

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

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### NOTES

**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022

**Time:** 8:00 am to 9:30 am

**Place:** Microsoft Teams

### PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Sue Johns, Luc Marineau, Joanne Graham, Sanna D'Ornellas, Whitney Chase, Elsa La Corte, Britney McGrath, Renjit Varghese, Rebecca Belrango, Mike Plastino, Robert Leach, Kathy Sutherland, Jon Morand, Luigi DiNuzzo, Nick Gianetto, Geoff Falls, Edson Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Ivan Levac, Steve McEachen, Aliou Sow, Ryan Donnelly, Dale Downey

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#### 1. Dynamic Discounting

Dynamic discounting is a pilot project that will offer prompt payment on invoices in return for a sliding scale discount. The option will only exist for enabled vendors. This demonstrates another enhancement that enabled vendors can take advantage of.

The Ariba team identified a small group of construction vendors as a manageable group that could yield benefits from this program. Emails will be sent to explaining how the program will work if you have been selected for the program. If you do not receive an email by mid March 2022 and you are interested in participating, you can still opt in by emailing:  
[dynamicdiscounting@ottawa.ca](mailto:dynamicdiscounting@ottawa.ca)

If you are one of the preselected pilot vendors, account payable will be keeping an eye on the invoices that come in. If an invoice is submitted, works it way through the approval process and is waiting to be paid in the system you will get an email offering prepayment in exchange for a discount.

The discount and payment terms that will be offered include:

- 2%; if the City pays a vendor 15 or more days early
- 1%; if the City pays a vendor 10-14 days early
- 0.5 if the City pays a vendor 5-9 days early

When you get an email, it is entirely optional if you want to agree to a discount. The City is giving an option to move up a payment date in real time.

This program will not insert itself into the approval process of an invoice. They will only look at already approved invoices. It will not affect your purchase orders, future invoices or tendering. The agreement to offer a discount is a onetime agreement related to the one invoice.

The pilot is expected to start next week and run until the end of August. If the City decides to operationalize the program in August it will be opened up to all enabled vendors.

## 2. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Paid Duty - 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 contractors 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.

Follow-up – The City anticipates that this will be a significant issue this year. Resources are stretched and there may be a lag in services.

Explosion Proof Pumps - Availability remains an issue. Explosion-proof pumps are not currently available with a three-month delay in delivery. Industry is looking for additional information on this requirement as their understanding is that this is not widespread common practice across the province and there are acceptable, safe work-arounds available that are commonly used. City's interpretation is that sewer systems fall within the code requirements for explosion-proof pumps. Meeting with City and industry was held on October 13th and no immediate resolution has been found. A small working group to be set up to discuss further.

Follow-up – NCHCA is ready to move forward. Meeting to be set up.

SSM unit rates and the impact of the Excess Soils regulation for disposal of that excess soil - Industry noted that cost of moving soils is going up and asked if the City is reviewing the impact this will have on unit prices. The SSM rates are for the supply and haul of material. The City is willing to discuss this issue in more detail through the Spec Committee with the Industry.

Follow-up – A meeting will be set up in March with the Industry to discuss this further.

Late Locates - The City has met with Ontario One-Call and the Industry. The City will continue to be actively involved in discussions. A late locate registry is being contemplated.

FTL and Upcoming Work - Concern was expressed on the accuracy of the information in the Forecasting Tender List.

Follow-up – The list has been updated and should be more accurate. The list continues to be actively reviewed.

3. Scheduling software

The Industry would like the spec to be updated to include the option of using Primavera. If this is allowed, the City may still ask for conversations on small projects. Bruce to discuss with the Standard's Unit and BMT.

Action - Bruce

4. Extending closing dates on date of closing

This is sometimes done in response to receiving questions after the inquiry date that are difficult to answer. Closing dates are only extended with Manager approval.

5. Broadband backup alarms pilot project update

Framework has been finalized. A consultant will be hired to do the testing, which is planned for May. The City noted that this would be very helpful for working in the downtown core at night.

6. Vaccination policy update

There is no update from the City; and there has been no changes since November. The City and NCHCA continue to work on compliance.

Action – Bruce to provide a sample of an acceptable attestation to the NCHCA.

7. Inconsistent VPM scores and messaging from PMs

The Industry was concerned over comments made from PM's that marks are too high. Bruce clarified that this was meant to address problems not being adequately reflected in scores. A review and summary of VPM along with the Industry's feedback will be presented to staff at an upcoming all-staff meeting.

8. FTL accuracy

Covered under notes of previous meeting.

9. Excess soil tracking software update

The City will most likely go with Tracenet to track excess soils. This will be covered as part of the education series. The software will be set up so any

vendor can use it. The option of using different software is available as long as it can feed information into the City's system.

The Industry mentioned that the MOECC is on an education blitz and pulling over trucks.

10. Education Series February 22, 2022:

- a. Working on City projects during the pandemic
- b. Excess soil specifications: guiding principles
- c. Accessibility: navigating the right of way
- d. Social procurement
- e. Ottawa Public Health update

A link to these sessions is on the NCHCA's website. There is no need to register in advance.

11. Roundtable

Staffing changes in Supply. Will McDonald has taken a temporary assignment as an associated general manager. Joanne is backfilling his position as Chief Procurement Officer. Sanna will be assuming Joanne's role as Manager and Stephanie Alphonso will be moved into Sanna's position in Construction. Once all movements have been finalized, an org chart will be sent to the Industry.

Pricing - The third bidder is not always being cooperative in submitting pricing after tender close. It was agreed that this practice is helpful to everyone. If compliance becomes problematic; the City may ask for this at the time of bid close. Non-compliance delays contract award. The City asked the Industry for suggestions on how to get their membership to comply. Using VPM and the MTO model were suggested. Joanne will look at the MTO model.

**Action - the Industry to provide feedback to the City.**

Downtown Ottawa Occupation – the downtown core (Bronson to the Canal; Highway to the Ottawa River) is a secure zone. It is imperative that no work take place in that area without permission.

Ivan mentioned that ORBA is concerned with inflation and labour shortages. Nights and weekend work is a stressor on retaining staff. Accessibility, excess soil and others issues need to be factored into our budgets.

### NEXT MEETING

Friday, March 18, 2022

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams