

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

November 2, 2023

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ACEC R&D Amortization Update

This week, ACEC launched its campaign to fix R&D amortization with an [action alert](#) and other promotional materials. We're asking you to contact your Members of Congress **again**. The focus of the message is the need for congressional action before the end of the year.

ACEC also launched a website, [Protect Engineering Innovation](#), and an ad appearing in some targeted markets.

R&D amortization isn't just a problem for big companies. 58% of engineering firms surveyed by the ACEC Research Institute indicated they conduct R&D spending. Among those impacted, the average will be a loss of nearly \$1.5 million (median loss of \$400,000). Source: [ACEC Research Institute 2023 Q4 Engineering Business Sentiment Survey](#).

We need to make sure that R&D amortization is a top priority for Congress: send a letter to [your US House Representative](#). Even if your Member of Congress has cosponsored the House and Senate repeal bills, we need ACEC members to reach out again and stress the urgency of Congress fixing R&D amortization now. ACEC makes it very easy for you.

Here is the [Full list of US House co-sponsors](#) to date. Contact [Abbie Goodman](#) if you have any questions.

ACEC/MA Leaders Meet with Governor Healey's Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure Quentin Palfrey

On October 27, 2023, ACEC/MA's Board of Directors, Government Affairs Committee (GAC) and other firm leaders met with [Quentin Palfrey](#), Governor Maura Healey's Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure, as well as [Roger Brunelle](#), Senior Advisor for Labor and Workforce Engagement, in the Massachusetts Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO).

[More Info](#)

ACEC/MA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commitment Award

Applications Due January 12, 2024

This award honors a firm's ingenuity, leadership, and commitment to advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the profession.

[More Info](#)

- Sanborn Head & Associates
- SLR International Corporation
- Stacey DePasquale Engineering
- STV
- The LiRo Group
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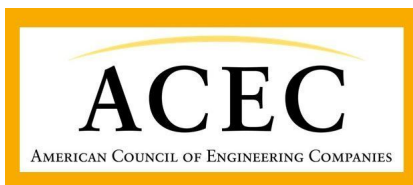
ACEC/MA Board of Directors FY2024

ACEC/MA Forums & Committees

ACEC/MA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Events & Briefings Calendar

Join an ACEC/MA Committee or Forum



MassDOT Highway Plan Preparation Guidelines for Consultants Preparing Right-of-Way Plans

Issued October 2023; Shared with ACEC/MA TALC on 11/1/2023.

New Guidelines

MassDOT Highway project development tools: Updated Project Scoping Checklist Posted October 2023

Shared with ACEC/MA TALC on 11/1/2023.

Download the new MassDOT Project Scoping Checklist from the [MassDOT Highway project development tools webpage](#).

Risk Management Forum: Davis-Bacon Update

ACEC National worked with outside counsel **Andy Martone** of Hesse Martone, an employment law expert and counsel to ACEC-Illinois, on [this Davis-Bacon memorandum](#) that covers questions related to survey crews, inspectors, and material testers. It also provides general guidelines for whether Davis-Bacon covers employees. The Davis-Bacon Update took effect on October 23, 2023.

More Info

Government Affairs

FEDERAL NEWS

[Protect Engineering Innovation](#)

R&D Tax Change Threatens America's Engineering Firms

[Take Action](#): ACEC member action is needed to urge their Representative and Senators to support immediate action in Congress to repeal the R&D amortization requirement

[Our R&D Advocacy Goes National](#)

10/31/23 Blog post originally delivered via email to ACEC members from Council President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr as part of her weekly email column.

[From Automation to Innovation: The Role of AI in Engineering Firms](#)

STATE NEWS

[MBTA Successfully Completes Expedited Critical Track Work On Red Line Ashmont Branch And Mattapan Line, Removes All Speed Restrictions](#)

[Legislature considers emissions cuts in large buildings](#) (9/29/23 Press Release about the Better Buildings Act (H.3213, S.2178))

[Jeffrey Shapiro Making Imprints As New Inspector General](#)

[MassDOT Highway Division Issues Updates to Project Development and Design Guide \(PDDG\)](#)

Updated Chapters of PDDG as of 10/18/24: 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13 [Revision History](#)

The purpose of the Project Development and Design Guide (PDDG) is to define the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division's project development process and guide the planning and design of transportation projects. The PDDG's intended audience includes planners, designers, practitioners, and decision makers.

The previous edition of the PDDG, published in 2006, expanded MassDOT's framework for incorporating context-sensitive design and multimodal elements into transportation improvement projects. This new edition of the PDDG expands on those elements and formally incorporates process changes and guidance revisions that have occurred since 2006. MassDOT is actively updating the 2006 edition's content and modernizing the PDDG to a web-based format to aid the ease and regularity of future updates. Updated chapters are published in this new web-based format. For chapters currently undergoing updates, the 2006 edition is temporarily posted to that chapter's web page.

[ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Committee \(GAC\) Acts on Bills Impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E Community.](#)

[Join ACEC/MA GAC on 11/16/23](#)

[Seeking a Professional Engineer](#)

The Designer Selection Board (DSB) **seeks 1 PE** for the Board.

[Read](#)

[STEM Task Force Opportunities](#)

Opportunities & Resources for your firm to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying

[More Info](#)

[STEM Starter Academy](#)

Technical Students for Entry Level Roles in Your Firm from Massachusetts Community Colleges

[More Info](#)

[LAST WORD](#)

The ACEC Last Word Blog: News and insights on the Council and the industry

ACEC Last Word

Engineering Influence Podcasts

Here are the [Top 10 Engineering Influence Podcasts](#) for October 2023.

Make sure to 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 Webinars & 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 11/2/23; Next issue: 11/9/23

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman and Megan Alper

ACEC/MA is supported by [The Engineering Center Education Trust](#) staff.

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Tel: 617-227-5551 | Fax: 617-227-6783 | Email: acecma@engineers.org

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