



National Capital Heavy Construction Association (NCHCA) / City of Ottawa

NOTES

Date: Friday, June 18, 2021

Time: 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Luc Marineau, Sue Johns, Gen Nielsen, Joanne Graham, Elsa LaCorte, Renjit Varghese, Randy Dempsey, Rob MacLachlan, Peter Dodsworth, Sajjad Haque, Kevin Lamer, Chris Graham, Carol Hall, Peter McKay, Sanna D'Ornellas, Britney McGrath, Kathy Sutherland, Geoff Falls, Edson Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Dale Downey, Brian Lane, Ryan Donnelly, Paul Lemire, Dave Meikle, Steve McEachen, Wade Clouthier, Ivan Levac, Darrin Alberty, Nick Gianetto, Brian Simpson

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Internships - The City met with the NCHCA, ACEC and Algonquin College regarding a joint co-op student. Additional meetings are being set up.

IS Stream for Road Activity By-Law Review – Implemented on 1 April. Bruce noted that this is for capital projects only.

Follow-up – there has been a backlog and permits are not being issued in the 5 day turn around time. This was due to two vacancies, that have now been filled and getting new staff and summer students trained. Turn around time is being discussed internally. If there are delays in getting permits for urgent work, please contact Rob directly. Rob will be giving a presentation at the next meeting.

ICIP Funding Timelines – timelines for completion have been extended by the Federal government. Still waiting for additional information from the Province.

Cost Efficiencies – Scheduling work could be more efficient and cost effective if crews weren't limited by peak hour restrictions. Although the City sees the financial and time value in getting work done efficiently, some work, such as working overnight needs Councillor approval.

Follow-up – Labour shortages, retaining and recruiting labour needs to be considered along with cost efficiencies. The Industry expressed a desire to educate the Councillors on this so they can make an informed decision when considering approving off peak hour work.

T & M Form – Does the new form apply to all contracts or just new ones? Just new ones. If contractors want to use the new form on old contacts, they will need to document this with the project manager.

Follow-up – a copy of the form will be included with the notes of meeting.

2. Covid

With the Province moving to Stage 1 of its reopening plan, the City is allowing more flexibility for their staff, while still adhering to OPH and OHS guidelines. In-home inspections are resuming, with permission. The Industry noted that their H&S committee is conducting campaigns encouraging their staff to get vaccinated.

3. Materials shortages and approval of substitutions

Service connections may become a problem if supply continues to be an issue. It is becoming difficult to source ductile iron and back water valves. The Industry wanted to know if substitutions could be fast-tracked. Also, once a product substitute is approved for use in one project, can that product be used as a substitute on another project. The City needs to do its due diligence in accepting substitutes. Once a product has been approved once, approval will happen more quickly to use that product as a substitute again. This must be done however, on a project specific basis.

To use substitute materials on a project that is currently out for tender, Contractor's need to ask the question at the time of tender. The Industry would like to have it noted in the tender. Bruce to check with the Standards Unit to see if this can be done.

Action - Bruce

The Industry would like projects with potential supply issues expedited. Joanne noted that receiving WCIB paperwork could speed up the process by several days. With Suppliers only holding prices for 30 days, Contractors may have to order supplies up front to avoid shortages or paying more. They would then have to store the product until needed. The City noted that risk should be built into the price quoted in the contract. When a product does have to be purchased upfront and stored, the City can look at formal options such as subleases.

4. Delayed Tenders

When comparing the current tender listing to previous ones, there were changes noted. The City noted that the list is a forecast only. ICIP projects are subject to approvals. Any delays are usually due to technical or property issues, AODA, etc. The Industry asked what percentage of the budget for this year has already been used. Gen to follow up to see how this information can be provided.

Action - Gen

5. Late locates

The Industry has had several meetings with Ontario One-Call on delays and the problem is only getting worse. Ontario One-Call admits there's an issue. Several Contractors have hired private locators, but some utility companies won't release information to them. The NCHCA's H&S committee noted that quality of locates is also becoming an issue. The City's support is being requested to help resolve this issue. The City is willing to join the Industry's working group and Rob has reached out to Ontario One-Call to see what avenues are available to bring forward concerns. Kathy to send meeting invite to the next working group meeting to Bruce and Rob.

Action - Kathy

6. Roundtable

Way tickets for Concrete – With the move to electronic documents, the City inspectors are not receiving this information when concrete arrives on site. Lafarge can add inspectors to view their information; but other firms have been reluctant to even show their information (on their tablet) due to Covid concerns. All City inspectors have cell phones and laptops that the information can be sent to. The City needs this information at point of delivery and requested that this situation be addressed ASAP. The NCHCA will bring this issue forward to their subcommittee.

Action - NCHCA

NEXT MEETING

Friday, July 16, 2021
8:00 – 10:00 am
Microsoft Teams