



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

NOTES

Date: Friday, May 21, 2021

Time: 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Sue Johns, Gen Nielsen, Joanne Graham, Elsa LaCorte, Renjit Varghese, Sanna D'Ornellas, Kevin Lamer, Carol Hall, Sajjad Haque, Randy Dempsey, Tara Blasioli, Rob MacLachlan, Peter Dodsworth, Bill Harper, Barbara Dylla-Labelle, Kathy Sutherland, Geoff Falls, Edson Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Dale Downey, Brian Lane, Ryan Donnelly, Paul Lemire, Dave Meikle, Nick Bray, Steve McEachen, Wade Clouthier, Silvana Ruiz-Klinar, Ivan Levac

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Internships - The City met with the NCHCA regarding internships. Additional meetings are being set up with the ACEC and Algonquin College.

Ottawa Police Service Invoicing and Interest Charges - OPS has a 16% interest change on outstanding invoices. Recently a contractor didn't receive their invoice and had the interest charges applied. It would be helpful if OPS can email the invoices to contractors. The City reached out to OPS regarding their invoicing and cancellation fees. OPS cannot email invoices. If contractors have enquiries, they can contact the City to track down the invoice.

Follow-up – Ivan suggested that payment to the OPS be done directly by the City. Bruce will reach out to OPS to discuss availability of crews. Contravening a signal should be priority.

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

Follow-up – The City is open to receiving feedback from the Industry on how this is working.

ICIP Funding Timelines - No official approval yet. We are moving ahead with design and have some tenders ready to go.

Follow-up – Three of the five submitted have been approved. The remaining two are for Municipal Buildings and the Boys and Girls Club.

SSM and tendering specifications - Technical aspects are putting contractors in a difficult position. Questions were brought up at the time of tender but the answers weren't clear. Determining theoretical amounts at a fixed rate is problematic. Bruce to review old vs new spec to see if there's been a change.

Action – Bruce

Follow up – there has been no fundamental change in DCM approach to SSM and any issues are considered specific to the one project.

Half Loads – There is currently no information available on lifting restrictions in the Ottawa area. AMB will report back if there's any changes.

Follow-up – Half Loads were lifted in early May.

Covid in Sewers – Some contractors are requiring their staff to wear additional protective equipment when entering sewers due to increased risk of exposure.

Follow-up – CDC requirements for working in sewage are more comprehensive than OPH Covid guidelines.

2. Proper Invoice Example

Joanne shared an example and explained what needs to be included to meet the new Construction Act.

Action – Cheryl

Follow-up - The example will be sent.

3. Excess Soils

The Industry asked for an update and what the standard language will be in the specifications. Due to specific project details, a specific standard is not feasible. The City will specify where soils will be sent (most will be going to Trail Road). The onus for this will not be put on the contractor. If there are any inconsistencies, please bring them to the City's attention.

It was suggested that a working group be set up to discuss soil tracking (City/NCHCA/Greater Ottawa Truckers Association). The NCHCA's Excess Soils committee could be used as a sounding board for feedback. It was agreed that a sole source would be problematic for contractors working in multiple jurisdictions.

4. Covid

Home entry for is still not permitted. This will be revisited in June. Additional vibration monitoring may be required in the interim. The City is willing to share in this cost.

Undated information has been obtained from the Ministry for masks and eye protection. Masks must now be multi-layered and eye protection is needed. Also, there are new requirements for contractors working in City facilities. There is a Covid self assessment online tool that will need to be filled out. The City stressed the importance of full compliance to all public health requirements. The Industry is following all regulations and encouraging their staff to get vaccinated.

Supply chain issues are continuing to be an issue along with rising costs. Requests to use alternatives will be considered when necessary. The City requested that supply chain issues be discussed early and be ongoing. The City is also willing to look at revising schedules, if necessary, when there is a problem sourcing material.

5. Roundtable

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.

Qualifications and Experience Check - As per the previous meeting, the OPSS and CCDC templates have been updated to extend the standard timeline to allow for three days for the delivery of the Q&E/D-028 documents. Under exceptional circumstance the timelines may be adjusted. The City will also start to use the Q&E forms that were shared with the Industry during the March NCHCA meeting. Both updates will be applied on new solicitations.

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.

6. Surveying construction requirements and control point

Bill gave a presentation on surveying construction requirements and control points. One of the major reasons for moving forward with this initiative revolves around the fact that control monuments are disappearing, in large part due to construction.

The biggest challenge faced, aside from the actual conversion from one datum to the other, will be communicating to stakeholders as to when this change will come into effect, how it will affect them and how we are going to manage our legacy data. It was suggested the City issue a technical memo or have Surveys and Mapping do an information session at the Educational Series.

Action – Cheryl

Follow-up – presentation included with the notes of meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, June 18, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams