

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

September 11, 2025

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ACEC/MA Day at UMass Lowell - September 18

September 18, 9:45 AM - 1:30 PM, in person

Register by September 12

Join us @ UMass Lowell to learn about their Mechanical & Electrical engineering programs, the Baseball Research Center, + the Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy.

Speakers: UMass Chancellor **Julie Chen**, **Patrick Drane** (Baseball Research Center), key mechanical and electrical faculty leaders, and Rist Institute senior leaders.

[More Info + Registration](#)



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](#), Virtual Info Session on 9/17, Entry Forms, & more for ACEC/MA's 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition.

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

[ACEC/MA Entry Form](#)

Breaking the Mold: One Firm's Journey to Becoming a "Design Collaborative" and Why It Matters

An article by ACEC/MA Affiliate Member [Richard Friedman](#), [Friedman & Partners](#)

It's not unusual for an AEC firm to re-examine and refine their mission, vision or even their core values on a regular basis. Many firms do this during their annual strategic planning process...[More](#)

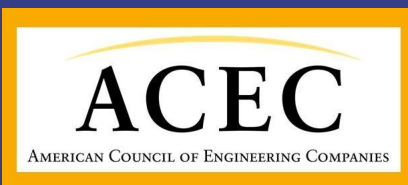
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Calendar**

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New MEPA Regs Proposed with SRP for Housing & Ecological Restoration Projects

On 9/9, MEPA proposed amendments to its regulations at 301 CMR 11.00 to streamline housing and ecological restoration projects. More information [here](#). MEPA proposes a Special Review Procedure (SRP) to govern reviews of urban renewal plans. This is proposed as an alternative to a regulatory change. Public comments on both proposals will be accepted until 10/31, with public hearings scheduled on October 14-15, 2025.

MEPA e-Filing Reminder: Effective July 1, 2025, use of the [MEPA e-Filing Portal](#) is now **mandatory**. This means that ENF, NPC and EIR filings made by email will be **rejected**. (Note: filings must be distributed in accordance with MEPA regulations including to MEPA@mass.gov).

More info, including a [user guide](#), is on the [MEPA website](#). Questions regarding MEPA e-Filing: contact MEPA@mass.gov.

MassDOT Highway Issues New RFR

On 9/10, MassDOT Highway notified us that they posted a new RFR for **Asset Management Support Services** with the [COMMBUYS](#) Bid Number: BD-26-1030-0H100-H001-120234. They posted two other RFRs last week, listed in our 9/4/25 ACEC/Matters.

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

Sept. 17, 9 AM, Zoom

BEC briefing with **Harshika Bisht**, Senior Sustainable Design Reviewer, BPDA, 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

ACEC National Technology Committee's 3 Part "Data + AI" Lunch & Learn Series Starts 9/22

ACEC's Technology Committee's *Data + AI* subcommittee presents a 3 part *Lunch & Learn* series to share and discuss the products being created by the three working groups. Each virtual session will cover a different set of topics, an overview of work done to date, and provide a forum for discussion.

First session: ***Standards for Use: Data Readiness on 9/22, 12:30 pm***

No charge for ACEC/MA Full Member Firms employees to participate. Online registration is through ACEC National; set up a login and password with ACEC.



ACEC/MA HR Forum: Massachusetts Wage Transparency

9/24, 3 PM Zoom

A timely & informative session on the upcoming MA wage transparency law designed for HR professionals & 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**. These sessions 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](#)

Government Affairs

FEDERAL NEWS

[ACEC Research Institute Q3 Report Insights: Engineering Optimism Surges to Record Highs, Backlogs Rebound](#)

[ACEC just issued its 2024–2025 Annual Report](#), showcasing how the Council is empowering impact across the nation. This year's theme – *Harnessing Disruption, Leading with Innovation* reflects ACEC's commitment to helping our members thrive in a rapidly changing world. Highlights: Advocacy wins that protect engineering businesses; Market intelligence offerings to help firms make smarter decisions; Workforce initiatives building the pipeline of future engineers; Innovation & community impact stories from across our Member Organizations

ACEC represents more than 5,000 firms and 600,000 talented, driven professional engineers innovating solutions that make communities stronger, safer, and more sustainable.

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 Unveils Nation-Leading Plan to Cut Environmental Regulations to Fast-Track Housing Development: Reforms will cut environmental review times from 1+ years to 30 days for housing projects to expedite housing and bring down costs

Healey-Driscoll Administration Launches New Grant Programs to Support Local Infrastructure Projects

Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Board of Trustees approves \$64.9M in new loans and grants at its September meeting

The **Dam and Seawall Program** is now part of the **Environment and Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop)**. The ECO One Stop consolidates multiple climate and environmental resilience grant applications into one streamlined process, allowing applicants to apply to multiple grants through a single application. The first grant round is anticipated to open in January 2026. [Learn more about the ECO One Stop here.](#) Expressions of Interest (EOI) due October 28, 2025.

Dam removal preliminary design services RFR now open. [Learn More and Apply Here by 10/1.](#)

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 - Autumn Opps Now Posted

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

Two new opps: Somerville High School visit on October 21 and Everett High School Field Trip on October 23 are now posted. **Is your firm able to get involved?**

STEM Task Force Info Leads for Firms

Board of Building Regulations & Standards Seeks Mechanical Engineer

MA PE license & MA residency.

More 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.

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 9/11/2025; Next issue: 9/18/2025

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman

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