

THE UPDATE

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The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.



ENGINEERS REFOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT

Thanks to newly developed metrics and technology, U.S. structural engineers are refocusing on creating sustainable transit systems. When working on sustainable transit projects, engineers must consider choice provisions, access promotion, nature protection and integration, environmental justice, resource and energy conservation, context sensitive design and soliciting community involvement. Sustainable design principles can provide new challenges and difficulties when integrating above referenced building code externals into linear transit systems along with their on-going operational impacts.



NEED FOR STRONGER, LESS COSTLY STEEL WALLS

UC Berkeley engineers earlier this month reported their development of a new type of steel building material that is 3 times stronger than wooden walls and capable of significantly reducing the cost of producing earthquake-resistant structures. This research was funded by the Charles Pankow Foundation and has been made available on a non-proprietary basis for use by practicing structural engineers in shear wall applications whose early failure results in much of the damage during in earthquakes and hurricanes.



GETTING A STEP CLOSER IN OUR VOYAGE TO MARS

Recently NASA announced that it hopes to have a plan in place that will send humans to Mars between 2025 and 2030. However in order for their plan to be executed, several factors first need to be addressed, including how the infrastructure, facilities and people will get there-no

simple task. Experts are convinced that a mission of this magnitude will require improved robotics, power generation as well as a better understanding of terrestrial diseases in order to improve mission safety and reduce its costs .



PLANS NOW UNDERWAY TO KEEP NEW YORK AFLOAT

Experts predict that global warming may trigger stronger and more frequent storms and by 2060, floods that typically come once in 100 years could come as frequently as once in every 20 years. In response, New York City's Department of Environment Protection has formed a task force with the Goddard Institute of Space Studies to envision such safety measures as elevating important infrastructure, constructing dikes, erecting flood gates, and installing temporary seals over tunnel openings along with formulating reliable emergency plans to protect its citizens under a worst case scenario.

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