

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

March 12, 2026

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Emcee Announcement: 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Registration Open

We are pleased to announce that **Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Undersecretary for Transportation and State Highway Administrator**, will be joining the 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards as Master of Ceremonies.

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.](#)

Time is running out for sponsorship opportunities. 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](#).**

MBTA Informational Meeting on Design Build Services for Red Line Hi-Rail Access Tunnel in Cambridge, MA - March 18

The MBTA is hosting an informational meeting regarding Design Build services for the upcoming Red Line Hi-Rail Access Tunnel project in Cambridge. This meeting will provide an overview of the project goals, timeline and how you can get involved.

March 18, 2026 at 11:00AM on Teams

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

Registration Open: ACEC/MA 2026 State Markets Conference - April 2

Registration is now open for one of our most popular annual programs - **ACEC/MA 2026 State Markets Conference .**

This conference brings together senior leaders from Massachusetts public agencies to discuss upcoming capital programs, procurement priorities, and project opportunities.

Thursday, April 2, 2026 (7:30 AM – 12:00 PM), MHA Conference Center, Burlington, MA. Also available on Zoom.

[Register online here](#)

Attendance Limit: In-person attendance is limited to 2 people per firm until March 26.

PDHs will be available for registered attendees.

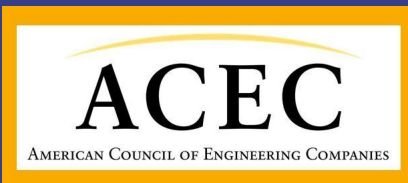
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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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Committee or Forum**



MassDOT Highway 2026 Standard Specifications and Construction Standard Details

The MassDOT Highway Division has issued the [2026 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges](#) and a series of updated [Construction Standard Detail Drawings](#) dated January 2026.

The 2026 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges and the January 2026 Construction Standard Detail Drawings will be referenced in the contract documents for all projects advertised on or after February 21, 2026. No changes are required for any projects already advertised or under construction.

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

Registration Now Open: Spring 2026 Genesis Program

ACEC/MA's Genesis Program provides three carefully designed instructional sessions that address key topics identified by firm leaders as vital for the professional with 3-5 years experience. This course has 3 sessions on different dates, in-person only. Attendees are expected to attend all three sessions.

Beginning on Monday, May 4, 2026, the classes are held at CDM Smith in Boston. Thank you CDM Smith for hosting.

Participation limited to 30. There are currently less than 20 spots remaining. Registration is first-come first-served, with a limit of 2 per firm. If there is space available after April 24, an additional participant per firm will be considered. There will be a waitlist.

[Learn more and reserve your spot today.](#)

2026 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Now Open For Applications

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced it has [opened applications for grants](#) from the 2026 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF). Pre-proposals are due **Tuesday, March 31**. Applicants approved to submit a full proposal will need to do so by **Wednesday, June 24**.

The program will provide individual grants of up to \$7 million to coastal communities for projects that create and restore natural systems, increase protection from current and future hazards, and improve habitats for fish and wildlife.

A pre-proposal webinar [is available from NFWF](#)

Massachusetts Finalizes Streamlined Energy Siting and Permitting Process

On March 5, 2026, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced [final reforms](#) for Massachusetts' energy siting and permitting process. The Administration hopes these reforms will create a faster, more predictable pathway to build new energy infrastructure while strengthening transparency and engagement with host communities.

More information on the final reforms can be found [here](#). The Governor's press release can be found [here](#).



Registration Open: ACEC/MA Effective Writing Course Spring

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.

There is currently only one spot remaining. There will be a waitlist once full.

[Reserve your spot today.](#)

Upcoming ACEC/MA Committee Meetings

Building Engineering Committee Meeting with DOER on Energy Codes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (9:00 AM - 10:00 AM) - Zoom

The Energy Efficiency Division of Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' will be presenting 2025 updates to the stretch and specialized energy code, some of the thinking behind the updates, as well as what they are working on for future code changes.

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

Rising Professionals Committee Presentation Skills Series: The Top 3 Elements for a Polished Professional Presentation

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 (5:00 PM - 6:30 PM) - Zoom

This very special program is 20 minutes of instruction followed by 40 minutes of interactive Q&A in dialogue format. You are invited to ask your specific questions.

Our speaker is nationally renowned presentation coach Joanne Linowes, founder of Linowes Executive Development Institute, who will share with us her copyrighted methodology created especially for design professionals.

[Members of Rising Professionals Committee Register Here.](#)

Private Sector Committee Meeting with Project Developers on the current state of the affordable housing market

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 (8:30 - 9:30 AM) - Teams

Allison Collins, a Design and Construction Manager at The Community Builders, and James Keefe, a Development Project Manager at Trinity Financial will each present on their recent affordable housing projects, with a focus on the current state of the affordable housing market and the opportunities and challenges associated with regulatory review and funding for needed infrastructure to support their projects. They will also discuss how

engineers and other consultants can best support their work through thoughtful building and site design and grant application support.

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

MBTA Contract R16PS02 – Lake Street Yard Demolition and Reconfiguration Project

MBTA has released a [solicitation for Lake Street Yard Demolition and Reconfiguration Project.](#)

The complete Request for Qualifications can be found on the [MBTA website.](#) This is not a Request for Proposal.

NEW DEADLINE: 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.](#)

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.](#) **Feedback is requested by March 31, 2026.**

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

MBTA Capital Program Memo: Schedule Deliverable Process (MBSDP) Update

The MBTA has provided a memo detailing updates to the Schedule Deliverable (MBSDP) process in e-Builder used to submit construction schedules. The process has been updated to align it with the MBTA's schedule specifications and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Construction Schedule Review Process and to reduce the overall process time.

[More information can be found 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.

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

Registration Waitlist: 2026 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference

The annual MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference provides a forum for innovative transportation systems, management ideas, and initiatives. There is currently a waitlist for attendees.

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

[More information can be found 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

[Highway chief teases major projects, 'record-setting' year](#)

[Healey's shift toward nuclear energy raises affordability, feasibility questions](#)

[Project labor agreement signed to replace Boston's North Station bridge](#)

[Mariano weighs in on energy bill savings, audit preferences](#)

[Mass. rolls out E-ZPass stickers to replace plastic transponders, and it could save the state millions](#)

[Cape Cod bridges expected to get environmental clearances this summer](#)

The March GAC Zoom will be 3/26/26 at 10 AM. [Request Zoom for 3/26/26.](#)

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

April 2: ACEC/MA State Markets Conference - [Register here.](#)

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 03/12/2026; Next issue: 03/19/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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