

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

July 30, 2026

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Registration Open: ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament – September 28

[Registration and sponsorship](#) opportunities are now open for the 2026 ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament, taking place on **Monday, September 28, at Ferncroft Country Club** in Middleton.

Join colleagues from across the engineering industry for a day of golf, networking, contests, raffle prizes, and dinner, all while supporting the ACEC/MA Education Corporation's mission of investing in the next generation of engineering leaders.

Proceeds from the tournament fund scholarships and professional education programs that strengthen Massachusetts' engineering profession. By participating in or sponsoring the tournament, you are making a direct investment in the future of the engineering profession.

The tournament is limited to **144 golfers**, and last year's event sold out with a waiting list. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of levels, offering valuable visibility while directly supporting the Education Corporation's charitable mission.

If your firm would like to donate an item for the raffle or live auction, please contact [Gerry Preble](#). Interested in volunteering at the tournament? Please contact [Dori Ross](#).

[Register today and explore sponsorship opportunities on the ACEC/MA website.](#)

Massachusetts Senate Passes Economic Development Bill

The Massachusetts Senate has approved its version of the Commonwealth's [economic development bill](#), authorizing more than **\$575 million** in investments and advancing several policy initiatives with implications for the engineering industry.

Among the provisions included are expanded **MassDevelopment financing tools** to support housing production, new incentives to accelerate **commercial-to-residential conversions**, and statewide zoning reforms intended to encourage additional housing development. The bill also includes a comprehensive framework for **e-bikes and electric scooters**, establishing consistent vehicle classifications and operating standards that will affect future transportation planning and infrastructure design.

The Senate proposal differs from the House-passed bill, which includes additional provisions of interest to the engineering community, such as standardized site plan review procedures, a pilot program to expedite the removal of double utility poles, and other development-related reforms. The two chambers must now reconcile their differences before a final bill can be sent to Governor Healey.

ACEC/MA will continue tracking negotiations and advocating for our industry.

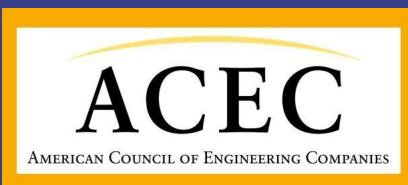
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**ACEC/MA Forums &
Committees**

**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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



Registration Open: ACEC/MA Odyssey Leadership Program

[Registration is now open](#) for the **FY2027 ACEC/MA Odyssey Leadership Program**, an **in-person, nine-session** leadership development program beginning **September 24, 2026**, and hosted at **The Conference Center at Waltham Woods** in Waltham.

Designed for senior managers, middle managers, and emerging leaders with high leadership potential, Odyssey equips participants with the skills to lead teams, navigate change, communicate effectively, and develop their own leadership style.

Class size is limited to **22 participants**, with a maximum of **two registrants per firm** at this time. The program also includes an individual one-on-one executive coaching session and offers **58 PDHs**.

[Register early to secure your spot.](#)

Rising Professionals Committee Summer Social - August 19

Join the ACEC/MA Rising Professionals Committee for an evening of networking and conversation at the **Tree House Brewing Company – Faneuil Hall** on **Wednesday, August 19**, from **5:30 – 7:30 PM**. Whether you're looking to connect with peers, expand your professional network, or simply unwind after work, this casual gathering is a great opportunity to meet fellow rising professionals from across the industry.

While Tree House is known for its beer, there will be plenty of non-beer and non-alcoholic beverage options available as well. We hope you'll join us!

[Register here.](#)

ACEC National: Federal Transportation Legislative Update

Surface Transportation Program Extension

Congressional leaders have acknowledged that a short-term extension of federal surface transportation programs will likely be needed before current authorization expires on **September 30**, as work continues on a long-term reauthorization bill. ACEC, alongside more than 60 national organizations, is urging Congress to maintain current funding levels, including IIJA supplemental funding, to avoid disruptions to critical highway, bridge, transit, rail, and multimodal projects.

U.S. DOT Reauthorization Priorities

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has outlined the Department's priorities for the next surface transportation reauthorization, including transit safety, automated vehicles, freight mobility, railway safety, and Highway Trust Fund reform. While Congress is expected to consider many of these recommendations during negotiations on a long-term bill, lawmakers have indicated that significant policy changes are unlikely to be included in any short-term extension measure.

ACEC National: Federal Energy Policy Update

ACEC National continues to monitor federal legislative and regulatory activity affecting the engineering industry. Below are highlights from the latest activity in Washington.



Permitting Reform: The SPEED Act (H.R. 4776) remains stalled in the Senate. While a draft compromise is now unlikely before September, Senate negotiators continue working toward a bipartisan agreement, with potential action during the post-election lame duck session. ACEC will continue advocating for permitting reform, including meetings with Senate Energy Committee leadership this fall.

Data Centers & Energy: The House Energy & Commerce Committee advanced bipartisan legislation addressing the costs of AI-driven data center growth. The Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340) would require states to consider having large data centers pay for the grid upgrades they necessitate, while a companion bill directs FERC to examine large-load cost allocation.

Pipeline Safety & Appropriations: The House approved a five-year reauthorization of the federal pipeline safety program, setting up negotiations with the Senate. Meanwhile, Congress appears headed toward a continuing resolution to fund the government through early December, making a shutdown after September 30 unlikely.

ACEC will continue engaging Congress and the Administration on these matters.

Advisory Council Advances Proposed Changes to Federal Historic Preservation Review

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has [voted to advance a proposed rule](#) that would significantly revise the federal review process under **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**. If finalized, the changes would streamline federal historic preservation reviews by reducing consultation requirements with State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal governments, and local governments; making public comment optional rather than mandatory; narrowing the definition of historic properties and areas of potential effects; and expanding exemptions from Section 106 review for certain federally funded or federally authorized projects.

The proposal has not yet been published in the *Federal Register* and must first undergo White House review. Once published, a public comment period is expected. ACEC National is seeking feedback from member firms regarding the potential impacts of the proposed rule on project delivery, permitting, and environmental review. Members with comments or questions are encouraged to contact [Jordan Baugh, ACEC National Vice President of Water & Environment](#).

2026 ACEC Fall Conference Registration Open

Join engineering leaders from across the country at the **2026 ACEC Fall Conference**, October 25–28, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

The conference brings together more than 1,100 engineering industry leaders for four days of education, networking, and discussions on the issues shaping the future of the profession. Attendees will gain insights on emerging technologies, business strategy, leadership, market trends, and the opportunities and challenges facing engineering firms.

Registration is now open. Hotel information for the ACEC room block will be provided with your registration confirmation.

[Click here to register.](#)

FY2027 ACEC/MA Membership Dues Invoices Sent

FY2027 ACEC/MA membership dues invoices have now been sent to member firms.

If you have questions about your invoice or would like to confirm whether your firm has completed its recertification, please contact acecma@engineers.org.

Registration Open: Odyssey, Emerging Leaders & Genesis Alumni Reception - August 20

Thursday, August 20 | 4:00 – 6:30 PM | Stantec, Burlington, MA

Graduates of ACEC/MA's **Odyssey, Emerging Leaders, and Genesis** programs are invited to reconnect with fellow alumni at this exclusive networking reception.

The program will feature a panel discussion on "**Workforce of the Future: Bridging the Gap Between Today's Firms and Tomorrow's Talent**," led by **Bob Belitz (Tighe & Bond)**, **Maureen Wiklund (VHB)**, and **Steve Ventresca (Nitsch Engineering)**, three local authors of the ACEC Research Institute's *Workforce of the Future* article. Enjoy food, drinks, and conversation while exploring strategies for developing future leaders and retaining top talent. Thank you to **Stantec** for hosting the reception.

[Register today.](#)

This reception is only for graduates of ACEC/MA Emerging Leaders, Genesis, or Odyssey. Please do not register for this reception if you have not graduated from any of these courses.

ACEC National: Three August Programs on AI Risk, Public Engagement, and Data Centers

This August, ACEC National and the ACEC Research Institute are offering three programs to help firms navigate both the internal risks of AI adoption and the external challenges that accompany high-profile infrastructure projects.

On **August 19 at 12:30 PM ET**, the ACEC Research Institute will present findings from its latest study, **Managing AI When You Don't Understand Its Risks: Best Practices for Engineering Firms**. [Register here.](#)

On **August 20 at 12:00 PM ET**, communications leaders from GHD, DLR Group, and HDR will discuss **How A/E Firms Support Public Engagement on High Visibility Projects**, sharing strategies for helping clients navigate community concerns, public meetings, and media scrutiny on controversial infrastructure projects. [Register here.](#)

On **August 21 at 12:00 PM ET**, a 90-minute training session, **How to Navigate Media & Community Response to Data Centers**, will provide practical tools for assessing political and community risk, developing engagement strategies, and managing communications throughout the lifecycle of these increasingly high-profile projects. [Register here.](#)

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.

[Members can contact their U.S. Representative through ACEC National's grassroots action center 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 August GAC meeting will be held on August 20 at 10:00AM.

[Request Zoom for 08/20/26.](#)

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

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Logan Airport's remote terminal in Framingham 'took off.' Now, officials are planning an expansion](#)

[Federal housing bill includes modest help for Mass., but buzzy investor limitation unlikely to have much impact here](#)

[On the Charles, advocates launch conservation ballot question](#)

[The MBTA is rolling out 3 new fare discounts — and extending half-off commuter rail passes — this fall](#)

[A proposed moratorium on data centers hits resistance in Mass. Senate](#)

[Layered over ADU law, Senate duplex bill would allow three units on most residential lots](#)

[Wu delivers promised street safety plan, as outcry over cyclist death keeps up](#)

['People were blindsided by this rule': Paratransit riders face a greater challenge after MBTA policy change](#)

[Mass. lawmakers move to create statewide framework for e-bikes and scooters](#)

[New Sagamore Bridge will have sunset lookout and separate lane for pedestrians and bikes, renderings show](#)

[Despite being disproportionately impacted by air pollution, many Gateway Cities don't have state-run air quality monitors](#)

[The Mass. Senate voted to make it much harder for you to get tax rebates. What it means](#)

[Senate agrees to limited use of cameras to enforce speed limits](#)

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 - [Register here.](#)

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 07/30/2026; Next issue: 08/06/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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