



Strategic Insights

July 2026 | A monthly recap of what we've been up to.

A Note from Nichol Figueiredo, CEO:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we move into the heart of summer, I'm proud to share a newsletter full of exciting milestones for the Capital Strategic Solutions team. We're honored to have received the 2026 ACEC/MA Silver Award, a recognition that reflects the hard work and dedication our team brings to every community we serve. It's a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do.

This month also brings growth to our team, with Momina Haidri joining us as Project Manager and Alex Batla stepping in as our newest Project Intern. Please join me in giving them both a warm welcome.

I'm also thrilled to shine a spotlight on four of our incredible Senior Project Managers this month — Sarah, Ken, Paul, and Trish — whose expertise and commitment continue to make a real difference for the municipalities we partner with.

As always, thank you for being part of the CSS community. We look forward to connecting with many of you at the upcoming MWWA Summer Expo and ICMA Annual Conference, and we hope you enjoy this month's articles and updates.

Warm regards,

Nichol Figueiredo



**Capital Strategic Solutions Honored with 2026
ACEC/MA Silver Award**



A Recognition of Partnership and Public Trust

Capital Strategic Solutions is proud to announce that we have received a 2026 ACEC/MA Silver Award for Outstanding Professional Design Excellence in recognition of our work on the Columbian Square Improvement Project in Weymouth, Massachusetts. While the award celebrates an exceptional infrastructure project, it also recognizes the value of strategic communications, community engagement, and collaboration in bringing complex municipal initiatives to life. We're grateful to have partnered with the Town of Weymouth, Green International Affiliates, P.A. Landers, and the many community stakeholders whose shared commitment made this achievement possible.



"When people think about a project winning a design award, they probably don't picture someone stuffing construction notices into door handles in the rain, but that's part of it.

For a couple of years, my days bounced between walking Columbian Square talking with residents and business owners, updating the project website, sending e-blasts, writing social media posts, and answering the same question in five different ways (which is usually a sign you're doing your job).

The goal was never to make construction exciting; it was to make it predictable. If people knew what was happening and what to expect next, we were doing something right. It's pretty neat to see all that work come full circle with an award like this."

- Mike Tusino, Project Manager

[Read the Full Story Here](#)

Capital Strategic Solutions Welcomes Momina Haidri as Project Manager

Please join us in welcoming Momina Haidri to Capital Strategic Solutions as our newest Project Manager! Throughout her career, Momina has worked at the intersection of government, communications, and community engagement, building strong relationships, leading impactful initiatives, and helping organizations turn ambitious ideas into meaningful results.



With experience spanning legislative offices, political campaigns, constituent services, and large-scale community outreach, she brings a well-rounded perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing today's municipalities. Her passion for public service, combined with her proven ability to manage complex projects and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, makes her a natural fit for the CSS team and the clients we proudly serve.

[Learn More About Momina](#)

Welcome to the Team, Alex Batla as Project Intern!

We're excited to welcome Alex to Capital Strategic Solutions as our newest Project Intern! A Public Relations and Marketing student at American University in Washington, D.C., Alex brings a strong interest in strategic communications and community engagement. As an intern, Alex will support a variety of municipal initiatives while gaining hands-on experience working alongside our consulting team.



[Learn More About Alex](#)

Meet Our Team

Sarah Pawluczonek Senior Project Manager

This month we're highlighting Senior Project Manager Sarah Pawluczonek, whose expertise in utility billing, financial administration, and municipal operations continues to help communities improve efficiency and deliver exceptional public service.

[Read Sarah's Spotlight](#)





Ken Calder **Senior Project Manager**

Ken brings decades of experience in public works, infrastructure management, project leadership, and municipal operations to CSS. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a commitment to improving municipal services, strengthening organizational performance, and delivering projects that provide lasting value.

[Read Ken's Spotlight](#)

Paul Scott **Senior Project Manager**

Paul brings decades of municipal and public works experience to CSS, with expertise in capital planning, project management, and public works operations. He has helped communities solve infrastructure challenges while improving efficiency and long-term planning.

[Read Paul's Spotlight](#)



Trish Bernard **Senior Project Manager**

Trish brings more than a decade of municipal leadership experience to CSS, specializing in operations, strategic planning, community engagement, and program development, with a commitment to responsive local government.

[Read Trish's Spotlight](#)

Where to Find Us Next



Connecting Beyond the Office

At CSS, some of our most valuable conversations happen outside the office. Over the next couple of months, members of our team will be attending two upcoming municipal conferences, where we'll have the opportunity to connect with local leaders, strengthen existing partnerships, and meet professionals who are passionate about building stronger communities.

We always enjoy learning from others, sharing our expertise, and exchanging ideas that help municipalities tackle today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's opportunities. If you'll be attending either conference, we'd love to connect—be sure to stop by, introduce yourself, and say hello!

2026 MWWA Summer Expo

Massachusetts Water Works Association

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, Princeton, MA

Thursday, August 27, 2026



2026 ICMA Annual Conference

International City/County Management Association

Long Beach, California

October 17-21, 2026



Worth a Read



FY2027 Starts Now: What Successful Municipalities Are Doing This Month

The beginning of a new fiscal year is the perfect time for municipalities to set priorities, strengthen operations, and prepare for the months ahead. Explore practical strategies that can help your organization build momentum for a successful FY2027.

[Read More](#)



Prepare for the Next Public Records Request Before It Arrives

Public records requests don't have to disrupt daily operations. Learn how proactive planning, organized records management, and clear internal processes can help your municipality respond efficiently and confidently.

[Read More](#)

Interim Support Services

**When Leadership Changes,
Progress Shouldn't.**



Interim Support Services for Municipalities

Unexpected vacancies don't have to slow your organization down. Discover how CSS provides experienced interim professionals who help municipalities maintain continuity, support staff, and keep critical projects moving forward.

[Read More](#)

TURNING AWARENESS INTO ACTION:

*How Collaboration and Creativity
Helped Bring Think Blue MA to Life*



Helping Bring Think Blue MA to Life

See how collaboration, strategic communications, and creative outreach came together to launch Think Blue Massachusetts, helping educate residents about stormwater pollution and protecting local waterways.

[Read More](#)

Career Corner



Now Hiring Chief Financial Officer Barnstable County Sheriff's Office

The Barnstable County Sheriff's Office is seeking an experienced Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to serve as a member of the Sheriff's Executive Team.

The CFO serves as the agency's principal financial advisor, providing executive leadership for financial operations, strategic planning, budgeting, accounting, forecasting, audits, procurement, payroll, and long-term fiscal management.

This position plays a critical role in ensuring sound financial stewardship while supporting the Sheriff's mission through transparent, efficient, and accountable financial practices.

Salary

\$160,000–\$175,000
annually

Schedule

Full-Time • Day Shift

Location

6000 Sheriff's Place,
Bourne, MA

Agency

Barnstable County Sheriff's
Office

[View the Full Job
Posting & Apply](#)

Grant Watch

Let us help you with your application! Our team specializes in grant management at every stage: from identifying opportunities and securing awards to ensuring compliance and managing budgets. Our public-sector expertise helps communities deliver sustainable, impactful projects.

Federal Grants EPA Brownfields Program HUD Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity	Connecticut CT Brownfield Municipal Grant CT Historic Restoration Fund CT Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program	Massachusetts MA FY2027 Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Grant Program MA DOT FY2027 Fully Integrated Application (FIA) Now Open Build for MA Municipal Infrastructure Financing
New Hampshire NH Watershed Assistance Grant	New Mexico NM Trails + Grant Program NM Local Government	Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program
Vermont VT Clean Vessel Act Program VT Municipal Program		

[Contact Our Team](#)

About Capital Strategic Solutions

CSS is a certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise of municipal experts delivering creative, cost-effective solutions that maximize success and minimize risk. With deep local government expertise, we craft tailored strategies to meet each community's unique needs.



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Women-Owned Business Enterprise

Our capabilities span public administration, municipal finance, human resources, policy development, emergency management, public safety, public works, water operations, interim municipal services, public relations, community engagement, project management, grant writing, and onsite support. We partner with clients to define clear goals, overcome challenges, and implement human-centered plans that drive performance and transform communities.

[Visit Our Website](#)



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