

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

November 6, 2025

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Recap: Actionable Strategies to Prepare Your Teams for an AI-driven Future



At our November 5 Breakfast Program, Dr. Mehdi Nourbakhsh of YegaTech led an engaging discussion on how AI is reshaping the engineering profession—from design to delivery. A panel of experts including **Carrie Lavallee** (MassDOT), **Todd Clark** (Hoyle Tanner), **Michael Pelletier** (CDM Smith), **Erik Zuker** (HNTB), and **Greg Bosworth** (VHB) shared real-world examples and strategies to harness AI's potential across the industry.

Thank you to CDM Smith for hosting this program in their Boston office.

MBTA Request for Qualifications: General Engineering Consultant (GEC) Services for Third Party Commissioning

Due Date: 12/3/2025

From MBTA on 11/5/25: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is soliciting consulting services for third party commissioning. The Authority is seeking a qualified multi-disciplined consulting firm or team, with proven experience to provide professional commissioning services including planning, design, and construction related services including resident inspection, on an on-call, as needed basis. These services are expected to be provided for all MBTA properties. The Consultant must be able to work closely with the Authority and other interested parties in order to provide such services in a timely and effective manner.

[Link to the full RFQ.](#) The MBTA will hold a virtual project briefing for this Project on November 14, 2025, 11 am, via Microsoft Teams. See the RFQ post for the Teams briefing link.

Firm of the Future: Workforce Study – Engineering's Talent Pipeline and Future Demand

An ACEC Research Institute Session, part of the Future of Engineering Roundtable Series

November 12, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, Zoom

The engineering industry is confronting one of the most significant workforce challenges in its history. This session will present new findings from the recent Firm of the Future study on Workforce, which combines

- Benesch
- CDR Maguire Engineering
- CDW Consultants
- Fitzmeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- French & Parrello Associates
- GPI
- Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP
- GZA GeoEnvironmental
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national demographic data and original research to provide a comprehensive view of the engineering talent pipeline.

No charge to participate; advance registration required.

Register

ACEC/MA TALC on 11/19 Features MassDOT's State Hydraulics Engineer

November 19, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Norwood + Zoom

Guest: **Hanan Fouad, PE, State Hydraulics Engineer, MassDOT**

In Person Attendance is limited to 2 people per ACEC/MA Member firm for this TALC meeting. Please determine which employees will attend in person before anyone from the firm registers.

You can register to attend in person at GZA in Norwood until in-person registration is full at 35 people or by **November 12, which ever comes first. Within your firm, please coordinate who should attend in person in advance before anyone signs up to attend in person.**

Register

MBTA Training on New Professional Services Invoice Template November 12, 11 AM - Virtual

The MBTA requires consultants to use this new invoice template for all new contracts. Existing contracts have a waiver until **January 1, 2026** to allow consultants time to transition data from the existing invoice template to the new format.

MBTA, in conjunction with ACEC/MA, will provide **one more 1-hour training session with Q&A on Zoom.** This session is open to any design professional firm working for the MBTA; advance registration is required through ACEC/MA.

Sign up for this training session: **November 12, 11:00 AM**

Register

Water Energy Environment Committee (WEEC) with Kathy Baskin and Gary Moran from MassDEP

November 13, 8 AM - Virtual

Join WEEC for an informative virtual session with MassDEP leaders on the State Revolving Fund capacity and upcoming program priorities. **Kathy Baskin**, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Water Resources, and **Gary Moran**, Deputy Commissioner at MassDEP, will provide updates and answer member questions.

Register to attend (virtual only) and be part of the discussion.



Register

Building Engineering Committee with DCAMM Commissioner Adam Baacke

November 18, 8 AM, @ STV Boston or virtual.

The Building Engineering Committee (BEC) will host **DCAMM Commissioner Adam Baacke** for a briefing on the **BRIGHT Act** for higher education capital investment and its implications for the design and construction community.

[Register here for both in-person and virtual attendance by November 14.](#)

Thank you to STV for their hospitality in hosting this meeting.

Register

Understanding the New DBE Rule: Impacts and What Comes Next

November 21, 1 PM, Zoom

The U.S. Department of Transportation's new interim final rule has changed how firms qualify for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification — removing race, sex, and national origin as automatic qualifiers.

Join ACEC National for a timely discussion on what this means for your organization and the broader engineering and public works workforce. Experts will break down the new requirements, explain what firms must do to remain compliant, and share insights on navigating the evolving DBE landscape.

Registration is through ACEC National; hosted by the [Engineering Workforce Consortium](#).

No charge to participate; advance registration required.

Register

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) Seeks 1 Professional Engineer for Designer Selection Committee

The MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) is looking for one PE to fill a two-year term for the EOHLC Designer Selection Committee (DSC) beginning in November/December 2025, with the possibility to serve another 2-year term beyond that. All DSC members are eligible to serve two consecutive 2-year terms.

We have been asked to identify qualified candidates to serve on the DSC.

Learn More

Government Affairs

FEDERAL NEWS

[ACEC Files Comments with USDOT on DBE Interim Final Rule](#)

On November 3, ACEC National President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on the Interim Final Rule (IFR) making changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. See the link above for the comments.

[U.S. Department of Transportation Posts Updated Guidance on Changes to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Program](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has published answers to a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Interim Final Rule (IFR) making changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. See the link above for more information.

[U.S. DOT Changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Program](#)

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

STATE and LOCAL NEWS

[October Revenue Collections Total \\$2.927B](#)

[Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Board of Trustees approves \\$139M in new loans and grants at its November meeting.](#)

[MTF Summary of Governor Healey's Mass Ready Act](#)

The Boston Globe (paywall) has a series on flooding and infrastructure in Massachusetts. Read more: [When the floods come](#)

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) acts on bills impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E Community. GAC meets next on 11/19, 10 AM on Zoom. [Request Zoom for 11/19.](#)

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

Join ACEC/MA GAC

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.

ACEC Last Word Blog: News & insights on the Council & the industry

In [**The Workforce Reality Check Engineering Can't Afford to Ignore**](#), the ACEC Research Institute examines the widening talent gap across the engineering profession, with more engineers leaving than entering the field each year. The article highlights factors such as declining graduation rates, visa limits on international talent, and evolving expectations from younger professionals, urging firms to modernize workplace culture and strengthen recruitment and retention strategies.

Upcoming Major Events to Save the Dates

March 4: ACEC/MA Breakfast Update on Climate Resiliency - [Save the Date](#)

April 2: State Markets Conference - [Save the Date](#)

April 14: Engineering Excellence and Awards Gala - [Save the Date](#)

May 3-6: ACEC National Annual Convention, Washington, DC - [Save the Date](#)

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 11/6/2025; Next issue: 11/13/2025

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman and Kevin O'Shea

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