

Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA)

Building on a strong foundation

NCHCA Education Series Update

January 17, 2024



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About ORBA

Founded in 1927, the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) is the leading voice of Ontario's transportation infrastructure sector.

- 280+ contractors, producers, suppliers and service providers
- Supporting 56,000+ workers across Ontario and generating \$5.5Bn+ in annual GDP
- Membership includes large general contractors and regional, small and medium enterprises building roads, bridges and transit projects among others
- The Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council (OAPC) was formed in 1974 and serves as the respected voice for over 95 per cent of hot-mix asphalt producers and asphalt cement suppliers in the Province

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Keep Ontario Moving

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Our mission for 2024 and beyond

ORBA promotes and supports the growth of Ontario's transportation infrastructure. We engage in strategic advocacy and stakeholders relations to advance member and industry priorities including:

- Building new roads and bridges such as Highway 413 and the 2+1 Highway in Northern Ontario
- Consistent, predictable transportation infrastructure funding across all regions of the Province
- Collaborative procurement and contract models with appropriate risk allocation and management
- Workforce development to address the acute labour shortage facing the industry
- Promoting sustainability and de-carbonization in the industry

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Our mission

Consistent growth in annual transportation infrastructure funding along with predictability for contractors is key to driving value-for-money and promoting a healthy industry.

- Capital spending deficits persist when compared to MTO's projected annual budgets
- The Ministry's push to meet spending commitments before fiscal year-end places immense pressure on contractors who are planning resources for the upcoming season
- Regional fiscal allocations must also be respected with greater budgetary transparency
- Positive commitment from MTO to reinstate early tender call sheets at ORBA's 2024 Convention

Our mission

Addressing the historic labour shortage facing Ontario's construction industry is critical to delivering projects on time and on budget.

- The transportation infrastructure industry risks losing much of its institutional knowledge with many workers retiring over the coming years
- Promoting desirable working conditions in the industry is key to attracting and retaining home-grown talent
- ORBA is actively engaging Skilled Trades Ontario (STO) to establish robust labour market information (LMI) data and promote careers in the industry
- We are also working with partner organizations to advocate for revamping Canada's antiquated immigration system to attract newcomers to the industry

Our mission

Promoting a sustainable industry is at the core of ORBA's strategic priorities because we believe it is the right thing to do for the environment, and a smart business decision for our members and their clients.

- ORBA is committed to taking steps to achieve a net-zero target for the industry by 2050
- OAPC is at the forefront of the Association's advocacy for the responsible use of Reclaimed Asphalt Products (RAP) which will significantly reduce the industry's carbon footprint and achieve cost savings for infrastructure owners
- New partnership with the National Research Council (NRC) will establish Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for asphalt used in Ontario
- ORBA is actively engaging MECP to ensure new excess soils regulations promote in the industry while reducing red tape

Legislative and regulatory agenda

ORBA will continue to engage members and stakeholders to ensure governments' agendas reflect our members' priorities and advance the transportation infrastructure industry in Ontario.

- Proposed amendments to MECP's O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Regulation
- Newly-introduced *Ontario One Call Act* regulation coming into force May 1, 2024
- Ontario's Winter 2024 legislative agenda
- 2024 Ontario Budget

Major Projects Working Group

Ontario's transportation infrastructure industry has struggled with significant financial losses over the past decade resulting from an array of challenges which can be mostly attributed to flawed procurement models and a behavioural shift negatively impacting culture and levels of trust between parties.

- The ORBA-MTO Major Projects Working Group was established following a meeting with Premier Ford in 2023 to dissect challenges and make recommendations to urgently address those challenges
- The Working Group's goal is to ultimately rebuild trust and strengthen collaboration between government and industry to encourage more competition and drive value-for-money
- Summary of recommendations will be presented jointly by ORBA and MTO, and is the product of several working sessions, meetings and discussions over the last year

Upcoming events

ORBA Convention & AGM

February 4-6, 2024

ORBA Road Building Academy

February 26 – March 01, 2024

Spring Operations Seminar 2.0

March 21, 2024 & April 4, 2024

OAPC at Good Road Conference 2024

April 21-24, 2024

Asphalt Technical Symposium (ATS)

June 11, 2024

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Aug 18 – 21, 2024

Annual Members Golf Tournament

August 2024

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