

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

May 7, 2026

Thank You to 2026 ACEC/MA CORPORATE SPONSORS

PLATINUM

- AECOM
- Arup
- Geocomp
- GFT
- HDR
- Jacobs
- MG+M The Law Firm
- Michael Baker International
- Mott MacDonald
- Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
- Stantec
- TEC, Inc.
- VHB
- WSP

GOLD

- AI Engineers, Inc
- Arora Engineers
- B2Q
- Beals and Thomas
- Beta Group
- BSC Group
- CHA
- Collins Engineers
- Fuss & O'Neill
- GEI Consultants, Inc
- Green International Affiliates Inc., A Lochner Company
- H&H
- HNTB
- Horsley Witten Group
- IMEG Corp.
- LiRo-Hill
- Nitsch Engineering
- Pare Corporation
- STV Incorporated
- Tetra Tech
- Tighe & Bond
- Weston & Sampson

SILVER

- ATANE
- Benesch
- CDR Maguire Engineering
- CDW Consultants

ACEC 2026 National Convention

Earlier this week, the **American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)** held its Annual Convention & Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, bringing together more than 1,000 members from across the country. The conference featured discussions on the strength of the ACEC federation in advancing key national priorities, the growing role of artificial intelligence in the engineering industry, and upcoming federal legislative and regulatory issues impacting the profession.



ACEC/MA President Gerry Preble, National Director Christine Mizioch, and Executive Director Kevin O'Shea represented ACEC/MA at the national Board of Directors meeting. During the meeting, ACEC elected a new national board of directors and adopted a new national strategic plan that will help guide the organization's advocacy, industry leadership, and member engagement efforts in the years ahead.

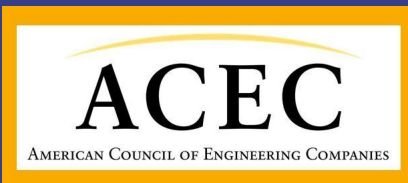
- Fitzmeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- French & Parrello Associates
- GPI
- GZA GeoEnvironmental
- Howard Stein Hudson
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
- Kleinfelder
- LEC Environmental Consultants
- McFarland Johnson
- PKF O'Connor Davies
- RINA North America
- Samiotes Consultants
- Sanborn, Head & Associates
- Stacey DePasquale Engineering

ACEC/MA FY2026 Board of Directors

ACEC/MA Forums & Committees

Events & Briefings Calendar

Join an ACEC/MA Committee or Forum



As part of the convention, ACEC/MA also traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with the offices of **U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Congressman Jake Auchincloss, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Congressman Stephen Lynch** to advocate on issues important to the industry. Discussions focused on the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill, increased investment in water infrastructure, permitting reform, and support for disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) following recent federal rule changes.



The convention concluded with the national **Engineering Excellence Awards Gala**, where the **South Coast Rail Project**, a joint venture between **ACEC/MA member firms VHB and HNTB**, received a National Honor Award, recognizing it as one of the top engineering projects in the country. The award was accepted by project team members from VHB and HNTB alongside **Interim MassDOT Secretary Phil Eng and MBTA Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer Sam Zhou**. Several other

projects from Massachusetts were also recognized during the awards program. Congratulations to all of this year's honorees.

New Federal Order on Fixed-Price Contracting

Last week, the President signed a new [Executive Order](#) called "Promoting Efficiency, Accountability, and Performance in Federal Contracting" that has important implications for engineering firms that work as federal contractors.

Summary

The new Executive Order mandates the use of fixed price contracts as much as possible and requires justification by federal agencies when they do not use this contract type. The stated goals to "advance cost predictability and budget discipline, appropriate contractor incentives and accountability, and streamlined procurement and contract administration" seem to align well with [ACEC views on the use lump sum contracting](#). Federal agencies have been using this type of contract for engineering services for many years. Thus, it does not appear that the order will change our industry, other than to reinforce the continued use of lump sum contracts.

Exceptions include support response to an emergency, major disaster, or contingency operation as defined in FAR Part 2, and research and development or pre-production development for major systems acquisition.

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

Annual ACEC/MA Membership Recertification Notification

As part of the annual ACEC/MA membership recertification process, your firm's primary contact will be receiving an email to be sent out by May 8th from acecma@engineers.org. **The deadline to submit this form will be May 22nd.**

Please reach out to acecma@engineers.org with questions.

MBTA Systemwide Resilience Roadmap

Last week, the MBTA yesterday released its first-ever systemwide [Resilience Roadmap](#), a comprehensive plan to strengthen transit infrastructure and prepare operations against the impacts of climate change and severe weather, including flooding, extreme heat and cold.

The Roadmap can be found [here](#).

Massachusetts Senate Releases Initial Budget Proposal

The Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee released its [FY2027 budget proposal](#) this week, outlining the Senate's initial spending plan ahead of budget debate later this month. The proposal outlines a roughly \$63 billion state spending plan for FY2027, including approximately \$2.7 billion generated through the state's Fair Share surtax, and continues investments in transportation, local aid, and infrastructure priorities. Transportation-related accounts in the proposal include approximately \$605 million for the Massachusetts Transportation Trust

Fund, \$470 million for MBTA operations, and \$217.4 million for Regional Transit Authorities.

Notably, the Senate proposal does not include concerning language originally found in the Governor's budget related to Progressive Design-Build authority or changes to Owner's Representative requirements and qualifications.

The budget also establishes a commission to study the Massachusetts School Building Authority's capacity to meet current and future school facility needs and review the equity of the grant funding formula. Senators have until Friday to file amendments, with formal Senate debate expected to begin the week of May 18.

Massport 2025 Strategic Plan Adopted

The Massachusetts Port Authority has released its [2025 Strategic Plan](#), outlining a long-term vision for investments across its aviation, maritime, and real estate assets. The plan focuses on modernizing aging infrastructure, expanding capacity, and improving the customer experience at key facilities including Logan International Airport, Worcester Regional Airport, Hanscom Field, and the Port of Boston.

Major initiatives include terminal and airside improvements at Logan, expanded passenger and cargo activity at Worcester, continued advancement of general aviation at Hanscom, and increased efficiency and capacity at Conley Terminal and Flynn Cruiseport. The plan also highlights a strong emphasis on climate resilience, sustainability, and long-term net-zero goals.

The Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

MassDOT RFQ: Sagamore Bridge Replacement Program Management and Construction Management

MassDOT has posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the procurement of a Program Management and Construction Management consultant for the Cape Cod Bridges Program for the Sagamore Bridge Replacement Project.

The qualifications submission deadline is **June 3, 2026, at 3:00 pm EST.**

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

Last Call: 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're seeing a strong response and encourage you to register soon to secure your spot.

[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.**

Sagamore Bridge Industry Day Presentation and New Email

Following the Industry Day held by MassDOT on Friday, April 17, 2026 on the Sagamore Bridge Replacement Project, the team at MassDOT has shared the presentation - **that can be found [here](#).**

Ongoing updates on the project(s) can be found [here](#).

MassDOT requests that all bridge-related inquiries be sent to capecodbridges-procurement@dot.state.ma.us, not to individual members of the Mega Projects team.

Register Today: 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.

[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.**

Save the Date and Sponsorship Opportunities: ACEC/MA Annual Celebration - June 16

Save the Date to join ACEC/MA as we mark the end of another successful year. We will celebrate our FY2026 Board of Directors and Committee/Forum leaders and introduce our FY2027 Board at this reception, as we enjoy appetizers and cocktails (your registration includes two drink tickets) with plenty of opportunities for networking.

We will be joined by two special guests for this celebration:

- **Doug Howgate, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation**
- **Matt Reiffer, Vice President and Advocacy Counsel, ACEC National**

Doug and Matt will speak about the Massachusetts and federal government budgets respectively and how they intersect. With so much of our industry's work dealing with public agency projects, this will be a conversation you won't want to miss.

Sponsorship opportunities for this dynamic event bringing together leaders in our industry are available. More information can be [found here](#) or by [email ACEC/MA](#) for more information.

General registration will open soon.

MBTA Consultant Overhead Rate Collection Process Training Recording

On Monday, April 6, the MBTA held a training for ACEC/MA members on 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).

A recording of the training can be found [here](#).

Follow up questions should be sent to MBTA Deputy Chief, Contract Services, [Elena Franks](#) directly.

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

[Healey files new bill to better regulate e-bikes, scooters, and other 'micromobility devices'](#)

[The Mass. Senate's plan to shower cash on cities, town has critics. What they're saying](#)

[Gas pipe program in Senate crosshairs amid search for savings](#)

[Mass. income tax cut could wipe out long-awaited deduction, state says](#)

[MBTA draws criticism over plans to upgrade commuter rail fleet](#)

[Boston, in new climate plan, opens up possibility of delaying flood insurance discounts](#)

[Boston's rivers struggle with pollution amid increased rainfall](#)

[Massachusetts collected nearly \\$1 billion more in tax revenue than expected in April](#)

[On energy front, Healey mindful of 'where other countries are'](#)

[Lowell residents sue data center, state over air quality permit](#)

The March GAC Zoom will be 5/21/26 at 10 AM. [Request Zoom for 05/21/26](#)

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

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 05/07/2026; Next issue: 05/14/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

ACEC/MA is supported by [The Engineering Center Education Trust](#) staff.

ACEC/MA FY2026 Board of Directors:

President: George (Gerry) G. Preble, PE, Beals and Thomas

President-Elect: Rebecca S. Williamson, PE, Jacobs

Senior VP: Filomena Maybury, PE, WSP

VP: Edward T. Baumann, PE, Benesch

Treasurer: Abdelmadjid (Madjid) M. Lahlaf, Ph.D., PE, Lahlaf Geotechnical Consulting, Inc (LGCI)

Past-President: Dawn Connelly, Green International Affiliates, Inc, A Lochner Company

Secretary: Deborah M. Danik, PE, Nitsch Engineering

Directors:

Kathy Campbell, PE, CDW Consultants, Inc.

John Doherty, PE, CDM Smith

Hillary Lacirignola, PE, Weston & Sampson

David Langlais, PE, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates

Bridget Myers, PE, Howard Stein Hudson

Doug Peterson, PE, Michael Baker International

Dori Ross, PE, Sanborn | Head & Associates, Inc.

Sam Taugher, PE, Tighe & Bond

Kristine Wickham-Zimmerman, PE, VHB

National Director: Christine Mizioch, AI Engineers

Legal Counsel: David J. Hatem, PC, MG+M The Law Firm

ACEC/MA Executive Director: Kevin O'Shea

American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts - acecma.org

Tel: 617-227-5551 | Fax: 617-227-6783 | Email: acecma@engineers.org

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

ACEC/MA | The Engineering Center | One Walnut Street | Boston, MA 02108 US

This email was sent to acecma@engineers.org.

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®