

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, September 22, 2022

Time: 8:00 am to 8:30 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Joanne Graham, Christopher Malloy, Anthony Casimiri, Robert Leach, Don Heath, Britney McGrath, Renjit Varghese, Rebecca Belrango, Rob MacLachlan, Ryan Donnelly, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Alen Keri, Paul Lemire, Darrin Alberty, Ivan Levac, Jude Tremblay, Geoff Falls, Brian Lane, Steve McEachen,

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

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. A site and contractor have been chosen for the pilot project. Additional information will be provided to the City's working group. It is anticipated that the pilot will run until December. The Industry met with the City yesterday. The City have retained Explotech who is currently working on a literature review which will delay the pilot. If it goes ahead, it won't be until August. Draft spec has been developed but not put in place yet. Before doing costly conversions, the Industry would like to ensure equipment is acceptable to the City.
Follow-up – Still on the Department's radar. More discussions will take place in the fall.

Excess soil tracking software update - Regulation implementation phasing has changed. The City is still moving forward and plans to be ready for January 2023. Contractor's may use their own software as long as it's compatible with the City's requirements in the tender documents.
Follow-up – please see roundtable.

Fuel Price Adjustments - The City has received requests to include from Industry members. Bruce asked if there was any consensus from the NCHCA. The NCHCA is working on possible solutions to present to the City. The City has meet with GOTA. As they are subcontractors, they have to work with contractors on their concerns. The City also recommended that they reach out to the

NCHCA to discuss their concerns. There are concerns from the Industry that the Fuel Price Index is not covering operating costs and that this issue is an ongoing, escalating problem. The City is not contractually obligated to pay for cost increases and the contracts don't provide any additional mechanisms for it. It was asked how the City and Industry arrived at 7% in original discussions 15 + years ago for the fuel price index. No one had notes indicating how that percentage was determined. The City is open to discussions with the Industry on potential solutions/ideas. Bruce is looking for more information on how the City and Industry arrived at 7% in the past. Justification for the 7% is being investigated. Discussions are ongoing. This will be an upcoming spec review topic for next year.

Follow-up – Some paperwork has been found, but not the rationale for the 7%. The City is willing to discuss the percentage with the Industry.

HSMS - Due to a backlog, some Industry members won't be able to obtain their Core 2020 certification by 2023 even though they're actively engaged in the process. The Industry is proposing changing the wording from "COR 2020" to simply "COR" as the transition from COR2015 to COR2020 will happen automatically.

Follow-up – The City is reviewing the implementation date along with reviewing the differences between CORE 2015 and Core 2020. Sufficient opportunity to complete this transition will be provided to the Industry.

Heavy vehicle restrictions on Bridge Street - At the request of Traffic Services, NCHCA forwarded a survey to its members asking if restrictions would impact their operations. Ultimately, the City has decided not to move forward with this restriction at this time.

Follow-up – Debbie provided an email with details of the protest in Manotick this weekend on truck traffic. Further discussion will take place if this initiative gathers any traction.

2. City S&W locates

The Industry noted that there continues to be delays. The S&W group sent correspondence to the Industry advising them that work is prioritized by the end date of the work. Bruce asked that any delays be reported to the PM and escalated if necessary.

Action – Paul to send correspondence from S&W to Bruce. Bruce to invite the S&W group to meet with the Industry.

3. Concrete powder shortages

This is an ongoing issue for the Industry. Suppliers are focusing on working on projects that have regular daytime hours. Powder rationing and trucking

shortages are also taking place. Debbie noted that pipe companies are also rationing.

4. Paid duty officers

Extended lead times, cancellations and after hours work is very problematic for the Industry. The City is actively engaged in conversations with OPS on this issue. Lack of police staff; more competition for this resource with post covid openings; and Police being used by the contracting industry for work not in the intersection are all issues. It was agreed that ideally a change in the Provincial legislation is required allowing traffic control to be performed in intersections by other resources (e.g. one Province uses Transit special constables). Bruce has briefed senior management of this issue. It was suggested that the Industry and their partners lobby the Province to change the legislation. Contractors were asked to keep PM's informed of problems and their effect on schedules.

5. Roundtable

Joanne Graham introduced two new members to the Supply team. Anthony Casimiri will temporarily take over Joanne's position (Manager) and Christopher Malloy will temporarily take over for Sanna as the senior officer, procurement and policy.

Prequals on Merks – It was asked if access can be extended to subcontractors? Joanne noted that the OCA gets copies of all documents. If this option is problematic Supply can look at other solutions.

Excess Soils – Consistency in specs going out is a problem. It is taking time for the City and Consultants to adjust. Bruce asked that contractors speak up if they notice any irregularities/errors in the contracts while out to tender. It was asked if the City thought that the Regulation implementation would be pushed back again. Bruce reminded the Industry that the Regulation is still in effect. The temporary pause is only in regards to the tracking. Currently, the City is taking a risk sharing approach with contractors. It has been noticed that there has been a significant cost bid on this items in tenders. With commercial solutions now becoming clearer, if this trend continues the City's approach will have to be reevaluated.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, October 21, 2022
8:00 – 10:00 am
Microsoft Teams