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ACEC/Matters - News from ACEC/Massachusetts

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ACEC Fall Conference

October 27- 30, 2021

JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort, FL

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Government Affairs

MEPA Advisory Committee to Include Four ACEC/MA

Leaders: Thank you to the four ACEC/MA Members who volunteered so quickly after they received their **ACEC/Matters** last Thursday to help with the MEPA Advisory Committee. They bring a variety of subject matter expertise to this work. They are: **Mary Ellen Eagan** (HMMH), **David Hewett** (Epsilon Associates), **Jeff Malloy** (BSC Group) and **Kevin Walsh** (Stantec).

[Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Announces Leadership Transition](#)

Governor Baker Urges Lawmakers To Move On Climate Projects

From State House News Service: Available federal resources create an opportunity for Massachusetts to undertake "transformational" work on climate and environmental issues, Gov. Charlie Baker said on August

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31 as he again pitched his plan for spending a portion of the state's American Rescue Plan Act allocation.

Visiting Easthampton to announce the latest round of awards through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, Baker brought up the bill he filed in June to spend \$2.9B in ARPA money on what he identified as urgent priorities, including \$1B for "critical infrastructure initiatives to deal with environmental challenges."

Of that \$1 billion, Baker said, \$300M would go to climate-resilient infrastructure.

Baker's bill ([H 3922](#)) remains before the House Ways and Means Committee. In July, the committee's chairman, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, and his Senate counterpart, Sen. Michael Rodrigues, launched a series of hearings to help them determine how to spend the state's ARPA money.

In September, the legislature plans to hold at least four more hearings, including such topics as economic development, transportation, arts, and tourism, climate and infrastructure. If you have particular issues that ACEC/MA should advocate for during the ARPA hearings, please contact [Abbie Goodman](#).

Podcast: ACEC's Hall on Infrastructure and the
PPP/FAR Credits Clause

On the ACEC Government Affairs Update podcast, ACEC Senior Vice President for Advocacy Steve Hall talks about the path forward for infrastructure legislation and a fix for the PPP/FAR credits clause...[More >](#)

Podcast: AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker
Discusses the ABI and the Economic Outlook

On the latest Private Markets Update podcast, AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker and ACEC Vice President for Private Markets Resources Erin McLaughlin discuss the Architecture Billings Index (ABI) and his forecast for the

design services industry...[More >](#)

Waiting for late September: On 8/24/21, the US House of Representatives approved a procedural resolution that provided, among other things, that the House will vote on approval of the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by September 27** at the latest. [More >](#)

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

Next GAC Meeting = 9/17 @ 10 AM on Zoom

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

PPP Loans / FAR Credits Clause

Like many other important amendments, the provision address PPP loan forgiveness and FAR credits was not able to move forward in the Senate version of the Federal Infrastructure bill that passed on August 10. ACEC is looking at options for the final bill and other vehicles. We still need ACEC member engagement to bolster the case.

[Contact Your US Representative and Senators](#)

[More >](#)

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Links live 9/2; Next issue 9/9/21

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Sean McShane + Abbie Goodman

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