

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

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### NOTES

**Date:** Friday, October 15, 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

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#### 1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Road Cuts - NCHCA continues to be in discussion with right-of-way office regarding path forward to reduce permit timelines. Current backlog has been cleared and further backlog not expected for remainder of 2021 or in future construction seasons. NCHCA will be addressing through its delegation to the Transportation Committee on November 1, 2021.

Material Shortages - All recognize that materials shortages are currently problematic and there remains uncertainty regarding 2022 prices, availability and lead times. City is looking to mitigate as much as possible by reviewing tender times, award time and project schedule requirements in an effort to build some additional time for material delivery. City emphasised bringing known issues to City's attention when they are encountered.

Specification Update - NCHCA and City has provided representatives. Meeting are in progress or scheduled.

Covid - Pandemic issues are far reaching across the industry. Safety measures continue to be implemented and sites remain safe. Vaccination policy is on the agenda.

Paid Duty - Availability remains an issue. All need to focus on using paid duty for situations where they are required under the highway traffic act and avoid use of

this strained resource where other measures may be applicable, Britany and Bruce will continue to liaison with OPS. City is looking at other approaches such as having contractor include in their price. Industry has concerns regarding this approach. City will discuss further with industry prior to any pilot project where police services are not reimbursable.

Explosive Proof Pumps - Availability remains an issue. Industry is looking for additional information on this requirement as their understanding is that this is not widespread common practice across the province. City's interpretation is that sewer systems fall within the code requirements for explosive proof pumps. Meeting with City and industry was held on October 13th and no immediate resolution has been found. Concerns expressed by the industry are that some of the work arounds might result in less effective bypass pumping and risk of sewer backups. Explosion-proof pumps are not currently available with a three month delay in delivery.

## 2. Vaccination Policy

City and the industry continue to work towards a solution for outside work. City representatives and NCHCA have worked in a very collaborative manner over the last weeks. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all City staff are safe from contact with unvaccinated workers and the group is looking at health and safety plan approaches that could achieve the objective of the policy. Industry expressed concerns regarding the impact to labour shortages and ability to retain labour if other sectors and City projects do not have same vaccination requirements.

## 3. Social Procurement

The City indicated that the recent information in the tenders is for information only. The City noted that there is a commitment to move social procurement forward at the City and how that can be achieved remains under review. City is looking for feedback from all industry partners. The City's long term goal will be to work preferentially with businesses that offer community benefit goals. NCHCA members noted that they are very responsible employers with significant community achievements. Additional discussion will occur with industry partners on the implementation of social procurement requirements in contracts in the future.

## 4. Educational Series

The City remains committed to the educational series in 2022 and will be providing some City representatives to assist in the development of the program Follow up - City to provide designated representatives.

5. City Reorganization

The City is anticipating a reorganization that will take effect in January 2022, consolidating IS and Drinking Water Services. Asset Management and Planning will be separate.

**NEXT MEETING**

Friday, November 19, 2021

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams