

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, November 18, 2022

Time: 8:00 am to 8:30 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Joanne Graham, Chris Malloy, Don Heath, Britney McGrath, Sajjad Haque, Luc Marineau, Renjit Varghese, Elsa La Corte, Kathy Sutherland, Jude Tremblay, Edson Donnelly, Dale Downey, Steve McEachen, Nick Bray, Earlane Lavergne, Geoff Falls, Brian Lane, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Nick Gianetto

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Excess soils - Regulation implementation phasing has changed. The City is still moving forward and plans to be ready for January 2023. The temporary pause is only regarding the tracking. When the tracking comes into effect, the City will need data to report to the Ministry. Contractor's may use their own software as long as it's compatible with the City's requirements in the tender documents. Follow-up – NCHCA will be providing regulatory comments to the Province.

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 is not contractually obligated to pay for cost increases and the contracts don't provide any additional mechanisms for it. The City is willing to discuss with the Industry. Follow-up – The City and NCHCA continue to have discussions. This has been sent to the Standards Group for inclusion in the spec review.

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 implementation date has been changed to January 2024. Follow-up – The Industry to advise the City if there continues to be delays with receiving certification outside the contractor's control so the City can discuss this issue with COR.

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.

Follow-up – Continues to be a problem. Infrastructure Services is working on getting these out quicker from internal partners.

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.

Follow-up – Continues to be a problem. The Industry will send the Concrete Ontario bulletin regarding cement shortages dated October 13, 2022 to the City to be shared with the notes.

Action – Cheryl to send with notes of meeting.

Paid duty officers - Extended lead times, cancellations and after-hours work is very problematic for the Industry. 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. Britney's group is available to help contractors with alternatives. Additional staff resources in Traffic are needed to review TCP's to determine if police are required. The City is investigating ways to curb over-use of police, best manage this resource, and take stress off the system. Any unrequired police on projects impacts projects that have a legislative requirement. The NCHCA will look at having this as a topic for the upcoming educational series.

Follow-up – Misuse is still an issue. The Industry noted that OPS staff's voluntary participation may be contributing to the problem. They requested that an in-person meeting be set up with NCHCA representatives, the City and OPS to discuss ways to alleviate this problem.

Action – Bruce to set up a meeting in January 2024 with OPS and Industry reps.

City org chart - The City will share updated org charts with the Industry for groups that the Industry deals with the most (Infrastructure Services, Supply, Traffic and ROHUD)

Follow-up – Some Manager position competitions are still being finalized. The charts will be sent to the Industry as soon as finalized.

Locates - Ontario One-Call has a new CEO, Jim Keech. One-Call are expecting major changes to the way they do business. They created a Dedicated Locator Team to develop policies and procedures to make the process better. They are also looking at adding fees for the dedicated locator system (\$6,500 per company, per year; fees for every ticket; and payment for the locator). There is concern with risk, and the level of service in the immediate future (2023-2024).

Follow-up – The Industry and City continue to meet with partners. Proposed penalties have been made available for comment. The NCHCA will be providing Industry comments.

2. Bidder guidance materials

Part of Supply's 2023 work plan is to update bidder guidance material. The Industry agreed to review and provide comments on the draft document.

Action – City to send to the Industry.

3. Paid Duty Officers

Covered under notes of previous meeting.

4. List of major 2023 projects

The City will share the list annually in addition to the monthly tender forecast report. The list will be provided in conjunction with budget development in early 2023.

Action – As soon as the budget is solidified (early2023) Bruce will provide a list to the Industry.

5. Fuel price index

The NCHCA will be asking the Standards Group to expediate and address this item during the next spec update.

6. Roundtable

Obstructions in Storm Sewers due to construction – debris and asphalt in storm sewers have caused flooding. It was requested that contractors be diligent in making sure nothing is inadvertently left in storm sewers during construction. Inspection staff will be asked to look at this more closely during construction.

Educational Series – The NCHCA asked that suggestions for topics be put forward for consideration.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, December 16, 2022

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams