

# ORBA - MTO Highway Maintenance Committee Meeting Notes

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**Date:** Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.	Jasan Ranger	MTO
Frank Rizzardo	Emcon Services Inc.	Andrew Alkins	MTO
John McBride	Fowler Construction	James Hamilton	MTO
Paul Kraje	Fowler Construction	Nedim Oren	MTO
Abdallah Tannoukhi	Webber Infrastructure	Michael Sleeth	MTO
Thelep Ampalavanar	Webber Infrastructure	Nasr Slabi	MTO
Greg Ehman	Ledcor	Valérie Labbé	MTO
Brian Green	GIP Highway Maintenance	Brian Utigard	MTO
Walid Abou-Hamde	ORBA	Neil Pawluk	MTO
Simarpreet Kaur	ORBA		

**Note:** Strikethrough = did not attend the meeting

## 1. PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Previous meeting notes shared June 6<sup>th</sup> and accepted by all.
- b) Jasan Ranger introduced as Director of Highway Operations Management Branch at MTO replacing Sheri Graham who has retired.

## 2. PRESENTATIONS

- a) None.

## 3. STANDING ITEMS

- a) **MTO Applications Update**
  - i. MTO shared Bare Pavement and Winter Materials data from the previous winter season.
- b) **Winter Materials Working Group**
  - i. No update
  - ii. Industry: not aware of next steps for the Working Groups.  
**Action Item: Simm to forward March 2024 meeting notes to Doug who will work on coordinating meetings for all the Working Groups. Andrew and Doug will meet to compile topics of discussion for the working groups.**
- c) **Operators Working Group**
  - i. No update
- d) **Equipment Working Group**
  - i. No update
- e) **Winter Operations Working Group**
  - i. No update
- f) **Summer Operations Working Group**
  - i. No update

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### g) Procurement update (MTO/ORBA)

- i. MTO provided an update on contracts that were recently awarded, current advertisements, and the proposed upcoming maintenance contract procurement schedule.
- ii. Industry requested an in-person meeting to review CDMCmi changes.
  - MTO agreed to providing a Q&A session to discuss CDMCmi as well as quantifiable maintenance items.

**ACTION ITEM: Prior to the in-person meeting, MTO and Industry will have a ½ hour meeting to decide on discussion topics for the Q&A session.**

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Operator/Labour Challenges:

- i. **Update on Work Program (MTO-MTLISD Project)**
  - MTO found efficiencies internally and are discussing options with various other groups to help push this forward. Currently working out the details and planning to bring more information to ORBA at the next meeting.
  - Frank Rizzardo (Emcon) will continue to represent industry for this initiative.
    - Additional comment from Frank: if there's a Federal component, we have to involve them very early because it's difficult to engage people collecting EI.
  - Steven: would MTO specify requirements for hiring as a result of this project?
    - AA: not at this time, still not 100% on how this will all work yet, just exploring ways to help with the challenges.
- ii. **Update on Driver Certification Program**
  - Emcon: We have been approved and are now moving forward with internal training.
  - IMOS: We have been approved for AZ, but not D. Currently working with the MTO to move forward and hope to receive approval for the D licence in the near future.

### b) Equipment Challenges

- i. Industry: some members are having few challenges, while others are.  
Examples: West Region contracts are starting and equipment is delayed.  
One member will not have all new equipment available for the start of winter, so they are pulling from existing fleet.
  - Industry also wants to make the ministry aware that pricing for equipment is up 20-30% since 2022. Bid price forms for daily rate by route should be reviewed, although accurate at the time of bidding, pricing is no longer accurate three years later.  
Emission controls in the US are causing delays and costs are unknown – recommend that MTO have discussions with the manufacturers and adjust procurement schedule accordingly.
    - Webber added: While at the Freightliner plant in North Carolina, we found out that the military is buying everything that is available (higher buying power) creating a shortage and/or cost variation.
- ii. Webber: DriveOn implementation is causing delays
  - MTO: there was a registration period, followed by an extension, this is a legislative change.
    - Webber: this applies to all commercial vehicles (not just winter maintenance equipment).
    - Emcon: there's a risk that if they cannot safety trucks quickly, they won't be available for use.

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**ACTION ITEMS: Industry to provide “challenge statement” requesting assistance regarding the DriveOn. Once received, MTO can follow-up internally.**

**c) Patroller Training and Nomination Registration**

- i. MTO has shared the Patroller Training Registration template with ORBA, would like to ensure that industry members have all received.
  - Industry: some have yet to receive.
    - Simm: will re-circulate to ensure everyone receives.
  - MTO requires nominations by October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**d) Creation of ADHOC Summer Operations Sub-Working Group (Quantifiable Maintenance Items)**

- i. MTO: touched on this earlier, and info session will address this, but we want a specific sub-group to walk through the Quantifiable Maintenance Items. Value industry’s input and feedback will help us understand Industry’s perspective.

- Industry: you have our support and we will prioritize

**ACTION ITEM: Simm to resend list of working group names to Doug. Doug to obtain representatives from GIP for each Working Group.**

**e) CDMC Minor Industry Comments**

- i. Industry: we have some early comments from one member, but difficult to pull them together without having a full RFP to tie it all together rather than just seeing pieces.
  - MTO: please provide the comments that you have received thus far.

**ACTION ITEM: Industry to share comments with MTO**

### 5. ROUNDTABLE

- a) Industry: the ministry considered and resolved the workload issue (40% per contractor), but we continue to hear rumours in the field about changes. We’d like to know in advance if there are changes coming.
  - MTO: This will become a more focused conversation, but it’s not something we’re actively working on right now.
- b) IMOS: Just an observation that if Bare Pavement accomplishments are higher than target, the ministry’s choice to increase penalties doesn’t seem justified.
- c) Webber: New lawnmowers in Ottawa are working well.
- d) Emcon: Working through minor bugs with Extended Wing units, other than that, the challenge of operators/labourers is still there and we are predicting that it will increase.
- e) Ledcor: Nothing to add.
- f) ORBA: Nothing to add.
- g) MTO (Nedim): VPN issue has not been resolved. MTO’s I.T. dept. has suggested that Industry use a non-enterprise computer to input the data (WMM & MMIS) and that this would resolve the access issues. MTO wants to confirm that this will be accommodated, and that everything is working as planned.
  - IMOS: still having challenges, and will reconnect with field staff to confirm and let Nedim know.
  - Webber: We are trying to proceed as MTO has suggested, however it’s possible that our I.T. dept. will shut us down as this violates our I.T. policies. We need a long term solution.
  - MTO: we need to work together on solving this issue.

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**ACTION ITEM: Create a working group for applications.**

DATE	OPEN ACTION ITEMS	ACTION BY
Jan-2024-01	<p><b>TIME &amp; MATERIAL (ORBA)</b></p> <p><i>Description:</i> Time &amp; Material vs Lump Sum for Change Orders.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Industry is requesting a workshop with MTO to review the use of T&amp;M because it has become more commonly used for change order work. We understand that some situations warrant its use, but the methods used to determine when T&amp;M should be used versus when it shouldn't be used, is not consistent across the province and industry would like a more standardized approach.</p> <p>MTO would like industry to provide examples so that we can determine which area in our Change Order training needs improvement. There are generally 3 major categories that warrant the use of T&amp;M (disagreement on pricing, cost recovery, and if the scope of work is unclear).</p> <p><b>Industry to provide examples to MTO for improper use of Risk Mitigation as well as frequent use of T&amp;M.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Keep item open.</p>	ORBA
Mar-2024-01	<p><b>BID ENQUIRIES (ORBA)</b></p> <p><i>Description:</i> Bid Enquiry process for CDMC RFP.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Industry is frustrated with BE process. Feels that they are not getting fulsome answers that assist bidders in providing RFP and price that will be the same for all bidders.</p> <p><b>Industry to provide examples of BE's where information wasn't sufficient and what type of response industry estimators are looking for in order to provide a better RFP/estimate.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Keep item open.</p>	ORBA

**Next Meeting:** November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

**Meeting Notes Prepared by:** Valérie Labbé