

ORBA - MTO Highway Maintenance Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, May 27th, 2024

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Teams Video Meeting

Attendee	Organization	Attendee	Organization
Doug Wipperman	The Miller Group	Steven Crombie	ORBA
James Stracey	Emcon Services Inc.	Sheri Graham	MTO
Frank Rizzardo	Emcon Services Inc.	James Hamilton	MTO
John McBride	Fowler Construction	Valérie Labbé	MTO
Paul Krajc	Fowler Construction	Andrew Alkins	MTO
Abdallah Tannoukhi	Webber Infrastructure	Nedim Oren	MTO
Thelep Ampalavanar	Webber Infrastructure	Michael Sleeth	MTO
Greg Ehman	Ledcor	Nasr Slabi	MTO
Brian Green	GIP Highway Maintenance	Brian Utigard	MTO
Walid Abou-Hamde	ORBA	Neil Pawluk	MTO
Simarpreet Kaur	ORBA		

*Strikethrough – Did not attend the meeting

1. **Past Meeting Notes** – shared early morning of May 27th and accepted by all.

2. **Presentation (MTO):**

- MTO Additional Contract Delivery Model – CDMC Minor

ACTION ITEM: Presentation & request for feedback to be sent to ORBA members post meeting.

3. **Standing Items:**

- a. MTO Application Working Group
- b. Winter Materials Working Group
- c. Operators Working Group
- d. Equipment Working Group
- e. Winter Operations Working Group
- f. Summer Operations Working Group

- No updates as meetings for each group still need to be scheduled.

ACTION ITEM: ORBA & MTO to schedule startup meetings for each Working Group prior to next HMC meeting (July).

4. **New Business:**

a. **Operator Challenges:**

i. **Update on Winter Season**

- IMOS: Not present.
- Emcon: overall improvement in obtaining operators however, still some challenges in smaller communities where there is competing industries such as forestry and mining. There are some outlier communities with higher

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population where there are challenges but majority of challenges are in remote/northern communities.

- Webber: no operator issues this season.
- Fowler: No impacts. Employed strategy of repurposing operator duties due to a low volume of winter events.
- Ledcor: operator challenges predominantly in the Northern contract areas.
- GIP: No present.
- This item will be deferred in future meetings until next Winter Season.

ii. **Update on Work Program (SOLGEN)**

- No update.

ACTION ITEM: MTO to set up meeting with ORBA and MLITSD to help with recruitment for SOLGEN (Week of June 10th – either Thurs or Fri).

iii. **Update on Driver Certification Program**

- IMOS: not present.
- Emcon: in final stages of the approval process (Emcon's responsibility)
- Webber: already certified.
- Fowler: not participating.
- Ledcor: not participating.
- GIP: not present.

ORBA enquired if MTO would consider incentive options due to high costs of becoming certified.

ACTION ITEM: MTO will discuss incentive options internally.

b. **Equipment Challenges**

- i. IMOS: not present.
- ii. Emcon: things are improving but not back to “pre-covid” availability, not as easy to obtain equipment compared to pre-pandemic. We’ve always held our own inventory to accommodate challenges. If an exemption existed for emissions standard reductions for Winter Vehicles, the majority of breakdowns would be eliminated. Similar exemptions exist in other jurisdictions.
- iii. Webber: there are challenges with Winter Vehicles as a major manufacturer was shut down. Global buying power has helped alleviate some of the challenges, but not all (similar to example provided by Emcon).
- iv. Fowler: we support the exemptions for emissions. Similar challenges to others.
- v. Ledcor: we support the exemptions for emissions, we anticipate further challenges when the next emission tier is implemented. Similar challenges to others.
- vi. GIP: not present.

ACTION ITEM: ORBA to review exemptions for emissions internally, potentially pursuing alternate means for communicating their concerns with legislation.

c. **ORBA – update on Safety Working Group:**

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- i. ORBA: seeking to renew interest with the minister's office regarding the "slow down move over" legislation to include maintenance vehicles.
- ii. MTO is supportive of ORBA exploring this initiative further.

ACTION ITEMS: MTO to provide name of office/person that is spearheading this on MTO side.

d. Optimal timing for Patroller Training and Nomination Options

- MTO: Last year, CDMC and MDMC Patroller Training was scheduled using one point of contact. This year MTO requests two people for each contractor to be the point of contact to avoid the possibility of some members being missed.
- MTO looks at transition dates for Winter and considers those dates when planning the training – targeting the last week of Oct., understanding that all areas are in transition and staff are all on hand.

ACTION ITEMS: ORBA to provide feedback on the following two items:

1. Is the week of October 30th for Patroller Training optimal for all members?
2. ORBA members to nominate 2 representatives per Contractor to be main point of contact for assigning nominees to Patroller Training.

e. Approved Procurement Schedule

- i. Approved procurement schedule was presented by MTO.

ACTION ITEM: MTO presentation to be shared with ORBA.

f. Carbon Tax Increase (ORBA)

- ORBA: trying to understand fuel price adj index and how carbon tax is captured.
- MTO: explained that the greenhouse gas pollution pricing act is a Federal Levy, not a tax imposed by the Provincial Government. Therefore, the ministry shall not provide any compensation for this purpose in addition to that provided for in the payment adjustment for changes in FPI.

ACTION ITEM: ORBA to share discussions and past correspondence on this item from their Construction membership with the Maintenance membership of ORBA.

g. Evaluation Approach (ORBA)

- ORBA enquired if proposals from proponents are compared to one another, or a set of Standards/Criteria.
- MTO: they are evaluated singularly and independently by evaluators against the adjectival criteria provided in the RFP Front End. All evaluations are done with transparency and overseen by a Fairness Monitor.

i. Fair Wage Schedule

- ORBA: Fair Wage can be a hinderance to the incumbent who pays higher rate than fair wage schedule, is potentially at a disadvantage to other bidders, who will bid only at fair wage schedule, and if it is to remain, then each contract area Fair Wage needs to be adapted to the area.

ACTION ITEM: MTO will review internally.

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j. Quantifiable Maintenance Bid Items (ORBA)

- ORBA requested consultation on Quantifiable Maintenance Bid Items.

ACTION ITEM: Consultation to occur through the Summer Maintenance Working Group and the Winter Maintenance Working Group.

k. In-scope (ORBA)

- ORBA: Along the same lines as j.

ACTION ITEMS: same as j.

l. In-scope paving (ORBA)

- ORBA: Along the same lines as j.

ACTION ITEMS: same as j.

m. Benchmark Hours (ORBA)

- ORBA: concerned about impacts of Fair Wage and fixed costs when risk sharing hours are a credit to the ministry.

ACTION ITEMS: MTO will review internally and solicit comments from industry.

6. Roundtable

- i. **None.**

Next Meeting: July 15th, 2024.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by: Valérie Labbé