

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Conference Call

Present:

Luc Marineau, Bruce Kenny, Randy Dempsey, Linda Carkner, Will McDonald, Joanne Graham, Sue Johns, Liz Lang, Tara Blasioli, Gen Nielsen, Aicha Ghezal, Carol Hall, Wade Clouthier, Kathy Sutherland, Debbie Mohr-Caldwell, Darrin Alberty, Ivan Levac, Steve Goodman, Alan Keri, Geoff Falls, Jude Tremblay

1. Review notes of previous meeting

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. Carina to advise Linda of these concerns. 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. Britney provided a copy of the report with the notes of the last meeting.

Action – Luc and Gen 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.

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 American Concrete Institute (ACI) does the certification and it was noted that there is 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. Industry to report back to Carina. The City sent 10 of their inspection staff to receive concrete flatwork certification. The cost was approximately \$1,000 per person, for two days of training with the City providing the venue. Participants found the training was more geared towards commercial/industrial work but found the information useful. Luc asked if the Industry has looked into getting training for their Foremen.

Action – The Industry will review this with its Concrete Committee and will advise.

Follow-up –The Industry wanted to know if it was a requirement, how many people on the crew need to have it and if it was in the spec now. Also, will it be a requirement for consultant inspectors/contract admins to have it. The OPSS currently requires one person on site to have it. Luc will discuss the requirements for consultant inspectors/CA's at the next City/CEO Liaison meeting.

Broadband Backup Alarms - The City is still encountering challenges in getting exemptions to do night work and asked for the NCHCA's feedback on how quickly they could implement a change to broadband back-up alarms. Kathy is still waiting for some feedback and will respond when all information is received. Luc asked if the Industry would be supportive of implementing this for overlay work as this is area that requires the most night work. Without an SP, an addendum could be added to the tender requesting contractors use the broadband back up alarms. The main concern the Industry has is liability. Can the City provide documentation that broadband back up alarms are acceptable to the MOL and will not create any liability issues. There is also concern that removing what is currently installed will void the manufactures warranty. The Industry asked if there was flexibility in the type of technology used. Some of the manufacturers have their own white noise technology that can be used and that will not void the warranty.

Action – Luc to follow up with Legal and City Fleet regarding MOL requirements. Luc to provide Kathy with contact information for the MOL.

Tender Forecast List – The Industry would like for the City to give them a better idea of the magnitude of upcoming projects/tenders. They suggested financial ratings for projects, similar to what the MTO does, that puts a projects budget into categories (eg, 1-5M, 5-10M, 10M).

Action – Luc to investigate and report back.

Road Cut Permits – On agenda.

2. Concrete Spec

Aicha provided an update on proposed changes to the spec to deal/resolve deficiencies. This would be an interim solution while the committee continues its work.

Liz explained that the draft technical bulletin deviates slightly from what was discussed a few weeks ago at the spec committee meeting. Instead of strictly stating “acceptance for light scaling and pay reduction for medium scaling”, it now states “*Any negotiated price reductions proposed by the Contractor for deficient concrete permitted to remain in the work shall be approved by the Contract Administrator and the City of Ottawa Quality Assurance Section*”. This verbiage acknowledges the existence of different situations. The added verbiage also states that negotiated payment reductions are initiated either by the contractor or the owner in an effort to resolve a minor noncompliance within the contract.

There will be an update later this year or in early 2021. This solution is basically going back to the requirements in the 2013 spec. The draft spec and a copy of the 2013 spec will be sent out in the next week or two for comment.

Action - Liz

3. Vendor supplying material that doesn't meet spec

The City acknowledges that sometimes Contractors experience problems getting a specified product. The City is requesting that any substitutions to material be discussed with the project team prior to supplying them as the City needs to ensure the material meets its specs.

4. Kindness Campaign

The City is continuing the campaign this year. A copy of the poster and a list of where the campaign is being targeted to will be included with the notes of the meeting.

Action - Luc

5. 2020 IS Project Permits

ROWHUD is still operating. Staff are working remotely and will continue to issue permits. Please let Linda know if there are any issues.

ROWHUD have been in touch with Utility Companies and they're focused on maintaining their systems. Linda suggested having conversations early in the process for project requirement to avoid delays.

Currently there is a 10 day turn-around time for permits. To expediate Infrastructure Services (IS) Projects, Linda discussed the submission requirements and process being developed for IS. After discussions with IS are complete, ROWHUD will formally advise the Industry.

6. Flexibility in project timelines and protections from liability for project caused directly or indirectly by the pandemic and pandemic response measures

The Industry is looking for reassurance that there won't be any penalties due to unforeseen scheduling challenges as a result of COVID 19.

The City recognizes that this is happening and will react accordingly. Any delays will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Industry was encouraged to have ongoing discussions with the project team and bring any specific issues forward for review.

7. Roundtable

COVID 19 – The City sent a response to the Industry addressing the questions they submitted. A copy will be included with the notes.

Action - Cheryl

Bid Deposits – Continuing to function. CCDC Performance Security and Contract documents still need to be provided with original signatures. In order to facilitate the receiving of physical documents during this time, Supply has made arrangements to allow vendors to drop off their documents at the Provincial offences fine payment drop box which is located on the exterior of the building just to the left of the front doors. As previously discussed, Supply is working on implementing electronic signatures for tender documents but are still in discussions with Insurance Companies for electronic signatures for CCDC documents.

Deadlines in MERX – the Industry wanted to know if there was any flexibility with the deadlines in MERX's. Supply suggested contacting them if more time is needed and they will consider extending the deadline.

Delays with VPM Adjusted Results – With the change to working from home some activities have slowed down but they're working to get back up to speed.

Tenders – The City is still proceeding with their normal processes. Any questions during tendering are to go to Supply, not PM's or Consultants.

ORBA Bulletin – The Province has recently announced temporary changes to the Noise By-law. Although implemented to allow delivery to grocery stores at all hours during the pandemic, can this be leveraged to help with Construction work? Also, with the dramatic drop in traffic during peak hours, there may be an opportunity to do more work during this time. The City is looking at project specific traffic and assessing peak hour restrictions across the City. Luc asked for a copy of the Provincial directive.

Action – Steve to send a copy of the directive to Luc.

Meetings – Although this meeting was conducted through Bell's conferencing solutions, Microsoft Teams is the Corporate Standard at the City.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, April 17, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams