

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, January 17, 2020

Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Place: 100 Constellation Drive, Room 655W

Present:

Carina Duclos, Will McDonald, Sanna D'Ornellas, Bruce Kenny, Linda Carkner, Shelley MacDonald, Brittany McGrath, Kathy Sutherland, Nick Bray, Edson Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Darrin Alberty, Wade Clouthier, Ivan Levac, Geoff Falls, Debbie Mohr-Caldwell

1. Review notes of previous meeting

Broadband Backup Alarms – On agenda.

Process for Determination of Proof of Payroll Burden – Carina and Debbie to discuss off-line. This item will be removed from agenda

Half Loads – Update on Lifting of Half Loads by Region Next Year - The City of has reviewed the request to consider lifting half loads by area, but at this point, is not able to amend its process. The City uses a number of measures to determine the timing for the Seasonal Load Restriction (SLR) Removal, including the vastness of the City and the variety of the soil conditions. Also considered are the dates predicted by indexes based on freeze and thaw data from Environment Canada. Weekly deflection testing is undertaken at 11 sites throughout the City. The City also reviews the dates predicted by Ministry of Transportation, Ontario and Quebec (MTO and MTQ) and the County of Renfrew for SLR removal. The City will continue to implement half load restrictions holistically.

New Construction Act – On October 1st the new Construction Act comes into effect. The City is reviewing its process to see what needs to come into compliance. Sue asked if the Industry had any specific concerns or thoughts about current City processes. The Industry is most interested in how prompt payment will be handled. Both the City and Industry are finding interpretation of the new Act challenging. There wasn't consensus within the NCHCA on when the clock starts ticking for paying invoices (progress

payments). It was agreed that this will be a learning experience for everyone. The City will be reaching out to the Industry to discuss some processes. The Industry does see change order payments being a challenge to meet the time requirement.

Follow-up – The City has reached out to the Industry and invited them to a meeting on 23 October. The agenda for this meeting will be sent out today.

Action – Kathy to send Industry feedback to the City.

Follow-up – The City is still working on their business processes but will be sharing a high-level approach with the Industry in the near future. One change being contemplated is requiring Contractors to submit invoices for OPS contracts. On 22 January there will be a follow-up meeting with the Industry to discuss some of the changes the City would like to implement.

Follow-up – City staff are meeting weekly to discuss and significant progress is being made. Feedback from the Industry is being reviewed and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Roads with half load restrictions – Nick asked if the City could review the half load restriction on the road between Trail and Moodie. Nick to send the exact location to Carina. City to review to make sure the half load restriction noted is correct.

Action – Asset Management to review and respond.

Follow-up – Asset Management has determined that half load restrictions are on the stretch of road in question. They have reached out to other internal departments for comments. In the meantime, if there is a project tendered that will be impacted by this restriction, a contractor can ask for clarification during the tender process.

New Options to Publish Certificate of Substantial Performance - The Act that covers publication of certificates of substantial performance has been revised. Several publication companies were brought forward that could meet the requirements of the new Act.

Action – The City and the Industry to discuss and come up with an acceptable list of publications that meet the new Act's requirements.

Follow-up – The following publications are being evaluated to determine if they meet the requirements under the new Act – Commercial News; Link to Build; and Ontario Construction News. Kathy sent background information to Carina. Contract documents are being reviewed to determine if they need to be modified.

Hydrants (no more extensions) - Carina circulated clarification on an email sent out to some Industry members (and that may have been shared with others). After consulting with DWS/Standards Unit and Inspection it was determined that the email was site specific and did not apply to all cases in general.

Follow-up – Kathy sent a note to the contractors on the original email.

Action – Kathy to include clarification in the NCHCA newsletter.

Permits for Transportation (Floats) - When a Contractor applies for and gets a permit sometimes a condition of approval is that there be a police escort. This information is usually provided too late to secure a police escort to meet with permits approval date. The Industry would like for there to be an option for an extension, similar to what the MTO

has, to be able to secure the escort and not have to reapply for a permit. They were also wondering if a licensed escort can be used instead of the police. The City noted that there is a Provincial regulation that mandates that police are the only entity that can override a signalized intersection. Brittany suggested that they work with ROWHUD (Linda) about the ability to obtain an extension.

Action - Carina to advise Linda of these concerns. Brittany to gather some background material and report back.

Follow-up – Britany brought forward concerns to the By-law committee. It's been identified as a need in the By-law review but is not a priority. A quick fix being considering is increasing the time to one week by amending the permit. This would provide additional time for contractors to schedule the police and report back. It was requested that a copy of the Committee and Council report regarding road closures, that are development related, are included with the notes of the meeting. It was also requested that the City provide a weight restriction map.

Action – Britney to provide a copy of the report when available. Carina and Shelley to discuss the request for a weight restriction map/list and determine if the City has anything available that can help the industry plan better to avoid the back and forth

Warm Mix – The Industry are proposing to the MTO that they accept warm mix. They are in favour of moving in this direction if the Industry can demonstrate there is an environmental benefit. Currently there is a 5K performance test that is required if using warm mix under the spec. Can the City's asphalt committee review?

Action – Carina to send to the Standards Group

Follow-up – Carina asked if this has been brought up at the Asphalt Committee.

2. Broadband Backup Alarms

The City would like to transition to broadband backup alarm technology as it would help secure approval to work at night when needed. The Industry was asked for feedback; possible impacts and how quickly they could implement the change.

The Industry noted that they would have to remove the technology they are currently using, then install the new technology. They also have to determine how to install it on vehicles that are multi-directional. The Industry wanted to know if the MOL is on board with this technology. Education would have to be an important part of the roll out.

The City will provide the information from fleet and also agreed that education would be an important component. IS is also reaching out to Councillors early in the process if night work is anticipated.

3. SAP Ariba

To use the new technology that the City is implementing, there is no need to buy SAP. There is a free version that allows you to do what is required. There is a licensing fee if contractors want to upgrade to a version with more capabilities, but that is their own business decision.

Until all the training has been done, the old system will remain in place. Training schedules are being developed now and will be rolled out in waves. Timing will depend on how each launch goes and the lessons learned.

Supply has a group that is handling Q&A's. Contact information can be provided or they can be brought to a future NCHCA/City meeting.

4. Staff Changes - Update

The Director of Infrastructure Services, Alain Gonthier is participating in a program that has him working as an Associate General Manager for 9 months starting in February. Carina will be covering Alain's position as Director of Infrastructure Services from February to June. Shelley MacDonald will be covering from July to October.

[Post Meeting Update:](#)

- [Alain has taken a temporary 9 month assignment as an Associate General Manager in Public Works](#)
- [Carina will be the Action Director, replacing Alain](#)
- [Shelley will be the Acting Director of Solid Waste](#)
- [Luc will be the Acting Manager, DCM, replacing Carina](#)
- [Franco will be the Acting Program Manager replacing Luc](#)
- [Acting Manager of Asset Management to be Gen Nielson](#)
- [Steve Forestell is retiring at the end of February](#)
- [Steve Courtland will be returning to DCM in the Fall.](#)

Sanna was introduced to the group. She is replacing Jane Daganais in Supply and Carol Butler is being replaced by Shawn Morrison.

In Traffic, Stacey Rathwell is leaving to go to Design and Construction Municipal. Britany will be helping support the group until her replacement is hired. A copy of the staff list for DCM will be sent with the notes of meeting.

[Action - Cheryl](#)

5. Sidewalk Specs/Flatwork Certification

The Committee is meeting but progress is slow. Carina indicated that Industry should move forward with Flatwork Certification. There is concern that some of the individuals in that industry will have a language barrier and it may impact training/certification. It was suggested that inspectors also receive training and certification. City inspectors will. The NCI does the certification and it was noted that it has more than one component to the training. It was suggested that the Industry contact them to tailor the training and certification to work around the potential barriers.

[Action – Industry to report back to Carina](#)

6. Water Intake Information from 2019 - Reminder

Carina reminded the Industry that March 31 2020 is the deadline to submit the water taking information for 2019 projects to the MOECC. There is also a requirement for the Industry to provide a copy of the submission to the Project Manager.

7. Roundtable

Educational Session – There is only one day planned for this year. The schedule was discussed. There is information on the NCHCA's website. Please register. Lunch will be provided.

Upcoming Sessions –

OPC Partners in Quality – April 9th

Asphalt and Cement Technical Symposium – June 15

ORGCA Annual Conference – February 10-11-12

Action - Ivan to send information to Carina and Kathy. Kathy will put in the NCHCA Newsletter.

VPM - Will be discussed at the next VPM meeting.

Electronic Signatures – Docu-sign is being looked at to see how it could work for contracts.

Update on the By-law Review – Phase 2 starting in February. They will be looking at Road Closures, Encroachments and Fees. The Industry asked when the fees may change. Linda anticipates that it will be done to align with the Budget. The City is not sure if they will make the deadline for 2021, it may be implemented in 2022.

Electronic Permit Application – this is being actively worked on. Waiting for additional resources from IT. Name of the software being considered will be included in the notes of the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 21, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 am

100 Constellation Drive, Boardroom 655W