

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

August 28, 2025

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Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC/MA 2026 Engineering Excellence Entry Forms Due October 6

The ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Competition Recognizes Engineering Achievements that Demonstrate the Highest Degree of Merit and Ingenuity

[Key Dates To Remember](#), Entry Forms, & more for the 2026 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Competition are now available.

Save the Date: April 14, 2026: ACEC/MA Awards Gala @ Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

[ACEC/MA Entry Form](#)

ACEC/MA Building Engineering Committee (BEC): Article 37 Member Briefing

September 17, 9 AM, Zoom

Join BEC for a briefing with **Harshika Bisht**, Senior Sustainable Design Reviewer, Boston Planning & Development Agency, on the recent changes to Article 37.

The July changes to Boston's Zoning [Article 37 \(Green Buildings and Net Zero Carbon standards\)](#), includes both requirements for Net Zero Carbon (NZC), which limits building operational GHG emissions to zero for most building types, lowering the applicability threshold for NZC to include small projects, and requirements for embodied carbon Life Cycle Analysis reporting for large projects.

[More Info](#)

MassDOT Highway Engineering Directive E-25-006 Issued 08/22/25

MassDOT Highway Division issued [Engineering Directive E-25-006, MassDOT Critical Finding Procedures to Comply with FHWA NBIS Regulation Requirements](#).

This Engineering Directive formally defines Critical Findings for bridges and provides standard procedures for identifying, reporting, addressing, resolving and documenting Critical Findings. These procedures are

- CDR Maguire Engineering
- CDW Consultants
- Fitzmeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- French & Parrello Associates
- GPI
- Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP
- GZA GeoEnvironmental
- Howard Stein Hudson
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- Stacey DePasquale Engineering

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effective immediately and shall be followed by bridge inspection personnel, bridge rating personnel, and other people who may be responsible for identifying and addressing Critical Findings.

?s regarding this Engineering Directive: **Thomas A. DiPaolo, P.E.,**
Assistant Chief Engineer, MassDOT – Highway Division

MBTA Capital Project Design Phase Guidelines - Effective Immediately

MBTA Capital Project Design Phase Guidelines provide guidance on the purpose and scope of the MBTA's standard design phases. They were published on July 15, 2025, but posted recently.

View and download the Capital Project Design Phase Guidelines

This document establishes standardized definitions and processes across design phases. Each phase outlines specific tasks, deliverables, and decision points to ensure project success. Direct Questions and feedback on this guidance to CDdesignphase@mbta.com

MBTA Upcoming Projects

Reservoir Lower Yard & Non-Revenue Track Request for Quals from MBTA

Professionals services for a Scope of Services includes, but is not limited to: Program Management (PM) and General Administration Services, Condition Assessments, Feasibility Studies, Design Phase Services, Construction Phase Services. [More Info](#)

The MBTA's virtual project briefing for the Reservoir Lower Yard & Non-Revenue Track Optimization Project is on **September 5, 2025, 10 AM on Teams**. Check announcement link above & scroll to the end of the document for connection info.

MBTA E Branch Accessibility and Capacity Improvements 15-100% Design RFQ

The MBTA is soliciting 15-100% design services for the E Branch Accessibility and Capacity upgrades project, creating accessible stations and a dedicated transitway on the E branch from Brigham Circle to Heath Street stations. [More Info](#)

16th Annual
ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament
Proceeds Benefit the ACEC/MA Education Corporation Presidents' Scholarship Fund

ACEC Massachusetts
Education Corporation

Monday, September 29, 2025

Ferncroft Country Club, 10 Village Rd, Middleton MA

9:30 AM Registration | 11:00 AM Shotgun Start | 5:00 PM Reception

ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament SOLD OUT
September 29, 9:30 AM, Ferncroft Country Club

Tournament Sponsor: Collins Engineers Inc.

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Birdie Sponsors: Beals and Thomas, CHA, Dawood, a Woolpert Company, Green International Affiliates, A Lochner Company, HNTB, MG+M The Law Firm, STV Incorporated



Sponsors listed on the [Registration Page](#). **Though Golf is Sold Out, sponsors are welcome to sign up until September 12!**

This fun annual event, including sponsorships, supports engineering & land surveying scholarships.



Presentation from ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum: MassDOT Highway Construction Safety Bills

ACEC/MA thanks **Neil Boudreau**, Assistant Administrator for Traffic and Safety, MassDOT - Highway Division, who discussed several important safety bills currently before the legislature at our August 26 hybrid briefing.

[Download his presentation](#)

[Legislative Alert: Ask Your Massachusetts State Legislators to Support H. 3763, S.2380](#)

ACEC/MA HR Forum: Massachusetts Wage Transparency September 24, 3 PM Zoom

A timely and informative session on the upcoming MA wage transparency law designed for HR professionals and firm leaders seeking to stay ahead of regulatory changes and foster equitable compensation practices across the A/E/C industry.

Open to employees of ACEC/MA Member Firms. If your firm is an ACEC/MA member, YOU are an ACEC/MA member.

[ACEC/MA HR Forum Registration for Zoom Info.](#)

MBTA Training on New Professional Services Invoice Template

The MBTA is requiring consultants to use this new invoice template for all new contracts. Existing contracts have a waiver until **January 1, 2026** to allow consultants time to transition data from the existing invoice template to the new format.

MBTA, in conjunction with ACEC/MA, will provide **one more 1-hour training sessions with Q&A on Zoom**. There is no charge for these sessions; they are open to any design professional firm working for the MBTA, but advance registration is required through ACEC/MA.

Sign up for the last scheduled training session:

November 12, 11 AM: [Information & Sign Up](#)

Board of Building Regulations & Standards Approves Resilience Technical Subcommittee, Seeks A/E Reps

BBS has approved a resilience technical subcommittee to support the discussions on the 11th edition of the MSBC. The MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs is seeking subject matter experts to be part of this subcommittee; **they asked ACEC/MA for recommendations for several roles.** This technical subcommittee will meet several times over 6 months, starting in fall 2025. We are still seeking candidates who are:

- Registered Architect with expertise in resilient design
- Professional Engineer with expertise in resilient design / Mechanical Systems

Candidates should be MA residents and licensed in MA.

If you are interested, send your credentials, including full home and work contact info. to [Abbie Goodman](#) by August 29.

Board of Building Regulations & Standards Seeks Mechanical Engineer

MA PE license & MA residency.

[More Info](#)

Government Affairs

FEDERAL NEWS

New Datums – New Coordinates – New Heights: In 2025, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and CO-OPS will release new, improved horizontal and vertical datums—the most significant update in decades to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). These changes will fundamentally redefine positional and elevation data across the United States. [ACEC National Online Program on 9/10.](#)

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

[President Trump Cancels \\$32 Million in Funding for Transportation Construction Materials for Massachusetts](#)

[Healey-Driscoll Administration Launches Nation-Leading Plan to Protect Nature and Wildlife](#)

[Healey-Driscoll Administration Appoints New DPU Commissioners Focused on Lowering Costs and Increasing Energy Supply](#)

Tracker on Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in Massachusetts compiled by Transportation for America [is here.](#)

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Comm (GAC) acts on bills impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E Community. GAC meets next on September 25, 10 AM in

person @ Aldrich Center @ The Engineering Center + Zoom. [Request Zoom Info for September 25](#)

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

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force - New Opps Now Posted

Opportunities & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying. **MA STEM Week is October 20-24; Geek is GLAM is October 11 in Worcester.**

[STEM Task Force Info](#)

ACEC Last Word Blog: News & insights on the Council & the industry

[ACEC Last Word](#)

Engineering Influence Podcasts

Subscribe to ACEC's Engineering Influence podcasts on [Podbean](#) and [YouTube](#) so you don't miss an episode.

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If you receive a call or email from something called the 'Massachusetts Transportation Annual' neither MassDOT nor ACEC/MA are supporting this alleged publication in any way.

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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 assigned username/password. Never use someone else's login info.

?s: Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551.

Links live 8/28/2025; Next issue: 9/4/2025

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman

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