

Massachusetts Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association

State of the Association

Over the past few years our association has grown and evolved in many ways. Thanks to lobbyist Guy Glodis, of the Glodis Group, we are now a recognized and respected organization with legislators and leadership on Beacon Hill. We have 2 pieces of active legislation and have weighed in on others that impact the concrete and construction industries. First is our safe building materials legislation. The Public Safety Committee conducted a public hearing on our legislations back in June, which was very well received. Our second piece of legislation is our Life Cycle Cost Pavement Legislation. We are expecting a public hearing sometime this fall with the Transportation Committee. We had gotten this bill out of committee successfully twice to date, and this has been proven to be a valuable incentive with MassDOT to get them to start designing concrete into a few pavement projects. We expect the first of these to start construction in the spring of 2022.

We will call on ALL our members, at the appropriate time, to send letters and reach out to your local legislators to help move the bills forward.

CIM & UCANE: Our relationship with these Massachusetts based construction industry associations has grown significantly over the past 3 years. Our work with them, on MassDOT issues, has brought our association together, and this relationship has evolved to the point of us helping each other on many other related topics. These association and their members (many of them our customers) have become an important part of our everyday business.

MassDOT: I can honestly say that the relationship between MassDOT & MaCAPA has never been stronger or more important to our industry. This relationship extends from the Research & Materials Department to the University Training Center (Baystate Roads) and our educational efforts, to the engineering team leaders and all the way to the Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. MaCAPA has spent a significant amount of time building trust, respect, and a relationship that continues to grow in many areas. MassDOT now wants and depends on our industry expertise, as they update their specification and standards across the board as it relates to ready mix concrete. The relationship we have established with R&M Dept. provided us with the opportunity to work with them to re-write the MassDOT Concrete Sidewalk Specification. The new interim spec hit the street in October of 2020 and has been included in all new MassDOT projects. Part of the new spec requirements all contractors, who perform MassDOT work, to get their "NRMCA Exterior flatwork finishers Certification." Since last fall MaCAPA, with the help of Brian Barry of LafargeHolcim, we have put approximately 450 contractors through the certification course. We also signed a contract with MassDOT to put 400 of their personnel through the certification course as well. The implementation of the new spec and this certification should go a long way towards providing successful concrete sidewalk pavement on MassDOT project. With a new commitment from the University Training Center, we will provide certification classes to town and cities across the state in the coming months. In addition, the Cement Masons Union have reached out to us, and they want to put all their members through the certification course starting this fall.

NRMCA: The NRMCA is fully engaged in our legislative, promotional, and educational efforts in Massachusetts. They bring a host of talented staff, and abundance of information and resources, as well as financial help as well. Just with our Safe Building Materials legislation alone, the partnership and team we have assembled with the NRMCA has brought several talented professionals to help us in this effort. We have created promotional campaign, which is specifically designed to complement and drive our legislative agenda with legislators and our coalition partners. Please take the time to go to “Build with Strength Massachusetts” and check it out.

Pavement: In addition to the building side of promotion, the NRMCA and ACPA is actively involved with our concrete pavement promotional efforts. Due to their help and technical support, we currently have 3 intersection projects in design with MassDOT across the state. We have assembled a team from the NRMCA, ACPA, CP Tech Center, and MIT Sustainability Hub, to meet with MassDOT to educate them on the benefits of building a strong concrete pavement program in Massachusetts.

We also have started conversations with the team at MassPORT, where there is great potential and opportunities to provide their staff with all types of support that will lead to concrete pavement projects.

Membership: MaCAPA has grown its membership base over the past few years, adding 2 new ready-mix producers (Dauphinis Concrete from Sutton & Boston Concrete from Lowell). Also, we have all the cement manufacturers, who serve our market, as MaCAPA members. These cement companies are active members, and all have a seat on the board of directors.

As for the MaCAPA social and meeting events, with the challenges due to Covid-19, this has been difficult. We have continued with our MaCAPA West Golf Tournament, which will celebrate its 30 anniversary next year! This event was started by Tony Borecki, from Construction Service in Wilbraham, MA, and with a strong and committed effort by Ralph Olds and Brian Cusack, the tournament lives on. In 2021 I think it was our biggest turnout ever!

We added a deep-sea fishing event 3 years ago, which continues to grow every year! We had 8 boats this year with around 40 participants. The event takes place in Rock Harbor in Orleans, MA. A special thanks to Russ Daley, of Cement Quebec, for all his time to set up and schedule the event. I can say, unlike the golf course, every person has a big smile on their face at the end of the day. We will continue with these events next year. If you have any suggestion on a social event you would like to see please don't hesitate to call our MaCAPA office.

Closing thoughts: In closing, I would ask for your help. We have an active association that is out representing and advocating for our industry every day, but we can't effectively do this alone. Please remember, this is how we all make our living and support our families, it's important for everyone to give back! The association belongs to all of us, any member can reach out and get involved. So, call our MaCAPA office and ask how you could lend a hand in some way. Volunteer for a committee, offer meeting topics or speaker suggestions, help with social media post, pictures for the website, a donation to our political PAC so we can support candidates who support our industry. There are many ways that we all can participate in our association.

Remember the association belongs to all of us!!

Peter Joy - MaCAPA President