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To: Distribution

From: Erik Stoothoff *ESS*
Chief Engineer

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RE: MBTA Design Standards and Guidelines Website and Directives

The MBTA has initiated a process to update and expand its current design standards. This effort is long overdue and intended to provide clear guidance to the Design and Construction industries, as well as better define expectations between departments of the MBTA and industry. Effort is underway to organize all of the legacy MBTA Standards and Guidelines into one online location for easy access by MBTA staff, the design community, construction community, and vendor community. That website is now live at <https://www.mbta.com/engineering>. We will continue to populate the website, including relocating basis Specifications at a later date.

The website will evolve to be the reference library for all existing MBTA specific design manuals, guidelines, and maintenance standards for MBTA facilities and infrastructure. The documents are available for download as PDF files and are organized within seven categories. For situations not covered by these documents, design consultants shall coordinate with the MBTA project manager or the Office of the Chief Engineer for further clarification or additional information.

The standards, guidelines, criteria and directives are evaluated, and updates will be published in the Directives section of the website. Additional directives are being developed on an ongoing basis to memorialize approved revisions to previous standards. These will be incorporated into new standards and guidelines in future. It is the design consultants' responsibility to incorporate the latest standards and relevant directives into their designs for all projects that have not yet been advertised.

Directives override standards and guidelines for specific elements in prior documents. Where conflicts exist the most stringent will apply in most cases. Any deviation from a directive will require a waiver.