

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

July 2, 2026

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Massachusetts FY2027 Budget Agreement Reached

The House and Senate have reached agreement on the Commonwealth's **\$63.4 billion Fiscal Year 2027 budget**, which maintains strong operating support for transportation, environmental, energy, and capital agencies.

Highlights of interest to ACEC/MA members include a **\$605 million** operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund (up from **\$558.9 million** in FY2026), **\$465.2 million** for the MBTA, and **\$217.5 million** for Regional Transit Authorities (up from **\$209.0 million**). The budget also continues funding for key infrastructure agencies, including **\$51.4 million** for MassDEP administration, **\$31.6 million** for DCAMM operations, **\$32.1 million** in departmental revenue support for DCR, and **\$19.0 million** and **\$7.1 million** for the Departments of Public Utilities and Energy Resources, respectively.

The conference report does not include major policy changes affecting engineering procurement, including proposals related to Progressive Design-Build, Owner's Representatives, or Qualifications Based Selection (QBS).

The budget now awaits final approval by Governor Healey, who has 10 days to review the budget. **Read ACEC/MA's summary of the FY2027 budget conference report [here](#).**

Annual ACEC/MA Membership Recertification

As part of the annual ACEC/MA membership recertification process, your firm's primary contact should have received an email sent out from acecma@engineers.org.

The form can be found [here](#). If your firm has not submitted yet, please do so ASAP.

Please reach out to acecma@engineers.org with questions or to confirm if your firm has completed the survey.

Massachusetts Senate Passes Energy Affordability Bill

On July 1, the Massachusetts Senate passed comprehensive energy affordability legislation designed to reduce utility costs while advancing the Commonwealth's long-term energy and climate goals. Senate leaders estimate the bill will deliver more than \$14 billion in ratepayer savings over the next decade through reforms to utility financing, energy procurement, gas infrastructure investments, and customer protections. The legislation also preserves the Mass Save program while seeking additional efficiencies and accountability measures.

The Senate bill differs significantly from the version passed by the House earlier this year, particularly in its approach to achieving energy savings and maintaining investments in energy efficiency. A conference committee will now negotiate a compromise between the two versions before a final bill, if agreed to, is sent to Governor Healey for her

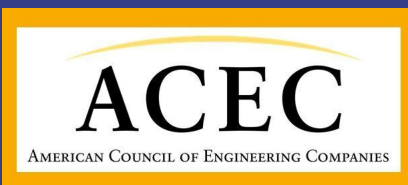
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**ACEC/MA FY2027 Board
of Directors**

**ACEC/MA Forums &
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**Events & Briefings
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Committee or Forum**



signature. ACEC/MA will continue to monitor negotiations and keep members informed of developments affecting the engineering industry, energy infrastructure, and project delivery.

A summary of the Senate proposal can be found [here](#).

US House Committee Advances WRDA 2026

The U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has released the bipartisan **Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA 2026)**, authorizing new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility studies, construction projects, and project modifications, while reauthorizing FEMA's National Dam Safety Program through FY2031.

Among its key provisions, the bill authorizes **10 new Corps construction projects, 131 new feasibility studies, and 191 local water and wastewater projects** through the Environmental Infrastructure Program. It also includes several provisions intended to improve project delivery, including the development of an electronic permitting portal, new requirements to streamline Corps feasibility studies, and the establishment of an Office on Alternative Delivery Methods to support non-federal project sponsors.

The legislation also contains several provisions of interest to engineering firms, including a congressional report on the Army Corps' architectural and engineering fee cap and a GAO study comparing the Corps' use of in-house design services versus private sector A/E firms.

The Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is expected to consider the bill on **July 2** before it advances through the legislative process. ACEC National is continuing to review the legislation and advocate for provisions affecting the engineering industry.

Massport Accelerates Net Zero Goal to 2028

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has announced it will achieve **Net Zero emissions by 2028**, accelerating its original target by three years. The updated strategy builds on more than **\$500 million** in investments since 2022 and combines continued infrastructure improvements with renewable energy certificates (RECs), renewable energy agreements, and high-quality carbon offsets.

Key initiatives include transitioning Massport's diesel fleet to renewable diesel, expanding electric ground service equipment, advancing a **20-megawatt solar project at Worcester Regional Airport**, investing **\$60 million** in shore power at Flynn Cruiseport Boston, and supporting sustainable aviation fuel deployment through recently enacted tax credits. The Authority will also continue pursuing renewable energy and electrification projects across its facilities while advancing longer-term infrastructure improvements.

Massport's announcement highlights the significant role engineering, planning, and construction will continue to play in advancing the Commonwealth's transportation and climate goals.

Read Massport's announcement [here](#).

**Save the Date: ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf
Tournament – September 28**



Mark your calendars for the **ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament** on **Monday, September 28, 2026**, at **Ferncroft Country Club** in Middleton.

This annual event brings together engineering professionals from across the Commonwealth for a day of networking, friendly competition, and philanthropy, with proceeds supporting the ACEC/MA Education Corporation's scholarship and workforce development initiatives.

Registration and sponsorship information will be available soon. We hope you'll plan to join us for one of ACEC/MA's premier networking events of the year.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or donating raffle prizes, please email acecma@engineers.org.

Welcome to the FY2027 ACEC/MA Board of Directors

On July 1, ACEC/MA welcomed its FY2027 Board of Directors. We look forward to working with our volunteer leaders as they help guide ACEC/MA's advocacy, education, and strategic priorities in the year ahead.

View the full Board of Directors [here](#).

ACEC National Seeks Member Feedback on Proposed EPA PFAS Drinking Water Rules

ACEC National is requesting feedback from member firms on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed changes to federal PFAS drinking water regulations. Member input will help inform ACEC's engagement with EPA and any comments the organization submits during the rulemaking process.

The proposed rules would rescind drinking water standards for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the PFAS Hazard Index while retaining the existing standards for PFOA and PFOS. EPA is also proposing to extend the compliance deadline for public water systems from **2029 to 2031** under certain circumstances.

ACEC/MA members interested in providing feedback should contact [Jordan Baugh](#) as soon as possible to inform ACEC National's comments. EPA's public comment period is open through **July 20, 2026**.

ACEC National Urges Member Firms to Support Surface Transportation Reauthorization

ACEC National is calling on member firms to contact their members of Congress in support of **H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act**, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs before current authorizations expire at the end of September.

The five-year bill would authorize **\$580 billion through Fiscal Year 2031**, including **\$375 billion for roads and bridges** and **\$87 billion for transit programs** through the Highway Trust Fund. Every state would receive a 3.4% increase in formula funding compared to current law.

The legislation also includes several ACEC priorities, including support for state DOT use of lump-sum contracts for engineering services, project delivery reforms, and grant funding to advance new technologies.

[Members can contact their U.S. Representative through ACEC National's grassroots action center here.](#)

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.](#)

ACEC/MA HR Forum: ACEC/MA Pay Equity and Salary Transparency Webinar on July 14

Join ACEC/MA's Human Resources Forum on **Tuesday, July 14, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM** for a webinar on pay equity and salary transparency featuring compensation expert David Weaver, Founder of the Compensation and HR Group and author of *Pay Matters* and *Equal Pay Matters*.

As new laws, evolving workplace expectations, and competition for talent reshape compensation practices, managers and HR professionals are increasingly expected to navigate pay conversations with confidence and consistency. This webinar will explore the fundamentals of pay equity, salary range development, compensation strategy, salary transparency requirements, and practical approaches for handling employee questions and concerns.

Attendees will gain actionable insights into making fair, defensible compensation decisions while building trust and supporting equitable workplace practices.

Register [here.](#)

MassDOT Bridge Section SharePoint Training – July 15

Join ACEC/MA on **Wednesday, July 15, at 10:00 AM** for a virtual presentation with Alyson Bedard and Alex Bardow of the MassDOT Bridge Section on the agency's newly launched external SharePoint platform for consultant designers.

Following six months of internal use, the platform is now available to the design community and is intended to improve communication, collaboration, and access to key Bridge Section resources. The presentation will provide an overview of available technical guidance, training materials, project process information, designer inquiry

submission tools, and other features designed to create a more consistent and transparent interface between MassDOT and consultant teams.

The session will be recorded for those unable to attend live. Please register to receive the virtual meeting information.

Register [here](#).

MassDEP Opens 2027 State Revolving Fund Solicitation Period

MassDEP has opened the project solicitation period for the 2027 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing cycle. Municipalities and other eligible borrowers seeking SRF financing must submit Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) by **July 24, 2026**, to be considered for inclusion in the 2027 Intended Use Plan.

The SRF program remains a critical funding source for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and resilience projects across Massachusetts. MassDEP has indicated that projects addressing PFAS, sewer overflows, nutrient reduction, and climate resilience continue to be priorities. The Department will also host an informational webinar on June 18 to review program requirements, application procedures, and key deadlines.

More information on the solicitation process, upcoming deadlines, the temporary pause of the Asset Management Planning (AMP) Grant Program, and the EPA's upcoming 2027 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 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](#).

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 immediately, 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

[Government Affairs Committee](#)

The July GAC meeting will be held on July 16th at 10:00AM.

[Request Zoom for 07/16/26.](#)

Join us as we review bills impacting the engineering, land surveying, and design professional community.

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Mass. lawmakers agree on \\$63.4 billion budget](#)

[Energy policy pressure points reflected in amendments](#)

[In New Bedford, Healey celebrates completion of Vineyard Wind project as the company faces financial disputes](#)

[July is here, and that means it's busy season again on Beacon Hill](#)

[OPINION: Haverhill sewage spill underscores urgent need to fund climate-related infrastructure](#)

[Frustrated lawmakers look to overhaul ballot question process](#)

[As elections near, Mass. Gov. Healey wants cost-saving bills on her desk](#)

[Once vaunted offshore power procurements remain on ice](#)

ACEC and Federal Updates

[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

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

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 07/02/2026; Next issue: 07/09/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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