

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

October 8, 2026

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Thank You for Making the 2026 ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament a Success!



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us Tuesday at Ferncroft Country Club for the **2026 ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament!**

We were thrilled to welcome golfers from across the ACEC/MA community for a great day on the course, all in support of the ACEC/MA Education Corporation and its scholarship program for engineering and land surveying students.

Thank you to all of our **golfers, sponsors and volunteers** who helped make the day possible, and a special thank you to the **ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Committee** for their time and hard work planning and supporting this year's tournament.

This year also gave us a tournament first! **Congratulations to Kristen Whitman of Jacobs, who recorded the first hole-in-one in the tournament's 17-year history!**



Most importantly, the support and participation of our ACEC/MA community helps the Education Corporation continue investing in the next generation of engineers and land surveyors through its scholarship program.

If you couldn't make the tournament but want to support the ACEC/MA Education Corporation's scholarships, you can donate [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who made this year's tournament such a memorable success. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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Register Today: Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference - New Speakers Confirmed

Registration is open for ACEC/MA's [Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference](#), taking place **October 20 from 11:00 AM–3:30 PM** at **CDM Smith in Boston**.

Michael Judge, Massachusetts Undersecretary of Energy, will open the conference with a **State of Energy in Massachusetts** keynote, providing an overview of the Commonwealth's energy landscape, key priorities and initiatives, and the issues shaping the future of energy infrastructure in Massachusetts.

Following the keynote, hear from leaders across Massachusetts' **energy, environmental, water, and utility sectors** about infrastructure priorities, upcoming projects and investment plans, procurement processes, and opportunities for engineering and design firms.

We are also pleased to confirm the following panelists, so far:

- **New:** Tom O'Shea, Commissioner, **Department of Fish and Game**
- **New:** Peter Salvatore, P.E., Deputy Chief Engineer, **Boston Water and Sewer Commission**
- John Scannell, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection, **Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- Deanna Moran, Chief Coastal Resilience Officer, **Office of Coastal Zone Management**
- Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, and Brian Kubaska, Chief Engineer, **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)**.

We have invited senior leaders from **MassDEP, National Grid, Eversource, and Enbridge**, with speakers to be announced as they are confirmed.

This program is worth 3.5 PDHs (not in NY or FL). Virtual attendance will also be available.

[Register today for the Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference.](#)

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards: Submissions Assistance Session October 9

Firms participating in the [2027 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Competition](#) are encouraged to join ACEC/MA's **virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session on October 9 at 10:00 AM**.

The session will provide guidance on the electronic project submission requirements and help firms prepare their completed submissions ahead of the **October 26 at noon deadline**.

Key Dates:

October 9, 10:00 AM: Virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session
October 26, 12:00 PM: Electronic Project Submissions Due
December 10: Presentations to Judges for Finalists
January 6, 2027: Eligible entries due to ACEC National
March 25, 2027: ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

ACEC/MA finalists and Silver Award winners are eligible to advance to the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards competition.



Register for the October 9 Virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session:

<https://members.acecma.org/eventcalendar/Details/acec-ma-eea-2027-virtual-information-session-1905078>

2027 EEA Key Dates & Submission Information:

<https://www.acecma.org/acecma-2027-engineering-excellence-awards-competition-entry-forms-now-available/>

MassDOT Highway Updates Construction Standard Detail Drawings

The MassDOT Highway Division has issued **three new and revised Construction Standard Detail (CSD) drawings**, dated August 2026, and rescinded three existing drawings. The updates should be referenced immediately for design and maintenance purposes and are being incorporated into new construction contracts advertised beginning October 3, 2026.

New and Revised Drawings:

812.3.1 – Signal Post Foundation for Pedestal (Square) Base – 30 inches

812.3.10 – Placement of Signal Post Foundation In Line with Curbing (replaces 812.31.2)

813.90.1 – Power Pedestal

Rescinded Drawings: 853.23.0, 853.23.1 and 853.23.2, all related to Temporary Concrete Barrier Retrofitted to MASH TL-3.

The updated drawings are available on [MassDOT's Construction Standard Details page](#). Additional information on the revisions is available in the [August 2026 Construction Standard Detail Change Log](#).

Questions regarding the updates may be directed to MassDOTHighwayCSD@dot.state.ma.us.

ACEC/MA Advocates on DBE Recertification and Proposed Gas Tax Suspension

ACEC/MA recently weighed in on two important policy issues affecting Massachusetts' engineering industry and transportation infrastructure.

DBE Recertification: ACEC/MA [sent a letter](#) to MassDOT raising concerns about delays in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) recertification process. The letter highlighted the backlog of pending applications, uncertainty facing affected firms, and potential disadvantages for Massachusetts-based DBEs seeking certification reciprocity in other states. ACEC/MA urged MassDOT to address these challenges and provide greater clarity to firms navigating the process.

Proposed Gas Tax Suspension: In a [separate letter](#) to House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, ACEC/MA expressed opposition to a proposed two-month suspension of the state's gasoline tax included in H.5679. The letter emphasized the importance of maintaining reliable transportation funding to support infrastructure investment, ongoing projects, and long-term planning.

ACEC/MA will continue engaging with state officials on both issues and keeping members informed of developments.

MBTA Updates Prompt Payment Reporting Forms

The MBTA has issued [revised Prompt Payment Reporting Forms F and F-2](#) in response to USDOT-FTA guidance. Contractors and subcontractors should begin using the revised forms, which include updates to payment-date reporting, a new field to track compliance with the 10-business-day prompt payment requirement, and additional retainage information.

The MBTA is providing a **30-day grace period following October 1**, with the revised forms expected for all projects by the **November 15, 2026 prompt payment reporting deadline**. Firms submitting an incomplete or previous version of the forms after the deadline will have five business days to correct and resubmit them.

[Read the MBTA Notice on the Prompt Payment Reporting Form Updates](#)

MBTA Hosting DBIA Certification Workshop – Registration Open

The MBTA is hosting a **DBIA Certification Workshop** on **November 16–18, 2026**, at **10 Park Plaza in Boston**. The workshop is open to both MBTA and non-MassDOT employees and is intended to build a common understanding of Design-Build principles and best practices among agency staff and industry partners.

Registration is currently limited to **three attendees per firm**, and attendance is expected to be capped at approximately **30 participants** (subject to change). The MBTA has already registered several attendees and plans to register additional staff, so interested participants are encouraged to register early.

[Additional information and registration are available here.](#)

MBTA Roadway Worker Protection Program Update

The MBTA is transitioning from its existing Right of Way (ROW) program to a new **Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) program**, beginning with the Blue Line on **October 25, 2026**. Personnel working within or potentially entering the foul zone will need RWP certification, which requires a two-day, in-person course.

Training will be prioritized based on project needs, with the MBTA estimating more than 2,300 contractors may require certification. Existing ROW certifications remain valid through **December 31, 2026** for lines that have not yet transitioned.

ACEC/MA member firms working on MBTA projects should review the attached MBTA memo for additional details and training information. Questions can be directed to mbtarwp@mbta.com.

The memo from the MBTA can be found [here](#).

FHWA Issues New Guidance on Use of Federal Funds for Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released new policy guidance for state departments of transportation and FHWA division offices regarding the use of **federal highway funds for certain unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones**.

The guidance addresses the procurement and operation of UAS and critical components produced in **foreign countries of concern** and

implements federal requirements established through the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024 and related federal directives.

The materials outline which UAS and component parts are covered, which activities associated with federally funded projects are subject to the requirements, and the responsibilities of funding recipients, contractors and vendors for compliance.

Resources:

- [FHWA UAS Policy Guidance](#)
- [FHWA UAS Policy FAQs](#)
- [FHWA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Resources](#)

Questions may be directed to FHWAUASOperations@dot.gov

U.S. DOT Finalizes Changes to DBE Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued its **final rule updating the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program**, largely maintaining the framework established last fall that eliminated automatic presumptions of disadvantage based on race and gender and requires individualized demonstrations of social and economic disadvantage.

The final rule includes several clarifications sought by ACEC. U.S. DOT clarified that individualized determinations may consider an applicant's experiences involving race or gender; established a **December 24 deadline** for certifying agencies to complete reevaluations; and streamlined interstate certification so that, once a firm is reevaluated by its home state, other states generally must accept that determination without imposing additional requirements.

[Final Rule](#)

[ACEC Comments on the DBE Rule](#)

Support ACEC/PAC and Enter the 2026 Fall Sweepstakes

ACEC/PAC is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Strong participation from ACEC members helps ensure the engineering industry has a voice in Washington and supports ACEC's efforts to advance policies that strengthen the business environment for engineering firms and promote investment in the nation's infrastructure.

ACEC's advocacy has helped deliver historic federal infrastructure investment, protect QBS, promote contracting out, strengthen federal procurement rules, and advance important tax policies for engineering firms. [Learn more about ACEC/PAC's accomplishments and current policy priorities.](#)

The [2026 ACEC/PAC Fall Sweepstakes](#) is underway, with **18 prizes totaling \$50,000**, including a \$10,000 grand prize. Members can participate with a **\$200 contribution to ACEC/PAC**, with the drawing taking place October 27 during the ACEC National Conference in Phoenix.

Please note that ACEC/PAC participation is subject to federal election law. Employees of corporate ACEC member firms may be solicited only if their firm has provided ACEC with prior approval to solicit eligible employees. **Contributions must be made with personal funds; corporate checks and corporate credit cards are prohibited. Contributions are voluntary and are not tax deductible.**

Government Affairs

Government Affairs Committee

The October GAC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00AM.

[Request Zoom for 10/22/26.](#)

Join us as we review bills impacting the engineering, land surveying, and design professional community.

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

IN THE NEWS

['Energy emergency': Healey moves to blunt soaring heating costs as fuel prices rise](#)

[House budget chief cool to Healey's gas tax suspension](#)

[Future of Mass Save in limbo as Legislature stalls on energy bill](#)

[Healey asks Trump administration to speed up review of planned gas expansion in latest sign of shifting energy politics](#)

[Massachusetts launches new heating oil program for middle-class households](#)

[Boston, T scrap plans to extend region's first-ever center-running bus lane on Columbus Avenue](#)

[Healey, Wu show unity on clean energy, keep distance on key policies](#)

[A long-term trade war with Canada could hurt Massachusetts' economy](#)

[Baker joins Patrick in bipartisan all-party primary support](#)

[Experts hope nor'easter helped ease drought conditions](#)

[Why does a new courthouse cost \\$2 billion?](#)

[MBTA looks to bring in hawks to scare away pigeons, other 'nuisance birds' from stations](#)

[New rankings show Mass. stuck near the bottom on jobs and costs](#)

[New England states join lawsuit over Trump's EPA eliminating rule that limits emissions from power plants](#)

ACEC and Federal Updates

[A/E Industry Shows Resiliency in the Face of National Economic Volatility](#)

[Monitoring U.S. DOT Changes to the Disadvantaged Business](#)

[Enterprise \(DBE\) Program](#): ACEC National's continually updated landing page on DBE-related resources, including DBE FAQs on the Interim Final Rule (IFR), an interactive State DOT DBE Policies map, and ACEC Resources

Monitoring the Trump White House's Impact on Engineering:
[Bookmark this ACEC page](#) - announcements, executive actions, & decisions **including tariffs** from White House that directly impact America's engineering & design services industry

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force

Opps & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying.

See our [STEM Task Force page](#) for opportunities to increase awareness about engineering and land surveying careers.

Upcoming Major Events to Save the Dates

October 20: Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference - [Register here.](#)

Program Registration

***If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, You're an ACEC/MA member.**

Get the ACEC/MA Member Rate for Programs: Register with your Individual username/password. Never use someone else's login info. ?s: Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551.

Links live 10/08/2026; Next issue: 10/15/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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