

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

May 28, 2026

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ACEC/MA's Public Agency Partnering Committees - Sign Up By July 17

ACEC/MA partners with public agencies to streamline project delivery and strengthen communication between public agencies and the ACEC/MA design professional business community. These committees provide a forum to address issues impacting procurement, contracts, project delivery, and collaboration across the industry.

To participate in a public agency partnering committee or serve as a co-chair beginning in August 2026 for the next two years, [review the volunteer position descriptions and sign up by July 17](#).

Please coordinate participation within your firm. Only one person per ACEC/MA Member Firm may serve on a particular public agency partnering committee, though individuals from the same firm may participate on different committees.

More information - including the job descriptions and signup sheet - can be found [here](#).

Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill Passes Committee

Late last week, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved the Build America 250 Act – the five-year, \$580 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill – by a vote of 62-2. The bill now goes to the full House for consideration, hopefully in June after the Memorial Day recess.

There were a few amendments of interest to ACEC members where National secured a successful outcome:

- ACEC National worked to remove two amendments aimed at insourcing engineering services. Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) filed an amendment that would have required State DOTs to perform a cost-comparison study on any A/E services contract over \$100,000, and an amendment to require that only public agency employees perform construction engineering and inspection services. Due to ACEC advocacy, the amendment was removed by the sponsor.

- An amendment that would have removed the eligibility of federal funds for digital construction technologies was offered and withdrawn. ACEC supports the language in the underlying bill.

- The manager's amendment negotiated by Chairman Sam Graves and Ranking Member Rick Larsen includes a provision to require Amtrak to review and assess its A/E procurement and contracting practices, including modifications to indemnification and standard of care.

Please find a [detailed bill summary](#) and state-by-state funding tables for the [highway](#) and [bridge](#) programs in the BUILD America 250 Act as approved by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee last week linked. These documents were compiled by ACEC National.

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Matt Reiffer, Vice President and Advocacy Counsel, American Council of Engineering Companies, presented [this deck](#) on the bill at the May TALC meeting on 5/27/2026.

Massachusetts Senate unanimously approves \$63.4 billion annual state budget bill

Senators voted unanimously last Thursday to approve an annual state budget bill.

The Senate's \$63.4 billion fiscal year 2027 budget will next move into conference committee negotiations with the House, which last month passed a fiscal 2027 budget that included about \$50 million more in spending and an array of different policy riders.

The Senate finalized its FY2027 budget while largely maintaining Senate Ways & Means transportation funding levels, including approximately \$605 million for the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund, \$470 million for MBTA operations, and \$217 million for Regional Transit Authorities.

The Senate budget includes the creation of a commission to study the Massachusetts School Building Authority's capacity to meet current and future school facility needs and review the equity of its grant funding formula. The commission will include stakeholders and experts in school design, construction, and sustainable building practices to help evaluate future needs and project delivery.

The new budget year begins July 1.

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

Massachusetts Senate Passes Major Transportation Bond Bill

The Senate unanimously approved a major transportation bond package that includes a one-year, \$300 million authorization for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program, maintaining last year's increased funding level. The proposal would continue support for all 351 Massachusetts municipalities, with \$200 million distributed through the traditional Chapter 90 formula and an additional \$100 million allocated based on road mileage to promote greater regional equity.

The broader package also includes \$500 million for MassDOT bridge and pavement lifecycle programs, \$200 million for transportation improvements supporting housing development, \$200 million for the new Parkway Resilience Improvement and Safety Modernization (PRISM) initiative, and \$200 million for MBTA rail reliability investments. As with other bond bills, authorization does not equate to immediate spending but instead provides the Commonwealth with the authority to fund projects over time as projects advance and bonds are issued.

The bill can be found [here](#). The Senate bill closely aligns with the version previously approved by the House and is expected to advance to the Governor for consideration in the coming days.

MBTA Fiscal Year-End Invoice Submission Deadlines

The MBTA has asked that we share [this memo](#) from Sam Zhou, Chief Engineer, Engineering & Capital Division, regarding fiscal year-end invoice deadlines.



To help ensure that contractors, consultants, and vendors are paid prior to the close of the fiscal year, all invoices must be **submitted in e-Builder** no later than **Friday, June 5th** close of business. Notably, this due date assumes there aren't any issues and the invoice can be processed.

If you have any questions, please email [Elena Franks](#) directly.

Register Today: ACEC/MA Annual Celebration - June 16

Register today 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.

Register [here](#).

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.

Massport Names New Executive Director of Aviation

The Massport Board approved the appointment of Sharon Williams as Executive Director of Aviation, effective July 1, succeeding longtime aviation leader Ed Freni following his retirement after more than two decades in the role. A nearly 30-year Massport veteran, Williams will oversee aviation operations at Logan, Hanscom, and Worcester airports as the agency continues major infrastructure, operational, and passenger experience initiatives across its aviation portfolio.

The press release on the appointment can be found [here](#).

Massachusetts Designer Selection Board Seeks 1 Professional Engineer for the Board

The Massachusetts Designer Selection Board (DSB) is seeking resumes from candidates who are Professional Engineers with 10 or more years of experience licensed in and residing in Massachusetts for 1 opening on the DSB.

As a Professional Engineer licensed in Massachusetts, you possess the expertise needed to help improve the delivery of public projects across our Commonwealth. By joining the DSB, you'll have the opportunity to contribute your skills to the selection of designers for state facilities and charter schools.

As part of an autonomous 11-member Designer Selection Board, you'll play a hands-on role in evaluating proposals and ideas from design

professionals, ensuring that our public building projects meet the highest standards of design quality, sustainability, and efficiency.

More information and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Rising Professionals Committee Summer Social - June 9

The ACEC/MA Rising Professionals Committee is hosting a Summer Social for **committee members** on **June 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM**.

The event will be held at [Owl's Nest \(Night Shift on the Esplanade\) in Boston](#). It is located on the Charles River Esplanade off of Storrow Drive.

For questions, please contact RPC Co-chair [Sydney Lambert-Picard](#).

MassDOT Highway: New Guidelines for SUE Deliverables

The MassDOT Highway Division issued two important documents regarding the performance of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) services on MassDOT projects.

The first is a set of [Guidelines for MassDOT SUE Deliverables](#).

The second document is [Engineering Directive E-26-002, MassDOT Requirements for Performing Subsurface Utility Engineering Investigations](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Tom DiPaolo](#) directly.

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 was May 22nd. If you have not submitted yet, please do so ASAP.**

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

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](#).

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

[**Senate unanimously approves \\$63.4 billion annual state budget bill**](#)

[**5 energy affordability policies to watch right now in Mass.**](#)

[Massachusetts formally certifies nation's first union of Uber and Lyft drivers.](#)

[Mass. removed more than a dozen dams last year. Hundreds more are considered hazardous](#)

[Healey sees job losses, criminal probes in MassDOT OT case](#)

[Senate spikes electric rate probe, but signals it could reemerge](#)

[MBTA announces completion of infrastructure improvements on Red and Mattapan lines](#)

[FEMA approves more than \\$6 million in funding for New England communities](#)

The July GAC date will be announced in the coming weeks.

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

June 16: ACEC/MA Annual Celebration in Boston - [Register here.](#)

September 28: ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament - [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 05/28/2026; Next issue: 06/04/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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