

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

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November 20, 2025

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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](#)

MBTA Request for Qualifications: General Engineering Consulting Services for OPM Services.

Due Date: 12/15/2025

From MBTA on 11/19/25: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is soliciting Consultant Teams to perform Owner Project Manager (OPM) Services for complex capital projects using Construction Management at Risk services under MGL Ch. 149A. The Owner's Project Manager (OPM) will support the Engineering & Capital Division (ECD) with a broad range of essential services throughout all stages of a project. The OPM assists the MBTA to run its projects more smoothly and ensures goals are more easily met. The OPM role is to act as an integrated member of the MBTA Engineering & Capital Division (ECD) that delivers capital projects, including but not limited to planning, design, construction, commissioning, and closeout phases. [Link to the full RFQ.](#)

- CDW Consultants
- Fitzmeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- French & Parrello Associates
- GPI
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- GZA GeoEnvironmental
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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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ACEC/MA Education Corporation Scholarships



For Engineering and Land Surveying Students

Scholarship Apps Due January 21, 2026 @ 5 PM.

More Info: <https://www.acecma.org/news/acec-ma-education-corporation-fy2026-scholarships>

Share the news with Massachusetts engineering and land surveying students you know:

Apply for scholarships from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts Education Corporation (ACEC/MA EC) + ACEC Research Institute .

- Deadline for ACEC/MA Education Corporation scholarships: **January 21, 2026.**

- Deadline ACEC Research Institute scholarships: **March 13, 2026.**

More Information

ACEC/MA Resources from Recent Committee & Forum Member Briefings

Accounting & Finance Forum Tax Update held on 11/13

- Guests: **Katharine Mottley**, Vice President, Tax and Workforce Policy at **ACEC** on One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), **Jaron Lariviere**, **Patrick Trask**, and **Sarah Guilmette**, partners at **PKF O'Connor Davies** - overview of the OBBBA. [PDF of Presentation](#)

Water Energy and Environment Committee (WEEC) held on 11/13

- Guests: **Kathleen Baskin**, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources and **Gary Moran**, Deputy Commissioner, Operations and Environmental Compliance, **MassDEP**: [PDF of Presentation](#)

Health & Safety Forum: Ergonomics held on 11/17

- Guest: **Dr. Lito M. Amit**, Professor of Occupational Safety and Health, Keene State College: [PDF of Presentation](#)

Building Engineering Committee held on 11/18 @ STV

- Guests: **Adam Baacke**, **DCAMM** Commissioner - briefing on **BRIGHT Act** for higher education capital investment and its implications for the design and construction community: [PDF of Presentation](#) | **Jim McCurdy**, Supervising Architect, AESU, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (**EOHLC**) joined to discuss their Designer Selection Committee and process: [PDF of Presentation](#)

Transportation Agencies Liaison Committee (TALC) held on 11/19 @ GZA GeoEnvironmental

- Guest: **Hanan Fouad**, PE, State Hydraulics Engineer, **MassDOT Highway**: [PDF of Presentation](#)



EEA now accepting construction loan applications for dam, levee, and seawall repair or removal projects

The MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is now accepting loan applications from MA municipalities for the repair or removal of dams, levees, seawalls, or other inland-flood control and coastal protection infrastructure. Applications are due via electronic submission no later than **December 17, 2025, 11:59 pm**.

Review the RFR, application, and associated documents available on COMMBUYS, bid # **BD-26-1042-ENV-ENV01-122704**. Questions regarding the RFR will be accepted through November 26, 2025. See the RFR from Q&A submissions instructions.

MBTA Requests Invoices by 12/5

MBTA Chief Engineer, Sam Zhou, has asked ACEC/MA to remind our members about MBTA Year End Invoice Processing in this message:

*In an effort to pay MBTA contractors, consultants, and vendors prior to the end of the calendar year, they are requesting that complete and accurate invoices for contract work through November 30, 2025 be submitted in e-Builder **no later than Friday, December 5, 2025**.*

This deadline will allow sufficient time for review and processing by the MBTA Project Office, Finance Department and Accounts-Payable prior to the final pay cycle of the calendar year.

In addition, all parties are reminded that every effort should be made to convert ETSAs to Task Orders/Amendments and Work Directives to Change Orders/Risk Reallocations as soon as possible to allow for invoicing prior to the end of the fiscal year.

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.

Jim McCurdy, Supervising Architect, AESU, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) joined our BEC meeting on 11/18 to discuss their Designer Selection Committee and process.

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

[Learn More](#)

Safeguarding Your Business During Holiday Celebrations

From ACEC BIT Greyling

[Article](#)

Government Affairs

ACEC and FEDERAL NEWS

[Workforce of the Future](#) - A message from ACEC's CEO Linda Bauer Darr

[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

Massachusetts House Release Energy Affordability Bill:

The House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy is moving a bill that would shift the Commonwealth's energy focus more towards affordability as energy prices continue to rise. The bill, **[H. 4144 \(summary\)](#)**, would modify the state's energy efficiency program MassSave, alter the state's clean energy procurement process, make changes to the legally mandated emissions reduction goals, among other items. The bill will be sent to House Ways and Means next and has to be voted on by the House and Senate before being sent to the Governor. The formal legislative session ends in July 2026.

[While the bill passed the Joint Committee, House leadership has tampered down expectations that this bill will move forward as currently drafted.](#)

Massachusetts House Advanced BRIGHT Act to Support Higher Education Borrowing for Capital Projects:

[Under the House Ways and Means bill](#), about \$3.1 billion of the authorization would support core higher education capital projects, including \$1.25 billion for the UMass system, \$1.25 billion for state universities and community colleges, \$275 million for MassArt, and targeted funds for decarbonization, lab modernization and health and wellness projects. Another \$170 million would support climate-related upgrades, remote learning infrastructure, and Skills Capital Grants aimed at expanding career and technical education capacity.

The bill also raises the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance project oversight threshold from \$5 million to \$10 million, expands the Massachusetts State College Building Authority's authority to manage academic and infrastructure projects, and establishes a new process for disposing of surplus campus property, with proceeds directed into a reinvestment fund for future capital needs. **[Read more here.](#)**

[Legislature Enacts Closeout Supplemental Budget, Sends New Affordability and Protection Policies to Governor](#)

[Healey-Driscoll Administration Releases Comprehensive Strategy for Coastal Protection](#)

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

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) acts on bills impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E Community. GAC meets next on 12/11, 10 AM on Zoom. [Request Zoom for 12/11.](#)

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 11/20/2025; Next issue: 11/26/2025 - 1 day early

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

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