

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

January 29, 2026

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Thank you, Abbie



Dear ACEC/MA Members,

Tomorrow, Abbie Goodman concludes an extraordinary 29-year tenure with ACEC/MA. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the entire membership, we want to take a moment to thank her for her remarkable service to our organization and our industry.

For nearly three decades, Abbie has been a steady and trusted leader for Massachusetts' engineering community. Through her vision, persistence, and deep commitment to collaboration, she helped shepherd the design profession into a respected and influential voice in public policy discussions across the Commonwealth. Because of her leadership, engineering firms today are more meaningfully engaged in decisions shaping our transportation systems, communities, climate resilience efforts, and infrastructure investments.

Equally important has been Abbie's unwavering commitment to people. Throughout her career, she championed women in leadership, supported generations of engineers, and opened doors for young professionals and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many leaders across our industry can trace their own professional growth to opportunities Abbie helped create, encourage, or protect.

Abbie's impact extends well beyond ACEC/MA. Her work in state government, national association leadership, and coalition building strengthened not only our organization, but the broader public policy and civic landscape in Massachusetts and beyond.

As she begins a well-deserved retirement, we thank Abbie for her dedication, her mentorship, and her lasting legacy. We wish her every happiness in this next chapter and hope she knows how deeply grateful this community is for her service.

In the coming months, we will share more information about opportunities to formally recognize and celebrate Abbie's many contributions to ACEC/MA and the engineering community.

With sincere appreciation,

- McFarlan Johnson
- PKF O'Connor Davies
- Sanborn, Head & Associates
- Stacey DePasquale Engineering

**ACEC/MA FY2026 Board
of Directors**

**ACEC/MA Forums &
Committees**

**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

**Join an ACEC/MA
Committee or Forum**



The ACEC/MA Board of Directors and Kevin O'Shea, ACEC/MA Executive Director

Registration Open for ACEC/MA Breakfast Program: Climate Resiliency Planning in Massachusetts - New Speaker Added

Join ACEC/MA on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, for a morning program focused on how Massachusetts is advancing climate resiliency in infrastructure planning and delivery.

Hosted at CDM Smith's Boston office, with the option to attend virtually by Zoom, this program will focus on climate resiliency planning in Massachusetts. The event will bring together state agency leaders and community partners to discuss how resilience is being incorporated into building codes, infrastructure design, and project delivery across the Commonwealth. **PDHs will be available for registered attendees.**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 - 8:30-11:00AM.

CDM Smith (75 State St, Ste 701, Boston). Thank you to CDM Smith for hosting.

[Registration and more information here - including a new speaker.](#)

FY27 Dam and Seawall Program Application Now Open

Applications are due by **Friday, March 20, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.**

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is currently seeking proposals for the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program through the new [Environmental & Climate One Stop \(ECO One Stop\) application](#).

[More information can be found here.](#)

Registration Now Open: ACEC National Annual Convention and Legislative Summit

Register now to be part of the engineering industry's largest gathering of leaders and decision-makers. Experience compelling general sessions, meaningful networking, a dynamic exhibit hall, and direct engagement with policymakers—at an event that delivers real value—all in the heart of the nation's capital.

May 3-6, 2026 in Washington, DC.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Governor Healey Files \$1.2 Billion Municipal Transportation Proposal

Governor Maura Healey has filed her administration's [FY 2027 budget proposal](#) with the Legislature. The \$62.8 billion budget plan does not propose any new taxes or fees and represents a 1.1% growth from the estimated Fiscal Year 26 spending. The Governor also filed a Fair Share supplemental budget bill to spend \$1.15 billion in surplus FY 25 surtax revenue on education and transportation.

The Legislature will now consider their own budget proposals alongside yesterday's filing by the Governor over the coming months. ACEC/MA will

continue to monitor the progress of the budget and advocate accordingly for industry priorities.

[The FY2027 budget process can be followed here.](#)

Governor Healey Files \$62.8B FY2027 Budget Proposal

Governor Maura Healey has [filed legislation](#) that would provide **\$1.2 billion in transportation investments over four years** to support municipal infrastructure across Massachusetts. This proposal, announced at the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Connect 351 Conference, represents a major early step in the 2026 legislative session.

[More information here.](#)

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

ACEC/MA will be host our 2026 Engineering Excellence and Awards (EEA) Gala on **April 14, 2026** at the Renaissance Boston Seaport District.

The ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence and Awards Competition recognizes engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. ACEC/MA's largest annual event with limited sponsorship opportunities, the EEA Gala is an opportunity to get your firms in front of hundreds of members and public officials.

More information on EEA sponsorship opportunities can be [found here](#) or by [emailing ACEC/MA Executive Director Kevin O'Shea](#).

ACEC/MA Seeking Volunteer Representatives to Serve as Trustees of The Engineering Center Education Trust (TECET)

ACEC/MA is seeking volunteer representatives to serve as Trustees of The Engineering Center Education Trust (TECET). Several terms for our current trustees have ended or will conclude in June, creating an opportunity for new volunteers to join the Board.

TECET is an educational and charitable nonprofit trust and the owner of One Walnut Street in Boston.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Registration Open: 2026 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference

The annual MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference provides a forum for innovative transportation systems, management ideas, and initiatives. Each year, the conference provides an important opportunity for transportation practitioners to share knowledge, sponsor peer-to-peer learning, and collaborate on issues of mutual interest.

May 5 & 6, 2026 at the DCU Center, Worcester, MA

[More information can be found here.](#)

MEPA Finalizes Regulatory Proposal to Streamline “Qualifying Housing” Projects and Ecological Restoration

On January 16, MEPA filed with the Secretary of State final regulations to streamline “qualifying housing” projects and ecological restoration. The regulations will be effective upon publication in the Massachusetts Register on **January 30, 2026**.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Department of Energy Resources 2026 Town Hall

The Department of Energy Resources is hosting their third annual Town Hall on **Friday, January 30** from **12:00 – 1:30 pm** on Zoom.

DOER Leadership will provide a brief introduction to DOER, an overview of key initiatives for 2026, timelines with opportunities for engagement throughout the year, and a Q&A session.

[Register to attend here.](#)

Healey-Driscoll Administration and Electric Utilities Launch the Power Forward Initiative

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has joined the state’s two largest electric utilities – Eversource and National Grid – in announcing Power Forward, a new initiative to get housing connected to the electric grid faster.

[More information here.](#)

ACEC/MA Award Nominations - Submissions Due Soon

[ACEC/MA 2026 Workplace Belonging and Engagement Award – Nominations Due 2-11-2026](#)

The Workplace Belonging and Engagement Award honors a firm’s ingenuity, leadership, and commitment to advancing belonging, fairness, and opportunity within the profession.

[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.

ACEC Roundtable Series: The Ideal Employer: What the Next Generation of Engineers is Really Looking For

What does the “ideal employer” look like to today’s emerging engineering talent? Drawing on insights from the ACEC Research Institute’s Workforce of the Future Study, this session explores the attributes, expectations, and decision drivers that define how engineering students and early-career professionals evaluate firms. The findings reveal a nuanced picture of

what truly matters: meaningful work, transparent career pathways, supportive managers, flexible work environments, opportunities for rapid learning, and a culture that aligns with personal values

February 4, 2026, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (Virtual)

[More information and a link to register can be found here.](#)

TECET Annual Leadership Dinner on February 11

Honoring outstanding leaders who have contributed to the engineering & land surveying professions and awarding scholarships to engineering students. This years honorees include Michael Carragher, Chairman, CEO, VHB and Richard Davey, CEO, Massport. The dinner will also celebrate retiring ACEC/MA Executive Director Abbie Goodman for her long career with TECET.

[Registration and more info here.](#)

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.](#)

Government Affairs

ACEC and FEDERAL NEWS

[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

STATE and LOCAL NEWS

[New power line provided little juice to New England during Sunday's storm, frigid temperatures](#)

[The government is barreling toward a partial shutdown over DHS funding. Here's what to expect](#)

[The MBTA may receive millions from Congress to help with World Cup operations](#)

[Judge rules Massachusetts offshore wind project halted by Trump administration can continue](#)

[Heat pumps are designed to operate when it's still cold out. Really cold out](#)

The January GAC Zoom will be 2/26/26 at 10 AM. [Request Zoom for 2/26/26.](#)

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 - [Register here.](#)

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 01/29/2026; Next issue: 02/05/2026

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

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