

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

April 2, 2026

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Abbie Goodman Retirement Celebration - May 12

Please join the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) as we celebrate the retirement of Abbie Goodman and recognize her extraordinary 30-years of leadership and service to ACEC/MA and the engineering community across the Commonwealth.

Join us on **May 12, 2026, from 5:00–8:00 PM at the Omni Parker House, Rooftop Ballroom, 60 School Street, Boston** for an evening reception. Your registration will include two drink tickets and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We expect this event to sell out, so early registration is encouraged.

[RSVP for the Celebration here.](#)

If you are unable to attend but would still like to support the event, an option to contribute is available through the registration link. **Firms or individuals interested in providing additional support to help defray event costs are welcome to contact [ACEC/MA](#) for more information.**

New Federal Executive Order on Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors

President Trump has signed a new [executive order](#) called Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors that has important implications for engineering firms that work as federal contractors or subcontractors. This follows an initial EO that was signed at the beginning of the President's term in January 2025.

It's important to note that contractors will be required to monitor their subcontractors for compliance with the EO. Penalties for violating the EO include potential termination of contracts and debarment.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has 30 days to issue guidance, the FAR Council has 60 days to issue new rules, and each department/agency has 120 days to report to the Domestic Policy Council on implementation of this order.

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

Registration Now Open: 2026 ACEC/MA Engineers & Land Surveyors Day at the State House - May 28

Join ACEC/MA at our annual advocacy day at the MA State House on **May 28**.

The event begins at **9:30 AM** with a Morning Briefing and breakfast in the Hall of Flags at the **Massachusetts State House in Boston**, followed by appointments with your State Senator and State Representative. ACEC/MA will schedule these meetings for you based on the information you provide during registration.

This is a free event for members of ACEC/MA. There will be three virtual preparation sessions offered ahead of May 28.

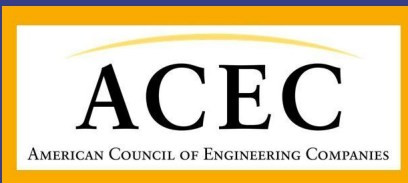
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**ACEC/MA FY2026 Board
of Directors**

**ACEC/MA Forums &
Committees**

**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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



Register now to attend. Registration must be complete by **May 14** to ensure we can secure appointments.

If you do not live/vote in Massachusetts, **please do not register for Engineers and Land Surveyors Day at the State House, unless you plan to join colleagues in their meetings.**

MBTA Consultant Overhead Rate Collection Process Training - April 6

The MBTA has announced the implementation of a new **MBTA Consultant Overhead Rate Collection (MCORC)** workflow, which is designed to improve efficiency, transparency, and consistency in the submission, review, and renewal of overhead rates (OH).

MBTA Deputy Chief, Contract Services, Elena Franks and team will be offering a virtual demonstration of the new system for ACEC/MA members on **Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:00AM.**

This training session will include a live demonstration and time for questions. It will also be recorded and shared afterward for those unable to attend or who wish to revisit the material.

The Outlook appointment can be downloaded [here](#) or by emailing ACECMA@engineers.org

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Registration Open

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.

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

Registration is now open.

More information on EEA sponsorship opportunities can be [found here.](#)

April 29 TALC Meeting Registration Open - Hybrid

Registration for ACEC/MA's April TALC meeting, in-person (with a hybrid option) at **Nitsch Engineering in Boston**, on **Wednesday, April 29** is **[now open.](#)**

You can [register](#) to attend in-person at Nitsch - **limit 2 people per ACEC/MA member firm** - until in-person registration is full at **40 people or by April 22, whichever comes first.** Within your firm, please coordinate who should attend in person in advance before anyone signs up to attend in-person. We'll send Zoom info to all of TALC. The guest for this meeting will be announced in the coming weeks.

The presentation from Mary Ellen DeFrias, Administrator, Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) on 2026 FIFA World Cup transit planning from the March meeting can be [found here.](#)



Thank you to Nitsch Engineering for hosting the April TALC meeting and providing lunch.

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 6 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.](#)

MassDOT Preparing Updates to CAD standards

MassDOT is preparing updates to its CAD standards. To ensure you receive announcements, documentation, and training opportunities as they become available, please complete the form below.

[CAD Standards Mailing List – Fill out form](#)

MBTA Update to PS Invoicing Package

The MBTA has released minor enhancements to their Invoicing Package (Excel template). The new Version 4 replaces all previous versions and, as usual, is available through the Professional Services (PS) Invoicing SOP.

A summary of the changes introduced with this version in the “Updates” tab of the template.

A few useful references linked below, for your convenience.

[Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\) webpage](#)

[PS Invoicing SOP](#)

[Invoicing Package v.4](#)

If you have any questions about the update, please contact [Elena Franks, Deputy Chief, Contract Services.](#)

Early Bird Registration Ends April 3: 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. Early bird registration end of April 3.

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

Richard Friedman: Unicorns & Survey Monkeys, Councils & Summits: Outside-the-Box Employee Engagement

Guest Commentary: *In an era defined by persistent labor shortages, generational change and heightened employee expectations, employee engagement has quietly become one of the most powerful drivers of retention, recruitment and long-term firm stability. In this article, we explore how some AEC firms are moving beyond generic engagement strategies and instead building distinctive, firm-specific programs that give employees a voice, reinforce shared values and create real emotional connection to the organization.*

[Read more here.](#)

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

[Rail projects inching along in Western Mass. as MassDOT discusses hourly trains from Springfield to NYC](#)

[Climate reckoning: Mass. communities stare down the prospect — and complications — of a retreat from rising waters](#)

[Where the rubber meets the road: MBTA questions if electric bus mandate is worth the tradeoffs](#)

[New England Governors Announce Commitment to Explore Advanced Nuclear Energy](#)

[Spring forward: MBTA plans to expand bus service beyond pre-pandemic levels](#)

[MBTA to cut cost of monthly commuter rail passes by half this summer](#)

The March GAC Zoom will be 4/30/26 at 10 AM. [Request Zoom for 04/30/26.](#)

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

April 14: ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence and Awards Gala - [Register here.](#)

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

May 12: Abbie Goodman Retirement Celebration, Boston, MA - [Register here.](#)

May 28: Engineers and Land Surveyors Day at the State House - [Register here.](#)

June 16: ACEC/MA Annual Celebration in Boston - [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 04/02/2026; Next issue: 04/09/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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