

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

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December 11, 2025

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ACEC/MA Award Nominations Now Open

ACEC/MA 2026 Community Service Award – Nominations Due 2-6-2026

The Community Service Award recognizes principals or managers of ACEC/MA member firms who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life in the community

ACEC/MA Young Professional Award – Nominations due 2-6-2026

The Young Professional Award recognizes the accomplishments of our young professionals who have contributed to the engineering profession and impacted society. ACEC/MA will select two award recipients.

MassDOT Releases Allston Multimodal Transportation Project RFR

This week, MassDOT released a Request for Responses inviting qualified prospective consultants to submit proposals for professional services for performing an independent cost and engineering analysis of the Allston Multimodal Transportation Project. Find the RFR on COMMBUYS [here](#).

Water Infrastructure Alliance (WIA) Briefing

On December 8, ACEC/MA co-chaired a meeting of the Water Infrastructure Alliance that featured presentations by **Doug Howgate**, President at the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, and **Heather Clish**, Policy Director at the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance representing the Nature for Massachusetts Initiative.

Find Doug's presentation on the Capital Budget & *Mass Ready Act* [here](#).

Find Heather's presentation on the Nature for Massachusetts Initiative [here](#).

Request for Feedback on WOTUS Rule

The federal EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers have published another proposed change to the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule would significantly adjust certain parts of the definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to reduce the scope of coverage over certain wetlands and tributaries. A link to the Federal Register notice is [here](#).

ACEC seeks feedback from member firms on the proposed rule by Friday, December 12, to help inform ACEC's comments on the draft rule, which are due to the agencies by January 5, 2026. ACEC has routinely provided industry input to federal agencies on this issue, as it has whipsawed back and forth during different administrations and in response to various court rulings over the years.

- CDW Consultants
- Fitzmeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- French & Parrello Associates
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**ACEC/MA Forums &
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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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To provide feedback on the latest WOTUS rule, email [Jordan Baugh](#), ACEC's Vice President for Water & Environment, directly.

Please copy [ACEC/MA](#) so we can track member comments appropriately.

SBA Orders All 8(a) Participants to Provide Financial Records

Immediate action required for 8(a) firms: The Small Business Administration requires **three years of financial documents** from every 8(a) Program participant by early January.

[More information on the SBA Website](#)

MassDOT Creates Grant Central Online Portal

All applications and expense reimbursements for certain MassDOT programs are now managed through Grant Central: Chapter 90, Complete Streets, Culvert, Local Bottleneck Reduction Program, Municipal Pavement, Municipal Small Bridge, Shared Streets and Spaces, and Unpaved Roads.

Grant Central's new Fully Integrated Application (FIA) is an all-in-one funding request used for all of the MassDOT Highway Division's competitive grant programs. MassDOT accepts applications 2x per year. The current window is 11/6/2025 -1/9/2026. FIA does not apply to Chapter 90 or the Municipal Pavement Program; operation for these programs remains unchanged.

[More About Grant Central](#)

MassDOT Projects for Advertising both State and Municipal Priority of Projects (PoP) meetings and Lockdown AD Dates for FY26

MassDOT Highway Deputy Chief Engineer **John Bechard** shared important FY26 Advertising information with ACEC/MA on November 26.

[Here is a listing of FY26 State and Municipal Projects currently programmed for Advertising in Federal Fiscal Year/FFY 26](#)

[More information from MassDOT Highway.](#)

MBTA Memo on DBE Changes

MBTA's new Deputy Chief for Contract Services in MBTA's Engineering & Capital Division, **Elena Franks** contacted ACEC/MA with a [new MBTA memo \(12/1/2025\)](#) regarding changes introduced by **The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Interim Final Rule** (10/3/2025). This memo provides internal guidance regarding modifications to the DBE program in compliance with the U.S. DOT's Interim Final Rule, and how these changes impact the MBTA's current and future capital projects.

See related story below under Government Affairs: *USDOT Issues Updated Guidance on DBE Program Changes*

DCAMM Issues Implementation on Recommendations from the Public Construction Projects Advisory Council's Report

On December 2, DCAMM's **Reid Tomihara**, Operations and Policy Analyst, issued [the attached memo](#) to Public Construction Projects Advisory Council Members, including ACEC/MA.

While this memo is not applicable to DBE firms, because DCAMM's projects use state funds, DCAMM is implementing some recommendations from the Council's report ([attached](#)) that was submitted to Governor Healey in March 2024.

[More Info](#)

Board of Registration Virtual Public Hearing Planned for January 5

On 9/25, the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors took an initial vote in support of amendments to 250 CMR that would allow engineers from the United Kingdom (UK) to practice in the US and vice versa and to blend expertise between the UK and states in the US. They set a January 5, 2026, 9 AM virtual public hearing date at their November public meeting.

[See this web page for the proposed amendments & more information.](#)

ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum on Women in Safety

December 15, 2:30 PM on Teams

Featuring Jen English, Assistant Program Director for the OSHA Training Institute Education Center at Keene State College, as she presents on Women in Safety.

This briefing is open to all ACEC/MA Members. For Teams information [email ACEC/MA](#).

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

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 January 2026, 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

Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Seeks Chemical Engineer

[More Information](#)

Government Affairs

ACEC and FEDERAL NEWS

[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

STATE and LOCAL NEWS

[Federal judge strikes down Trump order blocking wind energy projects, including Massachusetts.](#)

[Low carbon cement project halted in Holyoke](#)

[Massachusetts Attorney General Reached \\$45M Settlement with Eversource, Resulting in Customer Savings](#)

[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 today, 12/11, 10 AM on Zoom. [Request Zoom for 12/11.](#)

The January GAC Zoom will be 1/28/26 at 10 AM. [Request Zoom for 1/28/26.](#)

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.

Upcoming Major Events to Save the Dates

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

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

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

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

May 28: Engineers and Land Surveyors Day at the State House - [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 12/11/2025; Next issue: 12/18/2025

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

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American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts - acecma.org
Tel: 617-227-5551 | Fax: 617-227-6783 | Email: acecma@engineers.org

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