



ACEC/Matters - News from ACEC/Massachusetts

Dear ACEC/MA Member,
Here's Your 4/9/20 ACEC/Matters



ACEC/MA Board of Directors

Briefings & Events

Join a Committee or Forum



Thank you 2020 ACEC/MA Corporate Sponsors:

[Become a 2020 Corporate Sponsor](#)

PLATINUM

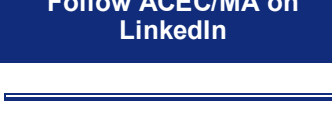
AECOM
Donovan Hatem LLP
HDR
Jacobs
Michael Baker International
Stantec
The LIRo Group
VHB
WSP

GOLD

Architectural Engineers, Inc
Arora Engineers, Inc
BSC Group, Inc
GEI Consultants, Inc
Green International Affiliates, Inc
Greyling, a division of EPIC, broker for ACEC Business Insurance Trust
HNTB
Microdesk, Inc
Nitsch Engineering
SMMA
Tighe & Bond, Inc
TranSystems Corporation

SILVER

Alfred Benesch & Co.
Beals and Thomas, Inc
BETA Group, Inc
CDM Smith
CDR Maguire, Inc
CHA
City Point Partners
Dewberry
Greenman-Pedersen, Inc
Howard Stein Hudson
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc
McFarland Johnson
Patrick Engineering, Inc
STV Incorporated



Follow ACEC/MA on LinkedIn

Feedback Welcome

ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum: Construction Site Safety Monitoring During COVID-19

April 13, 11 AM - 12 Noon on Zoom

Join the ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum for a discussion of construction monitoring issues, current practices, and risk management issues on Massachusetts projects.

For Zoom instructions, contact [ACEC/MA](#).

This April 13 Forum is limited to 2 people per ACEC/MA Member Firm.

MBTA Seeks to Procure Masks for Employees

The MBTA is seeking to purchase protective masks (N95 or comparable) for its employees on construction sites. If your firm has masks, contact [Abbie Goodman](#).

New Law: AN ACT TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE AUTHORITIES RESULTING FROM COVID-19

Signed into law April 3, took effect immediately, now [Session Law 53 of the Acts of 2020](#)

This law has implications for how certain private sector development might move forward in pre-construction and permitting.

[Overall Summary of the new law](#)

For Design Professionals, this new law:

- establishes a framework for modifications to local permitting regulations.
- defines applications for permits as duly filed and accepted as of the date of the filing if filed with and certified as received by the municipality;
- allows permit granting authorities to deny an applications completeness if otherwise denied or appealed on other grounds;
- allows submission of permit applications and sending of permit application receipts electronically;
- suspends any hearing deadlines otherwise required within a certain timeframe after receipt of an application as of March 10;
- provides for resumption of the deadlines 45 days after the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency;
- prohibits expiration of any permits or and tolls deadlines for performance until after the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency;
- prohibits the constructive granting, denial or expiration of a permit due to a failure to act during the COVID-19 state of emergency;
- requires resumption of activity within 45 days of the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency;
- extends requirements for recording of permits with the registries of deeds; tolls and continues hearings for opened permits to the first hearing date after expiration of the COVID-19 state of emergency
- authorizes permit granting authorities to revoke or modify permits as otherwise allowed under existing laws or regulations for reasons other than lack of performance during the COVID-19 state of emergency when the work started before March 10, 2020 and stopped due to the state of emergency or other governmental actions;
- extends protection from permit revocation or modification for at least 60 days beyond the termination of the state of emergency;
- entitles a permit holder to further extensions for demonstrated good cause;
- allows the permit granting authority to issue an extension without the presence of a quorum.
- allows permit granting authorities to hold meetings and hearings remotely during the COVID-19 state of emergency; further allows permit granting authorities to issue decisions on permit applications submitted and heard;
- additionally allows building commissioners, inspectors of buildings, or other officials to issue permits;
- applies changes related to local permitting authority to all local boards and commissions' conduct of public meetings, public hearings, or other actions taken in a quasi-judicial capacity.

ACEC/MA is working in coalition with several other design, construction and development associations and the Massachusetts Municipal Association to seek consistency among municipalities in holding key land use board meetings to approve needed permits.

ACEC National COVID-19 Resource Page: Webinars you can stream at no charge and More:

<https://www.acec.org/conferences/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for ACEC/MA Members

Small Business Paycheck Protection Program forms are now available for Small Businesses of less than 500 employees: [More info >](#)

MassDOT Highway Now Accepts Electronic Invoices From Consultants [More info >](#)

Information on ACEC/MA and ACEC National work, along with state government updates for business. [More >](#)

Government Affairs

- **Baker Administration Issues Additional Construction Guidance to Municipalities Clarifying Some Construction as an Essential Services** [More on these issues>](#)

On March 31, Governor Baker updated [construction-related guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new guidance limits "essential" construction to housing and critical infrastructure activities. Under the revised list, private nonresidential construction is not considered essential (unless it falls within one of the specified exemptions).

As of April 1, only housing projects (including mixed use with housing, infrastructure projects and construction related to COVID-19 can proceed.

April 2:

State updates the [FAQ page to answer questions on essential construction](#).

[State supplemental guidelines to limit COVID-19 exposures on construction sites](#)

[State guidance outlining the enforcement of COVID-19 safety guidelines](#). This states that "for all private projects the primary enforcement responsibility rests with the city or town."

ACEC/MA FY21 Budget Resource Page

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

Guide our legislative agenda: [Join ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Comm \(GAC\)](#)

4/17 Government Affairs Comm (GAC) Meeting, 10 - 11 AM on Zoom

[Contact us](#) for Zoom info

Boston Lobbying Ordinance [More >](#)

ACEC/MA Member Briefings, Forums & Committee Meetings

Open to All Members* = Great Networking Opps

*If Your Firm is an [ACEC/MA Member](#), YOU're an ACEC/MA Member. [RSVP to attend in person or Zoom](#).

[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 our Member Rate for Programs: Login 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 4/2; Next issue 4/9

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Meghan Jones + Abbie Goodman
Many ACEC/MA Member Briefings are held @AldrichCenter @ The Engineering Center in Boston + on Zoom.

ACEC/MA FY2020 ExCom:

President:
Jennifer Howe, PE, SMMA | Symmes Maini & McKee Associates

President-Elect:
Dennis J. Baker, PE, WSP

Senior VP:
Scott A. Miller, PE, Haley and Ward, a Division of CES, Inc

VP:
Cynthia L. Joudrey, PE, HDR

Treasurer:
Robert S. Belitz, Tighe & Bond

Past-President:
Michael J. Walsh, PE, CDM Smith

ACEC/MA Executive Director:
Abbie Goodman

American Council of Engineering Companies/MA (ACEC/MA), The Engineering Center, One Walnut St, Boston, MA 02108-3616

T: 617/227-5551 | F: 617/227-6783 | E: acecma@engineers.org

www.acecma.org @ACECMA

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

Add ACEC/MA - American Council of Engineering Companies/MA: acecma@engineers.org + agoodman@engineers.org to your Trusted/Safe Sender list.

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

