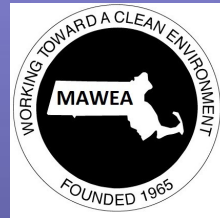


Engineers & Land Surveyors at the State House + Water's Worth It Day May 14, 2025

Information for
ADVANCE BRIEFING SESSIONS:
May 9, 12, 13, 2025



Engineers & Land Surveyors + Water's Worth It Day Overview

■ **Collaborative effort:**

- ACEC/MA, BSCES & MALSCE, MWWA, MWEA, MassHighway Association, coordinated by TECET Staff with help from ACEC/MA's advocates at Risky Partners.

■ **Inform** Massachusetts state legislators on issues important to the engineering, land surveying and municipal public infrastructure community

■ ***Promote or oppose*** certain legislation

■ ***Create bridges*** between our design professional and municipal public works & infrastructure community and your State Senators and State Representatives

Preparing for May 14

- **Review Issue Briefing Fact Sheets** — will be posted with link sent to you, for now: review draft versions sent to you
- **Read on-line bios of:**
 - Your State Senator <http://www.malegislature.gov/People/Senate>
 - Your State Representative
<http://www.malegislature.gov/People/House>
- **Bring your business cards** — write your hometown's name: "Resident of Burlington"
- **When you arrive at the State House, Room 428 - 4th Floor on May 14, you'll receive:**
 - Updated briefing packet with your appointments
 - A briefing packet for your legislators (or someone else in your district will have this.)
 - Continental Breakfast

Schedule for May 14 @ State House

9:30 AM Security, go to 4th Floor, Room 428

9:30-9:50 AM State House, Room 428

- Registration/Light Breakfast/Briefing Packets/Networking

9:50 - 10:30 AM

- Issue Briefing and Briefing with Senator Brendan P. Crighton

10:45 AM (Senate) and 11:30 AM (House)

- Scheduled meetings with your state legislators and staff in State House in their offices

12:15 PM

- Return any follow up materials to outside Room 428 and return to your office

Issue Briefing Fact Sheets

- Wipes Labeling Can Save Ratepayers \$;
Keep Waters Clean
- Meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Maximizing Private Sector Innovation

Wipes Labeling can Save Ratepayers \$; Keep Waters Clean

Support:

S.589/H.945 - *An Act protecting wastewater and sewerage systems through the labeling of non-flushable wipes* - *Sponsors: Senator James B. Eldridge, Rep. Sean Garballey, Rep. Steven Owens*

ISSUE

- Massachusetts sewers face roughly **\$10 million in annual** avoidable costs for clogs, fouled pumps and resulting sanitary sewer overflows. As the popularity of various wipes increases and users flush them, these costs will increase. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of wipes increased greatly, causing dangerous clogs and public health issues for sewer systems and workers.
- Since the early 2000s, wipes have been aggressively marketed as a replacement for toilet paper, mops, cleaning brushes and rags. This multi-billion-dollar industry has had disastrous impacts on local sewer systems.

Wipes Labeling can Save Ratepayers \$; Keep Waters Clean

KEY POINTS

This legislation targets only wipes and other products that are **NOT** flushable **according to industry**.

- Unlike toilet paper, wipes are not “dispersible” in normal sewer conditions.
- There is lack of consistency in labeling, and some wipes product labels have no information about disposal at all. This creates consumer confusion about the proper disposal of these products.
- Wipes Contain Plastic: Nearly all baby wipes, household cleaning wipes and cosmetic wipes have a significant amount of plastic in them. Plastic fibers are engineered for strength, and these wipes don’t break down, they rope together and create massive clogs that catch other debris.
- Wipes should be properly and clearly labeled.
- Similar bills are now law in California, Illinois, Oregon, and Washington.

Wipes Labeling can Save Ratepayers \$; Keep Waters Clean

ACTION REQUESTED — Clear Consumer Messaging

- We respectfully ask that the Legislature pass these bills to classify wipes, using wipes-industry standards as “non-flushable.”
- We ask that those wipes that do not meet industry standards for dispersibility have prominent, mandatory “Do Not Flush” labelling, following NACWA labeling guidelines.



Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Support HB 1022 / SB 563 An Act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future, Sponsored by Representatives Philips, Kilcoyne, Kushmerek, and Giannino and Senator Cronin

ISSUE:

- The Commonwealth and its municipalities face an impending water crisis created by antiquated infrastructure, a failure to adequately invest in maintaining existing water and sewer infrastructure, and new unfunded regulatory mandates.

BACKGROUND:

- We all depend on water infrastructure to provide clean and reliable water for the protection of public health and safety while enhancing economic viability and overall quality of life. The million miles of water pipes below our streets represent an enormous public asset largely built and paid for by earlier generations. Aging and failing water and sewer infrastructure threaten public health and safety by degrading water quality and compromising fire protection through reduced flow.

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

WHAT THESE BILLS WILL DO:

Implement recommendations made by the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission in 2012 to move us toward closing the funding gap. The bill provides:

- **\$200 Million Annually for General Water Infrastructure Grants**
 - Supports “bread and butter” upgrades like main replacements and tank repairs
- **\$138 Million for the Clean Water Trust**
 - Expands the Trust’s ability to issue 0% loans and incentives to improve affordability
 - Helps meet regulatory mandates under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act
- **\$78.5 Million for Sewer Rate Relief Fund**
 - Helps utilities manage rising costs and protect ratepayers
- **\$375 Million for HousingWorks Infrastructure Grants**
 - Enables communities to build the infrastructure needed to unlock housing growth
- **\$2 Billion for MWRA Expansion**
 - Connects new communities to a clean, resilient water system
 - Prioritizes areas with PFAS contamination and housing development potential

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

More: WHAT THESE BILLS WILL DO:

- **\$10 Million for Regional Water Supply Access**
 - Assists communities dealing with contamination or supply stress to access regional systems
- **\$10 Million for Climate Resilience Planning**
 - Funds climate adaptation planning, as now required by some wastewater permits
- **\$200,000 for Biohub Research**
 - Supports science-based study of biosolids and PFAS to inform future disposal policy

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

KEY POINTS:

Public Health Priority

- ◆ Prepares systems to meet new and emerging federal and state regulations
- ◆ Helps avoid delays in critical compliance that could put residents at risk
- ◆ Targets PFAS contamination, lead service line replacement, and CSO elimination

Smart, Equitable Investment

- ◆ Prioritizes disadvantaged communities and affordable housing growth areas
- ◆ Creates an Interbasin Transfer Review Commission to review a 40-year-old law
- ◆ Forms a Water Infrastructure Efficiency Task Force to review regulatory hurdles, as well as costs/feasibility for complying with regulatory requirements.

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Continued: KEY POINTS:

Workforce Development

- ◆ Provides grants to vocational and community college programs
- ◆ Supports training, recruitment, and succession planning in the water sector
- ◆ Helps build a diverse pipeline of water professionals

Why Support H.1022?

- ◆ Protects Public Health – ensures safe drinking water for all residents and a clean environment
- ◆ Reduces the Funding Gap – targets grants where they're needed most
- ◆ Supports Housing Development – supports the infrastructure needed for smart growth
- ◆ Builds Resilience – helps communities prepare for climate and regulatory shifts
- ◆ Strengthens Local Economies – through job creation, ratepayer relief, and infrastructure readiness
- ◆ Investing in water is investing in health, the environment, housing, jobs, and our future.

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Background:

- ♦ The 2012 report by the Massachusetts Water Infrastructure Finance Commission found that there is a significant gap between available funding and what is needed over the next 20 years to improve water-related infrastructure:
 - ♦ \$10.2 billion for drinking water;
 - ♦ \$11.2 billion for wastewater;
 - ♦ conservative estimate of \$18 billion for stormwater.
 - ♦ **These estimates do not consider more recent regulatory mandates to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), or removal of Lead Service Lines.**

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Additional Background

- The primary mechanism for funding water infrastructure projects is the State Revolving Fund, administered by the Clean Water Trust.
- Most of the BIL water infrastructure funding is being distributed through this process. The State Revolving Fund is a competitive loan program which may offer favorable incentives for certain communities in the form of lower interest rates or principal forgiveness, but primarily will need to be paid back by ratepayers.
- Many critical water infrastructure projects are not scoring high enough against higher priority PFAS projects to even access this funding.
- Maintaining our water infrastructure is a shared partnership between local, state, and federal governments. Our ratepayers need help!

Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- ♦ We request the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to advance this legislation (HB 1022 / SB 563) and support its passage during the current legislative session.

Water Infrastructure Investment Creates Jobs

Additional Resource to check out:

THE STATE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: A LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Watch this January 8, 2025 briefing hosted by Representative Jay Livingstone to gain insight into the Commonwealth's water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs, explore current funding challenges, and learn about upcoming legislative filings.

**Watch the recorded briefing
by scanning this QR Code**



Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

Support: Highest levels of funding proposed for Chapter 90, MassDOT and the MBTA

- Increased funding for transportation infrastructure in the FY26 Budget
- FY25 Supplemental budgets for transportation (H.4010)
- H. 53 An Act Financing Long-Term Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges.

Massachusetts' multi-modal transportation network, that includes our streets and highways, bridges, railroads, bike and pedestrian paths, transit, buses, and municipal fleets, is foundational to the economic wellbeing of the Commonwealth. Investments in this network are essential to support the safe and efficient transport of goods and people—a critical element to ensure resilience and stability in our economy and communities.

We support legislation and policies that provide the Commonwealth and its communities with the resources needed to ensure transportation infrastructure is well-maintained while supporting an effective and efficient transition to new energy sources.

We urge the Legislature to support:

- Targeted funding for road, bridge, sidewalk, path, and other transportation infrastructure maintenance, repair, and construction.
- Targeted funding for the MBTA: In November 2023, the MBTA's updated analysis of its State of Good Repair (SGR) Index, which measures the Authority's capital asset needs, was raised to \$24.5 billion.

Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

- Both the House's & Senate Ways and Means' FY2026 budgets include significant Fair Share Transportation funding for the MBTA, the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) and MassDOT. The House levels appear to be better.
- For the MBTA, their capital budget needs are increasing significantly in the years ahead to address a backlog of safety improvements, modernization projects, and climate resiliency needs.
- We support exploration of alternative revenue streams to offset lost gas tax revenue. For example, a **Road User Charge** may be an efficient means to replace the current gas tax.
- The MBTA and RTAs need a consistent and reliable funding stream to address long term investments in equipment and systems. Investment of general funds in public transportation systems is essential for the development and enhancement of our public transportation systems across the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

- **Transportation-focused workforce development**
 - From municipal DPW positions to staff engineers, laborers and operators, the Commonwealth is experiencing a shortage of skilled transportation-focused workers. Without significant investment in expanding this workforce, the Commonwealth and its municipalities will struggle to provide the workforce required to plan, design, construct and operate and maintain the transportation systems of the future.
- **Further, we support to upskilling existing workers and investing in workforce development to support the energy transition. Workers are needed to drive and maintain electric fleets and associated infrastructure. We must all work to ensure that the Commonwealth is investing in both human and physical capital.**

Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

ACTION REQUESTED

Support:

- ❑ Increased funding for transportation infrastructure in the FY26 Budget
- ❑ FY25 Supplemental budgets for transportation (H.4010)
- ❑ H. 53 An Act Financing Long-Term Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges - A multiyear increase to Chapter 90 funding, enabling municipalities to better plan and implement transportation projects.

Maximizing Private Sector Innovation

We Oppose 3 bills

- *S. 2181, An Act to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections, Senator Michael O. Moore (currently in Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight)*
- *S.2168, An Act relative to protecting the taxpayers of the Commonwealth, Senator Paul W. Mark (currently in Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight)*
- *H.3656, An Act to assure safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections, Representative Daniel M. Donahue of Worcester (currently in Joint Committee on Transportation)*

Maximizing Private Sector Innovation

- Engineering and Land Surveying community is essential in helping public agencies deliver services to taxpayers
- Represents more than 15,000 professionals in Massachusetts
- State and Municipal agencies need unique expertise, technical innovation provided by engineering firms
- Value to taxpayers since public agencies do not need to staff up for peak labor requirements; taxpayers only pay for the time on the project

Maximizing Private Sector Innovation

ISSUE

- The engineering industry has an essential role in helping state agencies and municipalities deliver services to taxpayers. From designing solutions to address congestion on roadways, ensuring continued access to safe drinking water, to putting green technologies to work to make industry and government more sustainable, engineering firms in Massachusetts are working to solve public policy challenges and improve the quality of life for residents.
- Eliminating private sector design engineer from performing construction inspections increases overall cost of project since it's the design engineer that's most familiar with the project
- Private firms still accountable to agencies and taxpayers – state oversees contracts, approves billings, perform audits, etc.

ACTION REQUESTED

- We urge legislators to oppose any bills or amendments that would prevent state agencies and municipalities from contracting out for professional engineering, land surveying, or related design services, construction phase engineering, inspections or testing services. Public agencies need the flexibility to determine how they will get this work done.

Tell Your Story

- Legislators remember your specific example
 - Based on your work experience or based on your experience as a resident of your community.

After your meetings:

- Report Back: Tell us about any issues that came up in your meetings needing follow-up
 - Follow Up Form & Survey Monkey Evaluation
- Send a thank you note or email to staffers and legislators with whom you met

A few other notes

- **Fact Sheets will be posted on**

www.acecma.org —

<https://www.acecma.org/about/news/engineers-and-land-surveyors-at-the-state-house-waters-worth-it-day-3751>.

- **Legislative Staff: Aides are important.** Treat aides just as you would your legislator, both as a matter of courtesy and because the aide truly is in a position to help.
- **Be brief;** be clear; be accurate; be persuasive; be timely; be persistent; be grateful
- If your plans change and you cannot attend: look for local office hours in your community!

QUESTIONS?