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Dear ACEC/MA Member,
**Here's Your 10/7/21
ACEC/Matters**

STEM Task Force + HR Forum: STEM Starter Academy

10/7, 2 - 3 PM PM on Zoom



David Cedrone, Assoc. Commissioner, MA Department of Higher Education, + students from the [STEM Starter Academy](#), located at every Massachusetts community college. They are seeking partnerships with our firms through:

- Student Internships
- Career Awareness Programs with their student on campus or virtually
- Other opportunities

[Zoom Info Request](#)

ACEC/MA Board of Directors

ACEC/MA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Resource Page

Briefings & Events

Join a Committee or Forum

ACEC/MA DEI Forum

10/7, 3:30 - 5 PM on Zoom

During our last forum, we discussed the state's new workforce participation goal requirements for firms working on public sector projects. In addition to those goals, public sector clients continue to have goals for DBE or M/WBE participation. Primes are often asked about their Supplier Diversity Program when submitting a proposal.

How can ACEC/MA member firms help to promote the





Thank you 2021

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success of DBE programs? What challenges are DBE firms currently facing and how can primes better support them? What challenges are primes experiencing as they strive to meet the goals? Many firms may “graduate” from the DBE program (some already have); how does that impact both prime and DBE firms?

Join us to discuss the ins and outs, and trials and tribulations, with some of our local M/WBE firms. We anticipate engaging conversation with all ACEC DEI participants as we work to overcome potential roadblocks together.

[Zoom Info Request](#)

ACEC's Darr Provides Status Update on Infrastructure Bill Negotiations

By Linda Bauer Darr, ACEC President & CEO

Last weekend, the Senate approved by unanimous consent the one-month extension of federal surface transportation programs under the FAST Act, and the President signed the bill ([H.R. 5434](#)) into law. The legislation ends the furlough of thousands of US DOT employees and enables the continued reimbursement of State DOT expenditures and other important program activities. Federal-aid highway and transit funding is now set to expire on October 31. . [More >](#)

While the House is in recess for the next 2 weeks for a committee work period. lawmakers will negotiate behind the scenes to chart a path forward. ACEC will remain heavily engaged with our broad coalition of business, construction, and labor allies to secure passage of the infrastructure bill. You can still access our [Action Alert](#) to contact your US representative and ask them to support a final vote on the bill.

AI Engineers, Inc.
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 Associates, Inc
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 Engineering (SDE)
 STV
 Triunity, Inc

ACEC Seeks Clarification on Vaccination Mandate for Federal Contractors

ACEC National reached out to US DOT to request clarification on the question of whether the vaccination mandate for federal contractors would apply to **State DOT** or other local agency contracts that include federal transportation funds.

According to the US DOT general counsel's office, **if the source of the funding is from a federal grant, the Executive Order vaccine mandate for contractors does not apply. But if the source of the funding is from a US DOT contract, e.g. a firm contracting directly with FHWA Federal Lands Highway or with FTA for project management oversight services, then the EO vaccine mandate will apply.** At press time for this issue of ACEC/Matters, MassDOT, MBTA and other transportation agencies have not yet announced their requirements. In addition, OSHA regulations are still in development.

Additional information:

Late on 10/1/21, the FAR Council issued the expected contract clause that will impose the previously issued **Safer Federal Workforce Taskforce (SFWTF) Guidance's** requirements on contractors and subcontractors, as well as a memorandum providing guidance to agencies regarding its implementation. The new clause and memorandum to agencies are available [HERE](#). Several agencies have taken action to implement EO 14042, issuing class deviation letters listed [on this page](#) to contracting officers for DoD, GSA, DHS and other agencies. . [More >](#)

Reminder, with agencies now acting to implement EO 14042, ACEC holds a webinar on EO 14042 and how it may impact your firm and its work on **October 11, 1:30 – 3 PM EST: [Registration info >](#)**



[ACEC Last Word blog:](#)
 News & insight on the
 Council & the A/E/C
 Industry + [Blog with
 ACEC.](#)

ACEC/MA Forums & Committees

Open to All Members

If Your Firm is an
[ACEC/MA Member](#),
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 Member.**

Information Systems (IS) Forum

10/14, 12 Noon - 1:30 PM on Teams

State of cybersecurity in the engineering industry and commonalities in organizations that experience compromises. . . [More >](#)

[Teams Info Request for ACEC/MA](#)

Accounting & Finance Forum

10/21, 11 AM - 12:30 PM on Zoom

ACEC's new Peer Benchmarking Program with EFCG and sharing local benchmarking data gathered by DGC.

Speakers:

- **Rebecca Zofnass**, Managing Partner, EFCG Environmental Financial Consulting Group
- **Marie Ternieden**, Senior Vice President, Business Resources and Education, ACEC
- **Nick Tamvakis**, Principal in DGC's A/E Practice, co-chair of ACEC/MA A&F Forum with Jackie Weir of BDO

[Zoom Info Request for ACEC/MA](#)

Government Affairs

State Needs Rural Rescue Plan, Auditor Says; Recommends New Agency To Oversee Municipal Building Construction: As the Legislature zeroes in on plans to spend billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief funding, Auditor Suzanne Bump calls for a "rural rescue plan" that would help the more than 100 mostly small communities in western Massachusetts pay to **upgrade roads, bridges, and municipal buildings**. . . [More >](#)

[Full Study](#)

Join ACEC/MA's Building Engineering Committee on 10/20/2021 @ 3 PM as we meet with State Senator Walter Timilty to discuss bills filed this session that would create a Municipal Building Authority. . . [More >](#)

MBTA GM Poftak Flags More Work Ahead on MBTA Safety Front; Federal Aid Providing Lifeline During Pandemic. . . [More >](#)

New Ordinance To Squeeze Emissions From Boston's Largest Buildings; [Boston's updated Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance \(BERDO\)](#) sets requirements for large buildings. The goal is to reduce their emissions gradually to net zero by 2050. They also need to report their energy and water use data to the City annually.

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Comm (GAC) reviews bills impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E community.

Next GAC Meeting = 10/22 @ 10 AM on Zoom

[Join ACEC/MA Government Affairs Comm](#)

ACEC Fall Conference

October 27- 30, 2021

JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort, FL

#ACEC2021FL

New COVID Protocols in Place

[More Info >](#)

Program Registration:

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Links live 10/7; Next issue 10/14/21

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