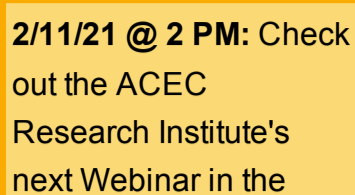




ACEC/Matters - News from ACEC/Massachusetts

Dear ACEC/MA Member,
Here's Your 2/4/21 ACEC/Matters



2/11/21 @ 2 PM: Check out the ACEC Research Institute's next Webinar in the **Future of Engineering Roundtable Series: Sustainability and Renewables in a Post-Pandemic World**
[Register](#)

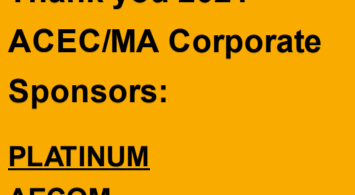
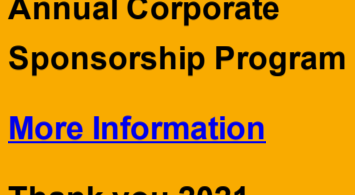
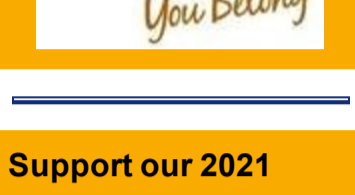
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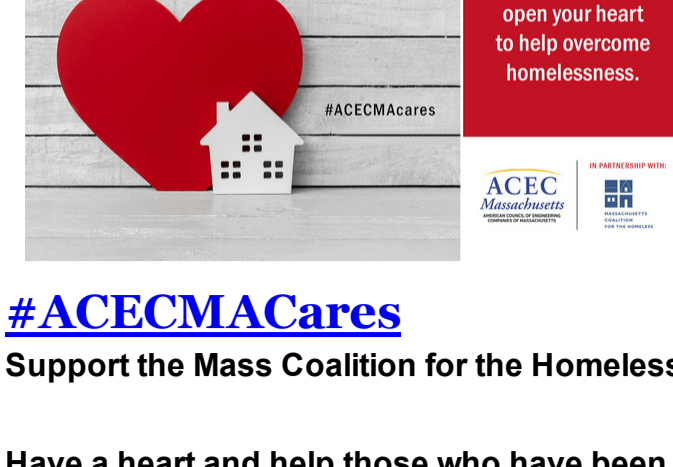
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[ACEC Last Word blog](#): News & insight on the Council & the A/E/C Industry + [Blog with ACEC](#).

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Support the Mass Coalition for the Homeless by 2/28/21

Have a heart and help those who have been severely impacted by COVID-19. Join ACEC/MA in supporting the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by February 28, 2021. [DONATE TODAY](#) and you can help make a difference for those who need a place to call home! [More >](#)

ACEC/MA Hosts A/E/C Industry Briefing with Massport's Luciana Burdi

On 1/28/2021, ACEC/MA organized a Zoom Briefing with **Luciana Burdi, Director for Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs for Massport**, on her vision and values for Massport Capital Programs. We co-hosted this session with AIA MA, WTS Boston, CMAA and BSCES. ICYMI, here's a [pdf of Luciana's presentation](#)

ACEC BIT Webinar: How Will the Covid-19 Vaccine Change Your Firm in 2021?

2/11, 2 PM Eastern

Learn more about the legal aspects of the Covid-19 Vaccine for your firm via a no-cost 45 minute [ACEC BIT Webinar: How Will The Covid-19 Vaccine Change Your Firm in 2021?](#)

ACEC Research Institute's 2020 Engineering Industry Economic Contribution

[Download the Study](#)

2/3/21: The ACEC Research Institute shared its latest research: The [2020 Engineering Industry Economic Contribution](#). Part of its Industry Impact Series, this study measures the indispensable partnership between engineering, architects and other related professional services while telling the full story of the engineering industry's economic contribution. The study found the total economic contribution of engineering and architectural services tops nearly \$600B.

Key Findings:

- Engineering and architectural industry-supported wages totaled \$311B. That includes \$142B in direct wages paid within the sector and \$169B worth of wages in sectors with which the industry does business.
- One in every 33 Americans owes his/her job to the engineering and architectural services industry.
- Total taxes initiated by the engineering and architectural industry is estimated at \$122B. Take that away and 128.6 million American households would have to pay \$948 more in annual taxes to maintain current tax revenues.

MassDOT Highway Issues 2021 Standard Specifications

On 1/26/21 the MassDOT Highway Division issued the [2021 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges](#).

This edition combines the previous (2020) edition with all supplemental specifications issued by MassDOT during 2020. The 2021 Edition of the Standard Specifications includes an appendix that provides a full accounting of the changes to the previous (2020) edition.

The 2021 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges will be referenced in contract documents for all projects advertised beginning this week. No changes are required for any projects already advertised or under construction.

For more information, see [Engineering Directive E-21-001](#)

Government Affairs

Transportation Bond Bill as approved by Governor Baker on 1/15/2021: [Chapter 383 of the Acts of 2020](#)

Multi-Family Housing Districts: Acting on part of the economic development bond bill that Gov. Baker signed in January, the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) released [preliminary guidance](#) applicable in more than 65 municipalities that face a new multi-family housing requirement.

Section 18 of [Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020](#), the **Economic Development Bond Bill**, changes the state's zoning enabling law and requires MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right. The districts must also meet other multi-family housing criteria, including a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; not more than half a mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station; no age restrictions; and suitable for families with children.

DHCD will issue guidelines for compliance with the new law after a public process. Communities that fail to comply with the new law will lose access to state grants, although they remain eligible for grants at least until more specific guidance is made available.

Legislative Leadership Announces 3 New Joint Committees: 2/3/2021: House Speaker Ronald Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka will create 3 new standing committees aimed at specific areas that they feel require "sustained attention and policy expertise." These committees are:

- **Joint Standing Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management:** oversight of the state's pandemic response and take on an advisory role for the Legislature on disaster preparedness, emergency management and communication.
- **Joint Standing Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion:** review existing laws and proposals, offer its own policy recommendations and study the impacts of legislation to begin to dismantle systemic racism and promote equitable opportunities and outcomes for all residents.
- **Joint Standing Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity:** will consider issues of connectivity and technology.

We expect to legislative leaders to announce co-chairs for these and 29 other standing joint committees, as well as other legislative committees very soon. We'll run the list in ACEC/Matters.

ICYMI: ACEC Issues Action Alert on FAR Credits for Forgiven PPP Loans: ACEC is calling on members to contact their Congressional delegations and urge them to support waiving the FAR credits clause for forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loans.

A provision of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which governs federal agency procurements and State Departments of Transportation using federal funds, will substantially **undercut the benefits** of the loan program by **requiring engineering firms that qualify for forgiveness to return some or all of the loan as a credit on cost-based contracts.** [More, including link to ACEC Advocacy Center >](#)

[ACEC/MA's State Budget Resource Page for FY2022](#)

ACEC/MA's GAC reviews bills impacting our Engineering / PLS / A/E community. The legislative filing deadline is 2/19/21.

Next GAC Meeting = 2/26/21 @ 10 AM on Zoom
[Join ACEC/MA Government Affairs Committee](#)

COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for ACEC/MA Members

ACEC/MA Member Briefings, Forums & Committees

Open to All Members: [If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, YOU're an ACEC/MA Member.](#)

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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 or 617-227-5551**
- **Use a registration form for more than 1 person**

ACEC/Matters Links live 2/4; Next issue 2/11
ACEC/Matters: Produced by Meghan Jones + Abbie Goodman

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