

# Engineers & Land Surveyors Day at the State House + Water's Worth It Day May 22, 2019

Information for  
ADVANCE BRIEFING SESSIONS:  
May 17, 20, 21



# Engineers & Land Surveyors Day Overview

- Collaborative effort of:
  - ACEC/MA, BSCES & MALSCE, coordinated by TECET Staff with help from ACEC/MA's advocates at Risky Partners.
  - In conjunction with staff and volunteers from: Mass. Water Works Association, MMA's Policy Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities; MMA's Policy Committee on Energy and the Environment, MassHighway Assoc., MWPCA, others
- Inform Massachusetts state legislators on issues important to the engineering & land surveying community
- *Promote or oppose* certain legislation
- *Create bridges* between individuals in engineering & land surveying community and your State Senators and State Representatives

# Preparing for May 22

- **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 the town name:  
"Resident of Groton"
- **When you arrive at the State House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Great Hall on May 22, 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 22 @ State House

**9 AM Security, go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Great Hall**

**9:10-9:25 AM State House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Great Hall**

- Registration/Light Breakfast/Pick up Briefing Packets/Networking

**9:25 - 10:15 AM**

- Issue Briefing and Briefing with a State legislator (TBA)

■ **10:30 AM (Senate) and 11:15 AM (House)**

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

**11:45 AM - 1:30 PM**

- **Start of Water's Worth It Day** - Be sure to register for this if you can stay, or return any follow up materials to Great Hall and return to your office

# Issue Briefing Fact Sheets

- Transportation Infrastructure
- Water Infrastructure
- Dig Safe
- Maximizing Private Sector Innovation



# Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

## *INVESTING TODAY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY, CONGESTION REDUCTION AND OUR FUTURE*

In addition to support for an increased state gas tax and more use of tolling, with revenues dedicated to transportation infrastructure, we support a pilot project for VMTs (Vehicle Miles Traveled)

And we support bills that help to provide:

- **Accessible, frequent, and fast public transit gets people to their destinations without contributing to traffic.**
- **Connected, well-maintained, and extensive roads, trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks encourage active transportation, health, and recreation.**
- **Making our entire transportation system safe, comfortable, and accessible for users of all ages, abilities, income, and travel modes leads to healthier and stronger communities.**

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### **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES**

- **Support: SB 2063 and HB 1039 (Senate Sponsor: Senator Brendan Crighton and House Sponsors: Representatives Jay Livingstone & Adrian Madaro** *"An act to reduce traffic and encourage shared rides"* and *"An act to reduce congestion and encourage shared rides "* codify a process for capturing increased value along transportation corridors for transit, roadway, and TOD development. This act would increase the current surcharge on Transportation Network Companies like Uber and Lyft, bringing Massachusetts into parity with other cities and states nationwide, and encourage shared trips in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility.

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# Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

## VALUE CAPTURE

**Support: HB3146, An Act Relative to Transportation Value Capture (Sponsor: Representative William Straus**

- This bill allows for the increased land value created by a transportation project to be used to fund that project directly. This is a tool not currently available in Massachusetts, but it is one that is used all across the country to finance transportation investments.

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BALLOT INITIATIVES

**Support: SB 1694 and HB 2653, An act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives (Senate Sponsor: Senator Eric Lesser; House Sponsors: Representatives Adrian Madaro and Andres Vargas**

- These bills would enable a municipality, or a group of municipalities as a district, to raise additional local money for transportation projects, operations, or transit-oriented development via ballot initiatives. A supplement to other state and federal transportation revenue, these funds would give voters a more direct role in the process and show a clearer correlation between revenue and transportation projects. In states that allow these initiatives, there is an average 70-80% success rate.

## LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**SB 1189, (Sponsor: Senator Adam Hinds and HB 1759: Representative Christine Barber**

**"An act to improve the local infrastructure development program"**

- These bills amend an existing provision that allows property owners to finance public infrastructure improvements with tax-exempt bonds. This update reduces approval thresholds from their current level of 100%, allows for greater role for municipalities in the creation and management of districts, and clarifies language to ensure investment prioritize smart growth principles.

# Massachusetts Transportation Infrastructure

- Support new revenue for transportation and arm infrastructure for climate change
- Continue to support the Financial Management Control Board as it works to improve business processes and develops a long-term plan for the T that efficiently uses its resources.
- Support a multiyear commitment of \$300 M/year for Chapter 90 funding, enabling municipalities to do longer term planning for capital needs.



# Water Infrastructure Investing in Our Future

- **Link to WIFC Report:** <https://files.engineers.org/file/WIFC-Report-F5D7.pdf>
- **Link to State Auditor Division of Local Mandates Report:** [http://bit.ly/Auditor\\_Water2017](http://bit.ly/Auditor_Water2017)
- The Commonwealth and its municipalities face an impending water crisis created by antiquated infrastructure and limited funding to invest in maintaining existing water and sewer infrastructure. Investment in water infrastructure creates more revenue through economic development and creates jobs.

# Water Infrastructure Investing in Our Future

## Actions:

- Support HB 769, An Act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development infrastructure (*Rep. Carolyn Dykema*) – *[In JENRA Committee]*
- *Support increased funding for water infrastructure, including HB 769, An Act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development infrastructure.*
- *Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 raised the state capitalization of the SRF program from \$88 million to \$138 million, but the legislature needs to appropriate the funding. The Act also provides access to less than 2% loans, 0% or even principal forgiveness if a project meets certain criteria. Please fully fund capitalization at \$138 million.*

## Note:

- We support other water infrastructure related bills this session, but we are focusing attention on May 22 these issues.
- We were also major proponents for the creation of the dam and seawall fund. Most of the dam funding has already been lent to projects – give any local examples.

# Dig Safe: For Public Safety and Efficiency

**Support HB 2815, An Act relative to public safety in excavation, Sponsored by Representative Antonio Cabral (D- New Bedford) plus other sponsors [ Bill in Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy] and**

**SB 1392, An Act relative to public safety in excavation, Sponsored by Senator Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn) plus other sponsors [Bill in Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security]**

## ISSUE

Professional Land Surveyors need to be able to gather accurate information on the location of underground utilities early in project design. Including accurate utility location information in the planning phase of a road, bridge, water or sewer or other project minimizes the hazards, cost, and work to produce the final project and helps to protect public safety. HB2815/SB1392 provides updates to the Dig Safe law [MGL c. 82, §§ 40, 40A-40E] that are endorsed by the Common Ground Alliance.

- Many public utility systems run underground through pipes and conduit. Identifying the location of these systems and abandoned pipes and conduit is an important step in the design and construction of infrastructure improvements. Current Dig Safe law does not fully reflect the current recommendations of the Common Ground Alliance. The Dig Safe Law needs to be updated for public safety and to prevent inconvenience to the public during construction.
- At the beginning of an infrastructure project, a PLS uses all reasonable means to obtain information about underground facilities in the area of the planned excavation. Unfortunately, the current Dig Safe law does not require Dig Safe to assist a PLS or PE with actual utility siting during the planning phase of the project, only once construction is about to begin. Planning and design may occur months before construction.

# Dig Safe: For Public Safety and Efficiency

- PLSs need to collect all available information from facility owners/operators early in planning to prepare as accurate a set of plans about existing conditions as possible. Having the list of utilities in the project area along with the markings from Dig Safe are becoming more important than ever before, as Dig Safe and the utilities have maps of existing, abandoned, and out-of-service facilities; cathodic protection and grounding systems; as-builts of facilities in the area if the maps are not current; proposed project designs; and schedules of other work in the area.

## KEY POINTS

- The addition of the term “Professional Land Surveyor” and its definition allows for the Dig-Safe law to be applicable for surveyors to obtain utility location information at the preliminary design phase for a facility, which would greatly assist the design and construction of the facility, including safety for workers as well as the general public.
- These bills will help land surveyors access Dig-Safe information earlier in a project, when the project is in preliminary design. Specific, accurate utility location information at the design phase of projects will promote more efficient design and construction of facilities and protect the general public, utility company assets and the lives of contractors. The proposed change to Section 40B makes this provision applicable to surveyors as well as excavators to ensure proper notice of the markings.

## ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- Support HB 2815, An Act relative to public safety in excavation in Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy] and
- SB 1392, An Act relative to public safety in excavation in Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security]



# Maximizing Private Sector Innovation - we OPPOSE 2 bills

Oppose: HB 2996, SB 1884 An Act to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections

- House Sponsor: Rep. Daniel Donahue, D-Worcester & co-sponsors; Senate Sponsor: Senator Michael O. Moore D-Millbury and co-sponsors)
- SB1884 in Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight; HB 2996 in Joint Committee on Transportation]



# Maximizing Private Sector Innovation - we OPPOSE 2 bills

- Engineering and Land Surveying community is essential in helping public agencies deliver services to taxpayers
- Represents more than 7,000 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.engineers.org](http://www.engineers.org) – will send link.**
- **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**



QUESTIONS?