



## **Summary of AIA Massachusetts Regulatory Work**

AIA MA has been asked to participate on a number of state commissions/task forces. The subject matter of each commission/task force varies, but each commission /task force is tasked with solving a particular problem related to the built environment. The state has asked AIA Massachusetts to serve on the following commissions/task forces:

1. **Blended Building Code**

Issue/Goal: Work with the Building Board of Regulations and Standards (BBRS) to ensure that instead of the current practice of taking the ICC's base building code and adding Massachusetts "front-end" amendments to it, AIA MA will work to ensure that the upcoming 9th edition of the state building code is "blended", meaning that all MA amendments are "blended" into ICC's base IBC/IRC language.

12/03/2019 Progress: BBRS still working toward January 1, 2021 promulgation date for 10<sup>th</sup> edition. In the Spring of 2020, as BBRS Advisory Committees present their MA amendment proposals to the full BBRS, AIA MA will renew efforts to gain Board support for a blending of MA amendments into base language. AIA MA will also renew discussion with the Secretary of States office, Division of Professional Licensure, Office of Consumer Affairs and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development.

2. **New Fire Code**

Issue/Goal: New fire code based on 2015 NFPA-1 with MA amendments was approved by the BCCC at their March 2017 meeting. Code was sent to A/F for their review prior to Sect. of State 30A filing for a public hearing. Fire Marshall Ostroskey has indicated a hopefulness toward having the new fire code effective date mirror that of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the building code.

12/03/2019 Progress: All changes noted above became effective on 10/18/2019.

3. **Architectural Registration Board – New Regulations**

Issue/Goal: In October 2013 the states Architectural Registration Board (ARB) proposed an updated set of regulations governing the practice of architecture in MA. After a variety of discussions with AIA MA regarding their proposals, the ARB voted to move into the Administrations review process a revised set of proposed regulations at their May 2014 meeting. With regard to appointments, the Baker Administration has reached out to AIA Massachusetts in seeking nominations to help fill one open seat to the five member board.

12/03/2019 Progress: The ARB has asked to work with AIA MA (via the three local chapters) to recognize all newly licensed architects. ARB has proposed a joint reception between AIA MA and the ARB at ABX 2021.

4. **Construction Codes – Regulatory Restructuring**

Issue/Goal: Whereas existing executive branch structure requires 14 construction codes to be promulgated by 11 different boards, departments, bureaus or commissions, which in turn report to four separate Secretariats and the Secretary of State, AIA MA has crafted a proposal which consolidates all operations under a single (to be determined) Secretariat. The Secretariat would charge an Undersecretary for Construction Code Development with direct oversight of the Construction Code Coordinating Council.



12/03/2019 Progress: AIA MA speaks monthly with Dept. Commissioner Cogliano at regularly scheduled BBRS meetings. No new issues to report.

5. Reformation of AIA MA/ACEC/DCAM Working Group

Goal/Issue: In August 2015 AIA Massachusetts met with then-new DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone. At the meeting the Commissioner was presented with a package of information pertaining to the legislative and regulatory agenda of AIA MA. As a result of the meeting Commissioner Gladstone has agreed to reconvene the AIA MA/ACEC/DCAMM Working Group.

12/03/2019 Progress: Ongoing

6. DPU Interconnection Sub-Group

Goal/Issue: Convened by the Department of Public Utilities, the purpose is to bring the utility companies and the construction industry together to talk about ways in which the utilities can be more responsive to the needs/schedules of both public and private construction projects.

12/03/2019 Progress: The Governor has appointed Matthew Nelson as the new Chair of the Department of Public Utilities. In a June 2019 he expressed hope in reconvening the sub-group in the new year.

### Coalition Work

AIA MA participates on a number of coalitions that work to make policy changes at both the legislative and regulatory level. The subject matter of each is different, but all are tasked with working to solve a particular problem related to the built environment.

1. The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA)

Goal/Issue: The MSGA promotes healthy and diverse communities, protects critical environmental resources and working landscapes, advocates for housing and transportation choices, and supports equitable community development and reinvestment. The Alliance was founded in 2003 by seven Massachusetts organizations which represent different constituencies but share the powerful mission of advocating for a Commonwealth that is better planned, more prosperous, and more equitable. Today the Steering Committee is represented by the following organizations/people; AIA MA, the Citizen Planning and Housing Association (CHAPA), the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), LISC Boston, the MA Public Health Association (MPHA), the MA Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), Lisa Wong (former Mayor, City of Salem) and Ramon Borges-Mendez Ph.D (Clark University, Associate Professor of Community Development and Planning). The vast majority of the MSGA's current work is around passage of a Great Neighborhood bill, also known as zoning reform. To that end the MSGA is scheduled to meet with all the candidates for Governor. The MSGA is also involved with other legislative issues such as; community benefits districts, brownfield funding, tax abatement for affordable housing, the environmental bond bill and the economic development bill.

12/03/2019 Progress: Regarding MSGA's future, the Steering Committee will meet again on December 19 to further discuss progress toward winding down MSGA as it currently exists, and planning for MSGA 2.0. To that end the following is in progress:

- MSGA plans to meet with Barr Foundation (majority funder) in early Dec. to share progress on wind/down/start-up plans to date;



- In terms of making the transition public, a public announcement is being considered and details around the timeframe for such an announcement are still being worked out;
  - A Springtime (2020) event to dovetail with public announcement noted above is being envisioned that could also serve as a fundraiser
  - Barr has released \$235K already, once they have the transition plan, they will release the \$165k and the final \$200k is dependent on a match;
  - No consensus yet about how long to keep staff on but Steering Committee committed to reviewing the work plan memo (attached).
2. The USGBC/AIA MA Environmental Advocacy Roundtable (EAR)  
Goal/Issue: As organized by AIA Massachusetts and USGBC Massachusetts, the purpose of the Environmental Advocacy Roundtable is to bring together the many diverse groups advocating for awareness, education, legislation, and regulation to maximize the positive environmental impact of the built environment in Massachusetts. The EAR is co-chaired by Jim Stanislawski AIA and Kate Bubriski AIA from AIA MA and USGBC MA respectively. Members of the EAR include such organizations as: the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the New England Clean Energy Center (NECEC), the Massachusetts Sierra Club, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), the Climate Action Business Association (CABA), Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), Environment Massachusetts, Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), A Better City (ABC), the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), the Cities of Cambridge and Boston along with various individuals. While there is no one particular piece of legislation or regulation that this group is working on together, in general, there is support for any legislation/regulation that moves the state toward zero-net energy buildings, 100% renewable energy production and elimination of all fossil fuel usage  
12/03/2019 Progress: At the November public hearing of the BBRS, AIA MA submitted a net-zero energy code proposal that would amend the states stretch energy code to require net-zero for all new commercial construction.
3. The Massachusetts Climate Adaptation Coalition (MACAC)  
Goal/Issue: The Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition is comprised of architects, engineers, planners, and conservation and environmental organizations working to reduce the Commonwealth's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The Coalition operates from a four part strategy; Executive - we are working with the Baker Administration to support existing state agency efforts in public safety, public health, infrastructure and the environment, expand efforts through public funding in both the operating and capital budget, convene stakeholders and develop integrated policies and program among cabinet secretariats; Legislative - we are advocating for passage of legislation preparing Massachusetts for climate change impacts (CAMP bill). Coalition - we are establishing and building a coalition of stakeholders that represent the diversity of stakeholders that are being impacted by climate change; and finally Public Education & Outreach - using traditional and social media, such as Twitter, to spread the word about climate adaptation and strategy updates. The Coalition is made up of the following organizations; A Better City (ABC), American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC), AIA MA, Appalachian Mountain Club, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Boston Harbor Now, Boston Preservation Alliance, Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCE), Cape Cod Commission, Cape & Islands Self Reliance Corporation, Ceres, Charles River Conservancy, Charles River Watershed Association, Clean Water Action, Climate Action Business Association (CABA), Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation,



Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security at UMass Boston , Consensus Building Institute, Conservation Law Foundation, (CLF), Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), Great Marsh Coalition, Green Newton, Health Care Without Harm, Historic New England, Interfaith Power & Light, Mass Association of Conservation Commissions, Mass Association of Planning Directors (MAPD), Mass Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA), Mass Audubon, Mass Land Trust Coalition, Mass Rivers Alliance, Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN), Massachusetts Organization of Scientists and Engineers (MOSEs) Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Mystic River Watershed Association, The Nature Conservancy Massachusetts (TNC), National Wildlife Federation, New England Forestry Foundation, Newton Conservators, Ocean River Institute, Sierra Club Mass Chapter, Storm Surge, Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA), Trust for Public Land, The Trustees of Reservations, Union of Concerned Scientists, Urban Harbors Institute at UMass Boston, Urban Land Institute Boston/New England (ULI), and US Green Building Council - MA Chapter (USGBC MA)

12/03/2019 Progress: At an October 29 meeting with Senate Ways and Means Deputy General Counsel, Aaron Macarty, AIA MA became aware that the Senate W/M's intended to produce their own climate change bill. Since that meeting, Senate President Spilka has confirmed that the Senate will vote on their own climate change bill before January 31, 2020, and not take up the House's Greenworks bill.

**End**