

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

Present:

Luc Marineau, Bruce Kenny, Randy Dempsey, Linda Carkner, Joanne Graham, Sue Johns, Liz Lang, Anna Valliant, Richard Barker, Tara Blasioli, Carol Hall, Renjit Varghese, Britney McGrath, Chris Kollar, Darrin Alberty, Nick Gianetto, Wade Clouthier, Kathy Sutherland, Debbie Mohr-Caldwell, Geoff Falls, Jude Tremblay, Edson Donnelly, Bob Watson, Ryan Donnelly

1. Excess Soils

The first phase of the regulation is scheduled to be implemented July 1. The City, along with other municipalities, have asked for an extension. The Province has not yet said they will agree to the extension and asked that we do our best to work towards compliance. City staff are looking at which projects will be affected, but tenders remain unchanged. New contract language is being developed. The City also hired a third-party consultant to look at what data is available, is there any gaps, where additional data is required, and what we need moving forward. The City is focused on meeting the July 1 requirements. Currently, we are looking at individual projects, if the soil is contaminated or not, and where the soil goes. Contaminated soil will go to the Trail facility. The goal is to provide Contractor with a recommendation on what types of receiving sites the soil can go to. Contractors will need to come up with actual sites where soil can be deposited.

It was asked if the City will start taking samples from sites for classification. The City notes that this should be done prior to construction starting. There is no plans to do random samples at this time but we may look at taking samples of what's leaving the site. Additional sampling and tracking requirements come into effect with the next phase of the regulation in 2022.

The Industry noted that this may provide an opportunity to change the current specs for reinforced concrete pipes to design them with minimal imported material so the soil can be re-used on site.

2. 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. Luc to provide response with the notes of the meeting.

Follow-up – Response from AMB was included with the notes of the previous meeting along with the list of ODV restricted bridges. Also, a map is being worked on to add to GEO Ottawa.

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. The Industry is waiting to hear back from the City on requirements. Luc will discuss developing a spec with the standards group. GOTA received information from the City on alarms. Timing has yet to be determined, but the City would like to start with dump trucks.

Follow-up – the City is working on a spec.

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).

Follow-up - Not able to do this at this time as it would be a manual task for staff.

E-tickets Concrete – The Industry is looking for a way to reduce handling of paper and asked if a process could be developed to receive e-tickets instead of paper ones.

Ivan to provide background information. Luc to look at possibilities.

Follow-up – more information is needed from aggregate suppliers.

3. Municipal Design & Construction Service Coordination

The ROW Branch has reviewed how they could streamline the review of road cut permits associated with IS, Design and Construction projects.

A new, more streamlined process has been implemented that involves notifying Traffic Services, instead of having them review the application, in light of the D-005. In triaging all the road cut applications that are received, they also continue to prioritize those associated with IS D&C projects. For road closures, they're working to facilitate their processing as quickly as possible.

The ROW Permit Office is working remotely, and the desk is closed. They continue to work very hard to maintain the same level of service, but as is the case for everyone, IT issues and commitments at home impact productivity, and this coupled with the overall influx of applications can create challenges.

Applications are being taken in by email, and permits are issued by way of the same.

4. Update on Construction Act

The City's working group is still meeting weekly. Given the current challenges, and the onset of the construction season, it has been decided that the final deliverables associated to the Construction Act Project will be delivered in Q4 of 2020. This means that notices of nonpayment and invoicing processes will not be changed until then. The working group continues to work on the processes and will still be booking a separate meeting with the Construction Industry groups prior to finalizing any processes. To date, the working group has implemented 28-day payment terms on purchase orders. The changes to be implemented relate to how a vendor will submit an invoice and how a vendor will be notified of a partial payment.

Action - Kathy to bring back to the NCHCA working group and let Joanne know if they have any concerns.

5. Covid:

- **Possibility of Liquid Asphalt Cement shortages in the later end of 2020 due to COVID-19 (Ivan)** – It was noted that some refineries have shut down and this may be an issue.

- **Impact on interior pre-construction inspections (Darrin)** – If contractors are not allowed to do in home inspections prior to construction how will they protect themselves from claims. Is the City willing to risk-share with the contractors? The City would be willing to look at this on a case-by-case basis. The following were suggestions:
 - Ask residents to take date-stamped pictures but this may cause worry that there will be a problem.
 - Deny claims if residents don't allow contractors in.
 - Wait and see and address on a case-by-case basis.
 - Vibration monitoring.

Action – Darrin to look into the difference in cost of vibration monitoring vs inside inspection and report back.

- **Compliance, supply chain issues? Anything to share, anything to be aware of? (Luc)** – The Industry is not expecting a problem with piping but fabrication may be an issue. Also, there may be issue with manholes as there is only a couple of precast suppliers. For labour, many subs have a policy that if one member of their crew tests positive, they shut down for 14 days. There may also be a shortage of labour due to other large projects happening in Ottawa like LRT.

Construction companies have implemented their own safety precautions and are following OPH protocols.

Projects are proceeding well because of less traffic. The Industry suggested moving quickly on projects that are in high traffic areas to take advantage of this opportunity.

6. Police Service

The OPS have been back to regular service for Duty Officers since May 4th.

7. DWS Workforce

DWS are ramping up to half capacity next week. With most people still at home there are requesting that residents be provide 48 hour notice of an interruption of water supply instead of 24.

8. Roundtable

Locates – Contractors are experiencing a 3-4 week turn around time which is normal in the spring. They're experiencing delays with Bell and Rogers and have been asked on occasion to show small areas to focus on the most important work. They anticipate more delays as many development projects are resuming.

Spec Update – The City’s typical spec update will be kicking off this fall, with the update scheduled for release in the spring of 2021. The top 10 listing compiled by the NCHCA can be sent to the standards group for review. Any other recommendation can be sent with supporting documents for consideration.

Action – Kathy to send top 10 list to the standards group.

Tender closings – two large tenders were schedule to close this week, Strandherd and Deerpark. Strandherd has been extended to next week and it’s anticipated that Deerpark will do the same. Is there a possibility to extend the distance of the closing dates of these two tenders (eg. Wednesday and Friday)?

Action – Luc to follow up.

Holdback Release on large projects – can the hold back be adjusted on large scale multi-year projects? Randy noted that this is being addressed for Strandherd.

Action – City to review request and report back.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, June 19, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams