-year lease and \$100 million in city funding to help with building and related costs of the campus.

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