

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

August 7, 2025

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ACEC/MA Rising Professionals Committee North Bank Bridge Walking Tour

August 21, 5 PM in Charlestown

This tour, led by **John Watters** of GPI, will highlight the North Bank Bridge and the bike/walking path from Charlestown to Cambridge and back.

John will discuss: Design and construction challenges; Project highlights and engineering features; Public space improvements; Park and connectivity to surrounding amenities.

Following the tour, the RPC will meet at The Patio at [Blackmoor Bar & Kitchen](#), Charlestown at about 6:15 PM for an informal RPC social gathering that will follow the tour.

Tour participation is limited to the first **25 ACEC/MA RPC members who sign up**. Register by August 14.

ACEC/MA's Rising Professionals Committee is for staff in our member firms who are age 35 and under. To sign up, you should be 35 or less as of December 31, 2025 and employed by an ACEC/MA Member Firm. [Join a Committee or Forum.](#)

[More Info & Registration for August 21](#)

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 Registration

September 29, 9:30 AM, Ferncroft Country Club

Tournament Sponsor: Collins Engineers Inc.

Eagle Sponsors: Dewberry, H&H, Mott MacDonald, Point5, Stantec

Birdie Sponsor: CHA, Dawood, a Woolpert Company, Green International Affiliates, A Lochner Company, HNTB

Additional sponsors on the registration page. More sponsors welcome!

Join us for this fun annual event supporting engineering & land surveying scholarships.

[ACEC/MA Education Corp Golf Tournament Registration](#)

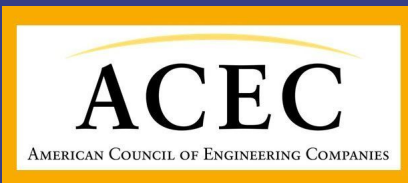
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**Events & Briefings
Calendar**

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ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum on MassDOT Highway Construction Safety Legislation

August 26, 2 - 3:30 PM

This ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum is a hybrid meeting. It is being held in person at Aldrich Center @ The Engineering Center in Boston and on Zoom.

In-Person Guest: **Neil E. Boudreau**, Assistant Administrator for Traffic and Safety, MassDOT - Highway Division

We'll focus on MassDOT's safety legislation bills, including H. 3763, S.2380 and why these bills are important for our ACEC/MA community, MassDOT staff and our contractor colleagues to support. Neil will discuss some of the safety issues that these bills are looking to address. We'll also discuss how people can support these bills.

Register online by August 22 to let us know whether you will attend this ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum in person or by Zoom. All ACEC/MA Members who sign up will receive Zoom information as a courtesy.

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

ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum Registration

ACEC/MA TALC August Meeting Features MBTA Updates

August 27, 12 Noon at Jacobs + Zoom, Meeting of ACEC/MA Transportation Agencies Liaison Committee (TALC).

Guests: **Chris Brennan**, Chief of Capital Delivery, MBTA, **Shaunna Jammal**, Deputy Chief Contract Services, MBTA, **Ryan Coholan**, Chief Operating Officer, MBTA, on Right of Way access for engineering firms, **Greg Skiba** on ACEC/MA's Rising Professionals Committee. **ACEC/MA is grateful to Jacobs for hosting this meeting and providing lunch to in person attendees.**

In Person Attendance is limited to 40 people total. An ACEC/MA Member Firm may send 1 person plus any ACEC/MA Board members or Partnering Committee members. All other participants will be able to attend on Zoom. ACEC/MA will send zoom information and meeting materials to ACEC/MA TALC separately.

[Register to attend this TALC meeting in person at Jacobs by August 21.](#)

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

Massachusetts Legislature Sends Expanded Chapter 90 Funding to Governor's Desk

On July 31, the Senate approved a \$1.185B proposal ([H 4307](#)) now with Governor as of 7/31/25: The bond package combines \$300M for one year of the Chapter 90 program with an additional \$885M for a road and bridge lifecycle asset management program, culverts, small bridges and congestion hotspots. Lawmakers carved out \$100M of the Chapter 90 funds to be distributed solely based on road mileage. She has 10 days to sign the bill or send it back to the legislature with any vetoes.



MBTA Training on New Professional Services Invoice Template

Beginning on July 1, 2025, the MBTA is requiring consultants to use this new invoice template for all new contracts.

Existing contracts will be given 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 **two more 1-hour training sessions with Q&A on Zoom**. There is no charge for these sessions and they are open to any design professional firm working for the MBTA, but advance registration is required through ACEC/MA.

Sign up for one of the training sessions:

August 13, 11 AM: [Information and Sign up](#)

November 12, 11 AM: [Information and Sign up](#)

From ACEC National

EFCG Peer Benchmarking Analysis: The best way to sharpen your competitive edge is to measure your firm against the competition. That's why ACEC is partnering with The Environmental Financial Consulting Group (EFCG) to offer members benchmarking analysis that identifies industry trends and needs so you can benchmark and grow your firm. [Click here](#) to learn more and participate so you can receive a summary presentation of the key metrics and takeaways from the survey results. Survey responses are due **August 15, 2025**.

From Katharine Mottley, ACEC National's Vice President, Tax and Workforce Policy: Now that the tax bill has been signed into law, our focus at ACEC has shifted to the regulatory process for implementing the law. We expect to see guidance at some point for the R&D amortization fix, and we know that Treasury is working on guidance for the presidential priorities such as no tax on overtime and no tax on tips.

One area where ACEC is continuing to advocate is on implementation of the phaseout of the Inflation Reduction Act renewable energy tax provisions. We engaged closely with Congress while the bill was moving through the legislative process, urging lawmakers to use a more gradual glidepath that reflects business investments. We had some success in this area but timelines for wind and solar, as well as the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction, are shorter than we would have liked.

This is an area that Treasury is closely scrutinizing. Days after signing the bill into law the President issued an [executive order](#) focused on tax benefits for wind and solar and directing Treasury and Interior to issue reports within 45 days. At the same time, key Senators are pushing Treasury to implement the law as they wrote it. ACEC will stay engaged in this important area.

I also want to alert you to an upcoming rulemaking related to H-1B visas. We saw a notice that DHS has drafted a proposed rule to weight H-1B visa applications and has sent it to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This is the last review that any proposed rule must go through before it is made public.

Stakeholders such as ACEC have the opportunity to meet with OIRA and agency staff to share our concerns before the proposed rule is released. We did that on August 4.

At this point in the regulatory process, the staff are not permitted to share information on the content of the proposed rule, so we do not know what kind of weighting the Administration will propose. One very likely possibility is that they will reissue the proposal they tried to enact in 2020 to issue H-1B visas based on highest compensation. That proposal was blocked through a legal challenge brought by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Anticipating that the new proposal could once again focus on highest compensation, in (the August 4) meeting we talked about the problems for engineering firms with this approach -- which we also discussed in our 2020 comment letter -- and that ACEC members would be disadvantaged compared to big tech companies. We also pointed out that our members generally work under contract with their clients, which do not have unlimited budgets. ACEC will submit a comment letter once the proposal is released.

One of the Administration participants was Janis Reyes with the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration. The Office of Advocacy is charged with making sure that federal agencies consider how their regulations affect small businesses. ACEC has worked with Janis and her colleagues on many different issues. Janis would like to hear from small engineering firms that have employed people using H-1B visas to better understand how potential changes such as weighting the allocation of H-1B visas on highest compensation would impact them. **If your firm is a small business (using the SBA size standard for engineering of less than \$25.5 million in gross receipts) that has used the H-1B visa system, please contact me at kmottley@acec.org.**

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

BBRS 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

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

[Governor Healey Launches DRIVE Initiative to Create Thousands of Jobs, Grow Research and Innovation Economy](#)

[Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces \\$182 Million for 1,245 New Rental Homes](#)

[MassDOT Launches Community-Driven Campaign to Curb Distracted Driving in Holyoke](#)

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 August 14, 10 AM on Zoom. [Request Zoom Info for August 14](#)

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

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force

Opportunities & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying. **Geek is GLAM on October 11 in Worcester is just one example.**

[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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Program Registration

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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 8/7/2025; Next issue: 8/14/2025

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman

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