

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

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### NOTES

**Date:** Friday, August 19, 2023

**Time:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am

**Place:** Microsoft Teams/655W

### PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Carol Hall, Mark Hoyles, Eslam Maher Mohamed, Christopher Malloy, Everett Paulin, Madison Johnson, Rebecca Belrango, Kevin Lamer, Phil Klein-Swormink, Matt Knight, Joanne Graham

Kathy Sutherland, Darrin Alberty, Nick Bray, Earlane Lavergne, Ryan Donnelly, Lucas Bromerchenkel, Silvana Ruiz-Klinar, Jude Tremblay, Dale Downey, Nick Gianetto

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#### 1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Pre-populated unit rates - The Industry provided examples of rates that are out of date. The City suggested that the Industry send over a list of the rates they would like increases on to the spec committee. A breakdown of co-ordination, third party costs, etc will be provided for Paid Duty Officer item. NCHCA to send information. City is open to change. NCHCA will provide information to the City. City to review along with the fuel price index. It was clarified that VPM scores are frozen the day prior to postings. The City is revising rates and will be sending a draft to the NCHCA Executive.

Follow-up - The City is behind on sending these out, if there's any large contracts left to go out, we'll be able to put them in, the rest will go in as part of the spec review.

Quantity Sheets – more information is needed on quantity. A detailed breakdown will make things more transparent. The City is working on having more quantity sheets included in contracts.

Follow-up – The City discussed quantity sheets with the ACEC. They asked that more standardized information from the City, so consultants are on the same page, and have a bit of an example to follow.

**Action – City to work with the ACEC to standardize the form/information.**

Excess Soils - The City noted that this year there will be more flexibility for contractors for receiving sites other than Trail. Bruce again cautioned the Industry to read the specs in the contracts carefully. The Industry asked if clean soil can be diverted from the landfill. The City asked the Industry to bid on what's in the tender documents. If there are opportunities after the fact, the City will review them. The City will be refining their approach over time, but still have issues to resolve on where the soil is going. The Industry asked if this responsibility can be transferred to contractors. All soil that is not deposited at a Class 1 or landfill has significant long-term risk exposure to the City under the regulation.

Follow-up – Excess soils continue to be an ongoing issue. The City is starting to see that some of the deposition sites are starting to dry up. A few marginal sites are coming to light where people are scrambling for a place to put material, and we'll have to work through that together. One of the things that comes up is agricultural land, and the City understands how that happens. There are some old pits and abandoned properties that are still zoned as agricultural, and that's starting to cause a problem with the with the Planning group. We have approved some of these, but the land use is carefully evaluated. If it's genuinely agricultural land, and someone is just filling it up because it's close to the urban boundary, that's a much bigger issue than if it's an old pit that just happens to have an agricultural zoning.

Tenders – Still a lot of work to go out. The City wants to give ample time to estimators, however, it has to be balanced with the amount of work going out. Realistically, there should be two days between major project closing dates. The Industry suggested getting the tenders out earlier in the year. This is a priority for the City. Most tenders are out and will close in the next couple of weeks. One has been cancelled but the City hopes to retender in the late fall.

Follow-up – Any tenders that will go out now, for the most part, will be work that is multi year. There may be a few small area traffic management projects, but there won't be very much that's expected to be completed by December.

Staff Changes – Josee Vallee has replaced Franco Bonanno as the A/Program Manager of Unit 7

Follow-up – More program managers from DCM will be coming to this meeting so the whole group has a little bit more visibility.

Social Procurement - In order to align with the City's long-term sustainability goals, the City's sustainable planning and procurement objectives include (full description sent in previous notes: Environmental; Ethical, Economic, Social; Cultural

This initiative is currently focused on the consultant vendors with a requirement for a questionnaire to be completed with the RFSO submissions. This will not be used in the rating of proposals but only to find out what their Industry's current state is. Supply may have a similar ask of the contracting industry in the future.

A copy of the questionnaire can currently be found on Merx. Supply is open to suggestions and encouraged the Industry to send along their ideas and suggestions.

Follow-up – There was a little bit of concern at the last meeting when we talked about metrics. To make meaningful choices around contractor selection some way, somehow, that needs to be measured and what that looks like, we don't know yet. The City are looking for feedback from all vendors to understand how we fit that into our style of contract.

Ariba Invoices - The Industry expressed concerns with the number of line items and invoices required for each project on a monthly basis. The City noted that it needs an appropriate breakdown of what work it is paying for in order to allocate the costs and process the payments expeditiously. The Industry asked if there was an opportunity to limit the amount of invoices each month and can these get flagged? The City will review with an effort to flag excessive line items in the POs.

Follow-up – We understand there's still some Ariba hiccups. From the City's point of view, Ariba has significantly improved our ability to meet the Construction Act and our ability to pay our bills on time. The Industry asked where to make suggestions or send comments to for review? There is a general mailbox for all supplier comments and support questions for the City of Ottawa ([suppliersupport@ottawa.ca](mailto:suppliersupport@ottawa.ca)).

Electric Vehicles on Integrated jobs – The Industry asked what will happen when residents with electrical vehicles can't park in their driveways due to construction? The City will need to include additional information in the resident notices that are sent out.

Action – Bruce to look into this and report back.

## 2. 2024 Spec Updates

Kick off will take place in early September. The Standards Group are looking forward to working with our industry partners again for the spec updates. The format will be similar to previous years, though most of the meetings will be in person at 100 Constellation.

Similar to previous years, there should be about three overall meetings taking place between September and January. It is expect to have the same committees, water and sewer, general transportation; and possibly asphalt, concrete and granulars committee as well. Each of those committees should have one or two committee meetings, likely in October and November. A call for issues will go out in the next few weeks and there will be a call for volunteers.

Any questions, comments, concerns about spec updates, specs, standards, and guidelines in general, can be sent to [standardssection@ottawa.ca](mailto:standardssection@ottawa.ca). They are happy to take feedback throughout the year, but if there is anything spec update

related, that you'd like to take part in this years spec updates, please just send us an email to make sure you're on the right distribution list.

The NCHCA will be providing their list of issues to the City before the August 28th deadline. They also asked for an update on the breadth of the update, would it be a focused update? It was confirmed that this will not be a focused update. The City is willing to look at anything and everything but have limited time to complete the spec updates. They will be doing a bit of triage and as long as something is a spec update, it will be included for discussion. There isn't any guarantees as to whether we'll have resolutions to every single issue that's brought forward, but they're going to try.

Concrete Ontario asked for an update on adopting their municipal flat work in City specs. Everett to look into this and report back but asked that the questions be sent to the Standard's email. Concrete Ontario volunteered to participate on the concrete committee meetings during the review. Kathy noted that the concrete committee met recently and a representative from Concrete Ontario participated. It is on the list of issues that will be submitted.

Canadian Concrete Pipe and Precast Association noted that they have had recent discussions regarding some non standard special provisions that they saw in some precast specifications recently and wanted to bring that up during the spec review. Everett noted that all the issues brought up do need to be spec related. Every year we get a few things that are more policy related, things that aren't necessarily right for spec updates, but for this particular issue, it can be included.

### 3. Roundtable

Asphalt Work – the City commended the Asphalt Industry for the amount of work they put out this year. It was great to see that the industry does have the capacity and that we can look forward to maybe some larger paving budgets as we move forward.

CADD Drawings – The Industry noted that over the last few years, they have experienced issues with regards to cut files submission. The issue is that these cut files are not the exact representation of the IFC package that they will receive with this stamp PDF drawings. They want nothing extra, not working layers, just exactly what is seen in the IFC package. The City has a CAD standards working group with some ACEC reps and are committed to looking at this issue. A standard approach and something that's more workable for contractors is being developed. Bruce suggested that someone from the NCHCA attend this meeting to discuss their concerns and relay what they would like to see.

2024 Educational Series – The NCHCA is looking for topics, suggestions for speakers and suggestions for topics for the 2024 Educational Series. Send any comments or suggestions to Kathy to bring forward to the group.

Drinking Water Service Crews – Contractors are having an issue with drinking water services crews that do the cut and caps and the chlorination of the temporary water for watermain. Typically, they would get those crews in a couple of days after submitting a request form. What they are seeing now is delays up to a couple of weeks. This is impacting schedules. Bruce will have a conversation with Renjit to get a better understanding what their scheduling challenges are and ask him to attend the next liaison committee meeting to provide insight.

The Industry asked that, and it's been discussed in the past, if the City could reconsider the contractors, under the supervision of a licensed operator, do connections themselves. The City recognizes that many other jurisdictions operate that way and that there's not a legislative barrier to doing it. The City needs to fully consider all the impacts, but is willing to consider ways of doing business differently. Bruce will bring forward the suggestion the next time Infrastructure Services meet with Drinking Water Services.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Friday, September 15, 2023  
8:00 – 10:00 pm  
Microsoft Teams/in person