

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

February 19, 2026

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MassDOT Draft Design-Build Process Manual - Comments Sought

MassDOT Highway has provided ACEC/MA with a [draft copy of MassDOT's Design-Build Process Manual](#).

This manual is intended to be a tool for MassDOT Project Managers, District Staff and Reviewers to provide a set of guidance and best practices. It is intended to be interpreted, applied, and used with discretion and judgment recognizing that every DB project will have unique and individual characteristics and considerations. The actions and procedural sequences presented in this Manual are **recommended** best practice approaches which can be modified or tailored to fit project specific conditions or considerations with appropriate collaboration, vetting, and approval

They would appreciate any and all feedback as they continue to try to improve consistency within the Design-Build program. Feedback can be sent directly to [Murthy Kolla](#).

ACEC/MA asks that each interested firm only provide one set of comments to avoid flooding Murthy's inbox.

Registration Now Open: ACEC/MA Effective Writing Course Spring 2026

Register now for the virtual two-day ACEC/MA Leadership Education Development Course with instructor Carol A. Lurie, AICP, LEED AP, ENV SP.

This course is meant to improve your technical writing with quality content in a format focused on skills especially needed by engineering and land surveying firms.

Enrollment limited to 25 participants. No more than two people per firm may register until March 20. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

[Reserve your spot today.](#)

New Executive Order to Explore Single Stair Construction

On Friday, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed an [Executive Order](#) to study allowing single stair construction in some residential buildings in an effort to increase housing production and lower costs. Currently, Massachusetts building code requires two exit stairs for buildings above three stories or with long interior corridors, which makes it harder to build mid-rise development on smaller parcels. The Governor is establishing a technical advisory group to explore the possibility of allowing single stair construction in residential buildings higher than three stories to make it easier to build more housing while ensuring safety.

The Governor's press release announcing this Executive Order can be found [here](#).

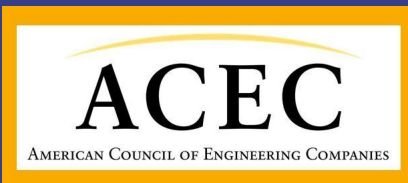
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**ACEC/MA Forums &
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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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MassDOT Highway Division Has Issued the 2026 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges

MassDOT Highway Division Assistant Chief Engineer Thomas DiPaolo recently announced that the **2026 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges** and a series of updated **Construction Standard Detail Drawings** have been issued.

The 2026 edition of the Standard Specifications combines the previous (2025) edition with all supplemental specifications issued by MassDOT during 2025. The 2026 edition also includes a companion document that provides a full accounting of the changes to the previous (2025) edition.

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

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Registration Now Open - Sponsorship Opportunities Also 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.

[Registration is now open.](#)

Sponsorship opportunities are also still 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](#).

Engineers Week 2026 - February 22–28

Engineers Week 2026, February 22–28, is a national celebration of the engineering profession and its contributions to society. For ACEC Member Organizations and member firms, it is a chance to spotlight how engineers drive progress—**from resilient infrastructure to sustainable technologies**—while reinforcing the industry's role in building a better future.

ACEC National has created a [comprehensive toolkit](#) to help MOs and member firms plan and make the most of Engineers Week. You will find ready-to-use classroom presentations, hands-on activities for all grade levels, safety guidance, media templates, and other planning resources.

ACEC will highlight Engineers Week activities on the *Last Word* blog, on our social media channels, and on our award-winning *Engineering Influence* podcast.

Upload your videos, photos, links, and other Engineers Week event information [here](#). Don't forget to include #ACECEWeek2026 #Eweek2026 #ACEC in all your Engineers Week social posts and promotions.



Register Now for ACEC/MA Breakfast Program: Climate Resiliency Planning in Massachusetts

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.](#)

ACEC/MA Building Engineering Committee Meeting with MassSave Presentation

ACEC/MA BEC is hosting a meeting with representatives from the MassSave Program Administrators on Tuesday, **February 24th from 9-10:00am virtually.**

This meeting will provide attendees with an overview on programs and opportunities currently being offered by MassSave.

[More information here.](#)

ACEC/MA Health and Safety Forum Meeting on Driving Safety/Distracted Driving

ACEC/MA Health and Safety Forum is hosting a presentation by Ben Lemek of CNA on driving safety/distracted driving.

Monday, February 23rd from 2:30-4:00pm virtually.

[More information here.](#)

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.](#)

ACEC Market Edge Podcast: Designing for Resilience

ACEC's Diana O'Lare is joined by Janan Reilly from Fuss & O'Neill to connect the dots between policy, planning, engineering, and financing to reveal what it truly takes to build resilient communities in an era of growing risk.

Their conversation explores how public and private sector leaders can collaborate to reduce vulnerability before disaster strikes. They dive into the role engineers play not just in rebuilding after crises—but in shaping smarter systems, influencing policy, and guiding investments that strengthen communities for the long term.

[Watch and listen here.](#)

Mass Taxpayers Foundation FY2027 Governor's Budget Analysis

Last week, Mass Taxpayers Foundation held an open house to discuss Governor Healey's recently filed [FY27 budget proposal](#).

The presentation can be found [here](#) and you can watch the recording of the open house [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

[Mass. falling short of key climate targets, with some bright spots](#)

[Governor's budget proposal seeks to trim environmental programs roughly 4 percent](#)

[The T's next big move: Awarding a mega-contract to run the commuter rail](#)

[Groups sue Trump's EPA over repeal of rule that supported climate protections](#)

[Gov. Healey announces over \\$140 million to create more than 1,300 new homes statewide, including in Lenox and Pittsfield](#)

[Massport dedicates 40% of \\$4.1B capital plan to ground transportation \(Paywall\)](#)

The February 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.

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 - [Register here.](#)

May 3-6: ACEC National Annual Convention, Washington, DC - [Register here.](#)

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 02/19/2026; Next issue: 02/26/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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