



Dear ACEC/MA Member,  
**Here's Your 12/24/20 ACEC/Matters**  
  
**Best Wishes for Joyous Holidays and a Bright, Healthy & Exciting 2021.**



### Making New Connections- a Designer Partnership Virtual Engagement Meet-up

January 7, 10 AM - 12 Noon on Zoom

**This session is open to all design and related consultant firms. Advance Registration Required**

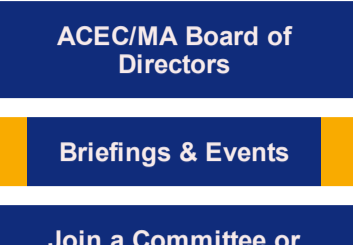
**RSVP by January 4** to receive join information for this virtual meeting. This information will be included in your confirmation email. There is no fee to participate in this session.

Hosted by BSA, BosNOMA and ACEC/MA, this is about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - an opportunity for design firms applying for Public Vertical Planning, Design and Construction projects to work with agencies either as prime or sub consultants to come and meet each other and explore how you will partner with each other on future projects.

**Participating Agencies:** DCAMM, DHCD, and the Designer Selection Board (Charter Schools) - our list will be updated as others are added.

**Important Note:** Be sure your firm has a profile on the DSB's Autocene platform before January 7. [See this DSB site for more info.](#)

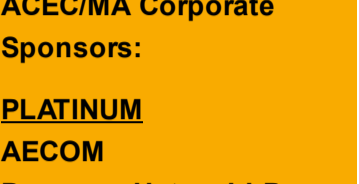
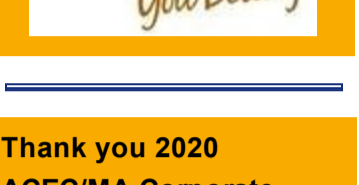
**Virtual Meetings:** Prime firms and subconsultants will sign up in advance to meet with each other for 15-minute time slots. Registrants will be notified of participating firms prior to the event and will be set up in break out rooms for 15-minute time slots. The Designer Selection Board, DCAMM and DHCD will also be in informal break-out rooms to chat and there will be an open "virtual lobby" for hanging out in between sessions.



ACEC/MA Board of Directors

Briefings & Events

Join a Committee or Forum



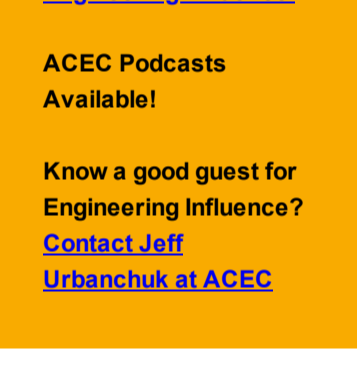
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Feedback Welcome

### ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum

**On 12/21, our Health & Safety Forum held a discussion on Covid-19 Safety issues and vaccinations.** You can view a recording of the session [here](#).

### ACEC/MA TALC News

For our **Transportation Agencies Liaison Committee:**

**MassDOT issue a new Project Initiation Directive:** MassDOT Highway Division has issued a Revised Standard Operating Procedure for initiating new projects, [SOP No. HED-08-02-1-000](#), effective December 11, 2020. This revision updates and replaces the previous version of this SOP, issued in September 2008.

The revised SOP incorporates various changes that have occurred at MassDOT since 2008, most notably the development and use of the Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) for identifying and initiating new projects. The new procedure also reflects changes to the Project Need Form and Project Initiation Form that were originally implemented as part of the 2006 Project Development and Design Guide, and changes to the MassDOT project review and approval process that have occurred since the SOP was previously issued.

Finally, the revised SOP contains a new, formal procedure for deactivating projects that do not advance after approval. This procedure will allow MassDOT to more accurately measure and plan future advertising programs by removing inactive projects from its database. [More Information >](#)

### Scholarship Opportunities

**ACEC/MA Education Corp. Scholarship - Due 1/29/21:** Several scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year... [More >](#)

### ACEC 4-Session Online Course on Diversity & Inclusion

**Strategies for Developing a Respectful, Diverse, and Inclusive Workplace Culture: January 25 - February 19, 2021.** [More >](#)

### Government Affairs

**COVID-19 Relief and Consolidated Appropriations Act Summary of Key Provisions (December 21, 2020) from ACEC National Staff.**

Congress approved this \$900B relief package on 12/21. On 12/23, President Trump signaled he would not sign the bill if Congress doesn't amend the legislation by raising the \$600 stimulus checks to \$2,000. While House Democrats publicly expressed support for this increase in stimulus checks, it is unclear whether the Senate will take action. We continue to monitor this situation.

While ACEC and our members with PPP loans are disappointed that the FAR Overhead Credit issue was not addressed in the COVID relief package, ACEC is still working hard on this issue. This work will continue into 2021. Stay tuned.

**Three States and DC Sign Onto MOU for Transportation Climate Initiative:** Twelve states and Washington, D.C. began the process more than 2 years ago of developing a regional "cap-and-invest" program to reduce carbon pollution from cars and trucks and generate the resources needed to expand clean transit options and improve public health. On 12/21/20, the Governors of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and the Mayor of Washington, D.C. signed on as the program's initial members.

TCI would set a limit on vehicle emissions, and hold auctions for fuel suppliers that transport gasoline into Massachusetts and other states to purchase allowances for every ton of carbon dioxide that the fuel they are carrying would emit when burned.

The coalition settled on a carbon emission reduction target of 26% by 2032, which could add an estimated 5 to 9 cents to the price of a gallon of gas, according to officials involved in the effort. The program is expected to generate annual proceeds for the participating governments that could exceed \$366M by 2032. That money would be reinvested into low-carbon transportation initiatives, clean energy and public health improvements.

**FY2021 MA Budget:** On 12/23, the House continued work on overriding some of Gov. Baker's vetoes of parts of the FY21 Budget passed by the legislature... [More >](#)

**ACEC/MA's GAC reviews bills impacting our Engineering / PLS / A/E community.**

Next GAC Meeting = 1/22/21 @ 10 AM on Zoom [Join ACEC/MA Government Affairs Committee](#)

### COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for ACEC/MA Members

Fearing that the holiday season could fuel an explosion of COVID-19 cases that the state's health care system would not be able to handle, Gov. Charlie Baker on 12/22 announced new restrictions that seek to limit the number of people in most businesses, public spaces, and private homes for at least two weeks after Christmas.

Starting 12/26 and running until at least noon on 1/10, restaurants, movie theaters, performance venues, casinos, offices, places of worship, retail businesses, fitness centers, health clubs, libraries, golf facilities, driving and flight schools, arcades, museums, and "sectors not otherwise addressed" must limit their customer capacity to a maximum of 25%. [More on this emergency order.](#)

### ACEC/MA Member Briefings, Forums & Committees

Open to All Members: **If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, YOU're an ACEC/MA Member.**

[Join an ACEC/MA Committee or Forum](#)

[Upcoming Member Briefings + Committee/Forum Meetings](#)

### Program Registration:

*\*If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, YOU're an ACEC/MA member. Receive Member Rate for Webinars: Register with [your INDIVIDUAL assigned username/password.](#)*

- 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

ACEC/Matters Links live 12/24; Next issue 12/31

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Meghan Jones + Abbie Goodman

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