

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, August 20, 2021

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Sue Johns, Rob MacLachlan, Kevin Lamer, Sanna D'Ornellas, Sandra Majkic, Everett Paulin, Liz Lang, Britney McGrath, Rob Faris, Kathy Sutherland, Geoff Falls, Edson Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Dale Downey, Ryan Donnelly, Steve McEachen, Wade Clouthier, Darrin Alberty, Brian Simpson, Nick Bray

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Road Cut Permits - The Industry is concerned about the turn around times to get permits. Rob noted that overtime was being utilized right now to catch-up and improve timelines along with hiring two new clerks; redistributing workload and prioritizing work where needed. They are hoping to be caught up on the backlog in the next two weeks and back to the 10 day turn around time. The Industry can help improve timelines by making sure there is no missing or incorrect information in their application. The City will be reviewing their internal process stream for capital projects to ensure it's working as intended.

Follow-up – Rob met with Steve and Kathy regarding the turn around times. The NCHCA will be supporting staff's recommendation to Council for additional funds in October. The Permit Office have two temporary resources starting at the end of August and have staff that have been allocated to assist on a part time basis, just to help get through the backlog.

Internships – Meetings have taken place between the City, NCHCA, ACEC and Algonquin College regarding a joint co-op program.

Follow-up – This initiative is still a priority for all parties, and work will continue in the Fall.

IS Stream for Road Cut Permit requests – Implemented on 1 April. Bruce noted that this is for capital projects only.

Follow-up - The turn around time outside the IS Stream is currently 20-21 days. Project Managers will be reminded at the next all staff meeting of the importance of road cut permit requests on capital projects being submitted through the IS stream.

Materials shortages and approval of substitutions – The City is not always aware of what products the Industry is having trouble sourcing. The Industry was encouraged to use normal suppliers if at all possible. When the Industry knows there is a supply issue they are encouraged to bring it forward as early as possible during the tender process. All substitutions have to be approved at the Director level and are vetted through the Standards Unit.

Follow-up – Wade noted that electrical conduits are in short supply.

2. Spec Update Process

The Standards Group will be taking a more focused approach this year on issues that need immediate attention. The process will remain the same as last year with the following timelines:

- Internal and external messaging to occur on Monday, August 23, 2021.
- Feedback will be accepted until Monday, September 13, 2021. As this is a focused update, they may not address all items brought forward this year. Any items not addressed will be recorded and considered in the future.
- Committee meetings will occur virtually throughout October, with a similar structure as the 2021 update.
- The Standards Unit will work on revisions in November.
- Final committee meetings to occur in early December.
- Publication March 1, 2022.

Items expected to be included in the 2022 update:

- Incorporation of changes to align our practices with Provincial excess soils regulations.
- Incorporation of tech bulletins.
- Various transportation infrastructure related items, several of which were raised as part 2021 spec update. This is also in support of guidance documents that are soon to be published – the Protected Intersection Design Guidelines and the 30 km/h Street Design Guidelines.
- Work identified by the asphalt and concrete committees since the last spec update.
- Items in support to internal processes such as our product approval process (MW10.1) and material specifications updates.

3. Roundtable

Industry Event Wednesday August 25, 2021 – The Industry requested that tender closings be moved to the following week. The City will review this request and make changes if possible. The Industry will be informed if this is not possible.

Line Painting - Some tenders call for lump sum, others unit rates. Can this be consistent. Bruce to review with PXO, Overlay Staff and the Line Painting Industry for feedback.

Action - Bruce

Last minute tender extensions – Has been happening occasionally the last few months causing frustration for the estimating staff. Bruce noted that this is usually done when there are supply chain issues. This is not done arbitrarily, and every extension is reviewed and approved by the Manager.

Use of Police to control traffic speeds on construction sites – Some sites are experiencing excessive speeding. The Industry asked if Paid Duty Officers can be hired to monitor and issue fines for speeding where warranted. The City noted that this is problematic for a few reasons. Paid Duty Officers are technically off duty and cannot issue fines; and are needed on other projects when contravention of the signal is necessary. Several solutions were suggested including reporting speeding to the Police and requesting monitoring; including signs that note that speed fines are doubled in construction zones; electronic signs that show a vehicle's speed (which are available for rent).

Covid – Britney noted that July showed that traffic was within 4% of pre-covid volumes. Overall, this summer is trending at 10% below pre-covid volumes. AMO continues to be lower. Off peak volumes are heavier than before.

Construction Community Cares Parade – The NCHCA has partnered with the OCA and CHEO for a drive-by parade at CHEO with the money raised going to CHEO and Roger Neilson House. Information about the construction parade is available on the NCHCA's event page (<https://www.nchca.ca/event/drive-by-construction-equipment-parade-in-support-of-cheo/>).

NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 17, 2021
8:00 – 10:00 am
Microsoft Teams