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# ACEC/Matters - News from ACEC/Massachusetts

Dear ACEC/MA Member,  
**Here's Your 7/8/21 ACEC/Matters**

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**We're sending Dues Invoices for FY2022 to Firm Representatives this week.** We are grateful for your firm's prompt payment of ACEC/MA membership dues so we can focus on advocacy, leadership education, programs, and other work on your behalf, **Thank you!**

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**Save the Date: September 30, 2021**  
We're planning an **in-person Engineering Excellence Awards Gala for 2020 + 2021 Projects and other Awards. More info soon!**

## ACEC Updates on PPP Loans / FAR Credits Clause Issue

**As of 7/6/2021 From ACEC National's President & CEO Linda Bauer Darr:**

On July 3, 2021, the US House passed the \$720B [INVEST in America Act](#) (H.R. 3684) which includes a five-year \$592B surface transportation reauthorization, \$54B for clean water infrastructure, and \$105B over 10 years for drinking water infrastructure and the replacement of lead service lines.

We strongly supported the bill as it is both a transformative measure and a vital step towards our goal of passing comprehensive infrastructure legislation this year.

We also won a partial fix to the PPP/FAR credits clause issue in the bill, limiting the FAR credit to federal dollars in contract payments and thereby preventing state DOTs from applying the FAR provision to state-funded contracts.

Click [here](#) to learn how you can take action on the credits clause.

Passage in the Senate isn't a slam-dunk by any stretch. The deal is already getting pushback from both ends of the political spectrum, either for being too expansive or not expansive enough. Perhaps anticipating a lengthy debate,



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Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the Senate will focus on infrastructure throughout July.

ACEC will be party to these discussions, continuing to make the case that our nation needs this generational investment in the built environment.

The [ACEC Infrastructure Scenarios Impact on Forecast report](#), which was released last week, will bolster the case for putting our industry to work designing the future. The report estimates that the Senate bipartisan agreement would create more than 82,000 full and part-time jobs in engineering and design services and generate \$62B in A/E industry wages, and the sector would add \$75B to GDP. Overall, the proposal would lead to a 6% average annual increase in engineering and design services sector activity over the next six years, pushing annual output from \$352B in 2021 to \$416B by 2026.

Please reach out to your US Senators and urge their support for passage of a robust infrastructure package and a fix to the PPP/FAR credits clause issue by amplifying ACEC's Advocacy Campaign to Resolve PPP/FAR Credits Clause Issue in Congress.

And now all eyes turn to the Senate. Administration officials and a bipartisan group of Senators are drumming up support for a compromise [\\$1.2T infrastructure package that includes \\$579B in new funding above the current budget baseline](#).

The Senate proposal is just a two-page framework and will require a lot of work to transform it into legislation. Transportation reauthorization will almost certainly be a major component, with measures already approved by the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and the Commerce Committee combined with yet-to-be-released transit provisions. We're talking with Senate staff to determine how the other pieces of the compromise deal—

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Engineering (SDE)  
STV

energy, broadband, and resilience—would come together in the package.

The unifying theme of the campaign is that engineering firms shouldn't be singled out and penalized for acting in the best interests of their employees and clients.

The campaign includes traditional and social media placements from ACEC and our allies, spreading the message about PPP fairness to the audiences that matter to our industry.

**You can amplify this campaign in the campaign at [www.acec.org/ppp](http://www.acec.org/ppp). On the website, you will find an email template to send to members of Congress, a **Twitter template** to tweet out a message of support with the hashtag **#PPPFairness**, and a template for a letter to the editor to send to your local paper. **Let them know what this issue means for your business.****

**Join us.** Our ability to convince Members of Congress to act on this issue depends on telling them why it is so critically important to firms. There is no better advocate than a constituent, especially a constituent business owner. Visit ACEC's campaign website at [www.acec.org/ppp](http://www.acec.org/ppp). If you need assistance, contact [Abbie Goodman](#) for resources to make your voice heard.

**Together, we can make a difference and fix the FAR once and for all.**

[Read more about the Issue >](#)

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## ACEC/MA IS Forum

7/14/21, 12 Noon on Teams

Topic: **Hybrid Work Environments** + open forum to any IS other topics of interest.

For Teams Info: Contact [ACEC/MA](#), and we'll forward Teams information from IS Forum Co-Chair Andres Repetto, (Nitsch Engineering).

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This Forum is open to all ACEC/MA Members. If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, YOU're an ACEC/MA member.



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

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## Government Affairs

**FY2022 Budget Negotiations Still Underway ...[More on our ACEC/MA FY2022 Budget Resource Page...>](#)**

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**Discuss the Issues with your Massachusetts State Legislators This Summer**

**Engineers & Land Surveyors Virtually @ the State House** or in person in your home district is a great way to build bridges to your State Senator and State Representative, based on where you live and vote....[More >](#)

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### [Map Displays Municipal ARPA Breakdown](#)

You can get a better sense of how much federal aid is being distributed to Massachusetts municipalities through an interactive map the Baker administration launched June 23. The map displays the breakdown of the \$3.4B in aid that the American Rescue Plan Act provided to local cities, towns, and counties through the new Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The website hosting the map also includes information on the distribution process and the authorized uses of the ARPA money. Included within the \$3.4B for local governments is \$2B specifically for municipalities -- \$1.7B of which is being provided directly to 38 cities based on the federal government's "metropolitan city" designation. The remaining 313 smaller cities and towns will get a piece of \$385M in aid to be distributed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance based on population. The Baker administration received the first half of that money on May 28 and opened the process for municipalities to obtain their shares on June 1. Each city or town's money will be

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## [COVID-19 Resources & Guidance](#)

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distributed by the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services through the same process used for local aid from the state. (Source: State House News Service)

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**ARPA Funding Resource Page for ACEC/MA Members**

The legislature and the Baker-Polito Administration continued work on the process for allocating nearly \$5.2 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, as the legislature overrode the Governor's veto on 6/22 to sweep most of the money into the Legislature's COVID-19 Relief Fund while giving Baker "some latitude around \$200 million" and "a lot of latitude in things that need immediate need." ... [More >](#)

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From the ACEC Last Word Blog: [ACEC Issues Statement of Support for Bipartisan Agreement on Infrastructure](#)

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**ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Committee (GAC)** reviews bills impacting our Engineering / PLS / A/E community.

**Next GAC Meeting = 7/23/21 @ 8 AM on Zoom**

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



**Announcing the FY2022 ACEC/MA Board of Directors**

Dennis Baker, WSP (FY2021 ACEC/MA President) accepts thanks for service from Scott Miller, Haley Ward (FY2022 ACEC/MA President)

During our recent Annual Celebration at Worcester's new Polar Park, we celebrated our FY2021 and FY2022 Boards of Directors and our Committee and Forum co-chairs in person. Now is a great time to [join an ACEC/MA Forum or Committee](#), as we plan for the new fiscal year.

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## Program Registration:

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- **Never use someone else's login info**
- **Need help? Contact [acecma@engineers.org](mailto:acecma@engineers.org) or 617-227-5551; Use a registration form for more than 1 person**

Links live 7/8/21; Next issue 7/15/21

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Sean McShane + Abbie Goodman

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ACEC/MA is a Member Organization of the [American Council of Engineering Companies](#) (ACEC) in Washington, DC.



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