

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, February 22, 2020

Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Place: 100 Constellation Drive, Room 655W

Present:

Luc Marineau, Gen Nielsen, Marc Bezanson, Joanne Graham, Moustafa Awadalla, Mike Plastino, Chris Graham, Kathy Sutherland, Edson Donnelly, Wade Clouthier, Geoff Falls, Paul Lemire, Chris Lesaux

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.

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.

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.

Follow-up – 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.

Staff Changes – Update – Randy Dempsey has been the successful candidate for Steve Forestell's Program Manager position in Design & Construction Municipal. Randy will remain in his current unit and Steve Courtland will return to Steve's unit after completion of CCST. In the interim, Patrick Chamney will be the Acting Program Manager.

2. 28 Day Payment Term Implemented

SAP is now capable of paying at 28 days. Internal processes are still being worked on and notice of non-payment still needs to be determined.

3. 2020 Seasonal Load Restrictions – Application for Exemption

As noted in the memo to the NCHCA, OCA and GOTA dated 18 February 2020 (copy attached), exemptions to load restrictions are granted in some cases where the movement of the load could not reasonably have been planned around the seasonal load restricted period, the risk of damage is low, the movement of a load cannot be reduced or reasonably rescheduled until after the restricted period, as well as various other considerations. The City is under no obligation to provide exemptions from the seasonal load restrictions at any time, as there is a high risk of damage to the pavement structure from such operations.

When requesting an exemption, the permit will now go to the ROW Permit Office first.

The Industry stressed the importance of lifting the restrictions as early as possible. The City is currently monitoring, and liaising with other government agencies, to determine the progression of the thaw.

Moustafa also noted that the Truck Route Map is being updated. The City will advise the Industry when it is posted on the City Website.

4. Update to VPM Criteria in Bid Evaluation

Joanne noted that effective March 1 there will be a change in how VPM is applied during the tender award for construction projects. The VPM weighting will increase to 20% of the total points. This is an increase from the previous 10% that's been used since 2018.

5. Re-tendering

Concern was expressed that a recently tendered project was essentially the same as one tendered in late 2019. The City makes decisions on re-tendering on a case-by-case basis. The City looks at the cumulative effect of all the small changes in the tender. Another factor is, per the City's Contract Specifications, the City can only negotiate with the lowest bidder when the bid is within 15% of the project budget.

The Industry suggested that the City review its budgets to determine if the tender prices are reflective of today's market. The City is actively looking at this and monitoring contract prices.

6. 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 an 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 manufacturer's 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 City's MOL contact.

7. Vision Drop-in Sessions

The City welcomes Contractors at any of the scheduled drop-in sessions on either Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 or Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:00. The sessions are generally held in Room 655W and if they need to be moved, it will indicate where on the door. Vision staff recommend that PM's invite Contractors to make the introduction.

8. Roundtable

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.

Retirement – Steve Forestell's retirement party is next Thursday, 27 February. Tickets can be purchased from Cheryl or Julie Lalonde. Cheryl to send a copy of the poster to Kathy.

Procurement – Is Supply still updating the Procurement page? The City is moving to having all the information in MERX's. Joanne confirmed unofficial and VPM results are being sent through MERX. Contractors should be receiving notifications.

24 Hour Unit Pricing – It's not clear in the tender how to submit the information and the Contractor couldn't enter the information in MERX. Joanne confirmed that the information can be emailed.

Locked form – The form was locked to prevent any inadvertent changes to the document. Even a small change can disqualify a company, so to prevent this, the form was locked.

Road Cut Permits – The Industry would like some timelines for turn arounds. Luc asked contractors to reach out to PM's and Program Managers to escalate if they're experiencing unexpected delays.

Action – Luc to follow up with Linda.

Standing Offer for Drinking Water Service – Supplier was unable to determine where they finished in ranking as numbers have been removed. Joanne noted that they are trying to standardize the offer process.

Action – Joanne to look into specific incident and follow up with Kathy

EProcurement – Please send any feedback to Joanne. Supply is looking at implementing e-signatures in the near future. Docu-sign is being used for the pilot.

Printing Notes and Agenda's – The City will no longer be bringing copies to the meeting.
Please print and bring your notes and agenda to future meetings.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, March 20, 2020
8:00 – 10:00 am
100 Constellation Drive, Boardroom 655W