

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, September 17, 2021

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Sue Johns, Luc Marineau, Kevin Lamer, Britney McGrath, Renjit Varghese, Carol Hall, Joanne Graham, Elsa La Corte, Ruriko Numazawa, Gen Nielsen, Peter McKay, Sajjad Haque, Kevin Wylie, Kathy Sutherland, Jim Flegg, Ryan Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Wade Clouthier, Brian Simpson, Edson Donnelly, Paul Lemire, Brian Lane, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Steve McEachen, Geoff Falls, Dale Downey, Darrin Alberty

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. 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.

Follow-up – Rob, Bruce and Kathy will be meeting next week to discuss.

IS Stream for Road Cut Permit requests – Implemented on 1 April. Bruce noted that this is for capital projects only. The turn around time outside the IS Stream is currently 20-21 days. Project Managers were reminded at the all staff meeting of the importance of road cut permit requests on capital projects being submitted through the IS stream.

Follow-up – Still not at optimum speed.

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 approved 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. Wade noted that electrical conduits are in short supply.

Follow-up – Another material the Industry is having trouble sourcing is watermain glands. Recently an alternative material was approved for use in 16' watermains, which is freely available. It was noted that every project needs to apply for approval to use alternative materials. The City asked that if the Industry has knowledge during tender time that a material is going to be hard to source, to bring it forward.

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.

Follow-up – The Industry has put forward their representatives.

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.

Follow-up – The City will make an effort to be more consistent going forward.

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).

Follow-up – on agenda

Covid – Britney noted that last week PM Peak was 0% averaging back to normal; and AM Peak was at 85%. Total across the day is back to normal.

2. Paid Duty Officers

Paid Duty Officers are a well sought-after resource. We need to be more strategic with this resource and the City is looking at ways to curb their use for non-essential work. Prioritizing the use of availability of officers for contravention of the signal is the driving factor for considering a change.

A meeting with OPS has identified several areas that need improvement such as dispatching officers to different location (not originally identified); sharing officers between firms; being used when not required. Conveying where the assignment is, and what the expectation is, needs to be communicated in advance.

Britany noted that in D-005 flagging is needed:

- when within 30 m of the intersection;
- equipment is going to obstruct signal heads; and
- there is a realignment across the intersection.

The Industry suggested that more education is needed on when police are specifically required under the Highway Traffic Act. Britney agreed to draft a note to go out to the Industry clarifying D-005.

The City will be working with OPS on improving the process. The City invited the industry to put forward any ideas they have. The industry are also welcome to lobby the Provincial Government to make changes to the Act.

Action - Britney

3. Explosion proof bypass pumps

There is currently a 12 week lead time to get specified pumps. The City understands there is a shortage of pumps and are having internal discussions on a short-term work around. The City does however, need to be compliant with the code. Kathy to set up a meeting next week with Bruce and Sewer Ops to discuss further.

Action - Kathy

4. Roundtable

Scheduling Issues – The Industry was asked to communicate any issues as soon as possible.

Notification - Contractors were reminded that they are required to notify the consultant CA and the inspection team when they are starting work. Specifically, when they are on multiple jobs. This will enable the City to make sure the proper inspection is in place.

Vaccination Policy – The Industry asked when can they expect to hear more information—after today's meeting? The objective of today's meeting is to have an open discussion and get feedback from the Industry.

PVC Shortage – Darrin noted that if there is an order to put in today, delivery is expected in February. The City asked that this, and any other issues that cause delays, are noted during the time of tender.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, October 15, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams