

MTO – ORBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Virtual

ATTENDEE

Andrew Wertz (ORBA) (Chair)
 Malcolm Croskery (ORBA)
 Walid Abou-Hamde (ORBA) regrets
 Steven Crombie (ORBA)
 Rick Tamburro (ORBA)
 Mark Mallet (ORBA)
 Alfredo Maggio (ORBA)
 Ashley Wood (ORBA)

ATTENDEE

Alain Beaulieu (MTO)
 Eric Doidge (MTO)
 Michelle McGrath (MTO)
 Jason Ranger (MTO)
 Michelle Pasqua (MTO)
 Anthony Akomah for Malvika Rudra (MTO)
 Bruce Cane (MTO)
 Susan Nichol (MTO)
 Frank Lucente (MTO)
 Sharene Dubroy (MTO)

1. INTRODUCTION / ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malcolm Croskery opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. • Roundtable was held for introductions. <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: MTO to provide new Org chart once available – sent to ORBA November 13, 2025.</p>	

OPEN ITEMS	Lead
<p>2.</p> <p>Review of previous minutes/action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly minutes for August 7, 2025, posted on TCP on November 4, 2025, with supporting documents. • No concerns with the previous meeting notes. <p>ACTION: Notes from previous meeting were shared in advance and all agreed accurate.</p>	MTO / ORBA
<p>3.</p> <p>Maintenance Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa West CDMC minor Awarded to Bonnechere Construction • Ottawa East, Peel Halton East and York contracts are advertised currently closing Oct 29, Nov 19 and Dec 3 respectively. • MTO/ORBA joint in person maintenance meeting held September 22, 2025, at CETI. Discussed committee structure, workload rating, benchmark hours and CDMC major 	MTO

OPEN ITEMS	Lead	
<p>4.</p>	<p>O/O permit turnaround time</p> <p>The O/O permit process has undergone significant improvements to restore and sustain high service levels. Following the resolution of a previous backlog, the team implemented key lessons learned to reinforce operational efficiency and prevent future delays.</p> <p>The MTO remains firmly committed to maintaining consistent service levels and driving continuous improvement through technology, process refinement, and stakeholder feedback.</p>	<p>MTO</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Major Projects Update</p> <p>Major Projects working group met last week and received good feedback.</p> <p>Highway 413 planning industry engagement will be on Friday, October 24, invites have been sent to ORBA, looking forward to good collaboration session on how to deliver Highway 413.</p> <p>The Highway 413 Early works is ongoing. Construction work is completed on the advance fill embankment contract east of the Highway 401/407 Interchange. The work was completed by Fermar. Construction is on-going on the Highway 10 advanced paving contract, from Old School Road to King Street, Caledon. The resurfacing contract is being constructed by Pave al. The second phase of this work will be the underpass structure over Highway 413, which will be advertised as a separate contract. Detail design is on-going for the underpass structure.</p> <p>Bradford Bypass – There are three contracts covering the entire limit of the corridor. The West Section is being delivered using a CMGC model. The detail design is on-going, scheduled to be completed in January 2026. Subject to approvals, construction will start in spring 2026</p> <p>The procurement process to acquire detail design engineering consultants for the Central and East Sections is being finalized and the successful consultants will be announced early next month.</p> <p>The Central Section is also being delivered using a CMGC model. The RFP for the Construction Manager assignment closes on November 5; The East Section is being delivered using a Design-Bid-Build model.</p>	<p>MTO</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Capital Program Update Q2 tendering activity was below expectations, with only 6 major capital tenders compared to the projected 17–25. Tender volumes are typically lowest in the summer.</p> <p>Forecasts have been adjusted downward for Q3, but Q4 projections show a strong rebound, keeping the annual tender value on target.</p> <p>The tendering plan is under close review to ensure the next two quarters stay on track and support a productive upcoming construction season.</p> <p>Funding Advocacy: ORBA and members committed to lobbying for increased infrastructure rehabilitation funding. MTO acknowledged ongoing efforts.</p>	<p>MTO</p>
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<p>7.</p>	<p>Reducing Risk AC Price Index Review Process and Posting AC Index price sharing for when tender closes, OAPC requests MTO publish an index in winter, MTO has done a jurisdictional review on risk share across the country and ON is followed by most. MTO will do outreach to industry for prices over winter months for MTO to assess pricing over the next 2 winters.</p> <p>MTO will maintain its current practice of publishing the PGAC Index Price using the November rate throughout the winter months. This approach reflects the seasonal decline in PGAC purchases and the reduced availability of supplier pricing data during this period.</p> <p>Given that several Ontario municipalities and other Canadian provinces rely on the Ministry’s PGAC Index for contract price adjustments, any modifications to the current methodology must be carefully evaluated.</p> <p>To support a potential future change, MTO is seeking the Ontario Road Builders’ Association’s (ORBA) assistance in encouraging all suppliers to submit PGAC pricing data year-round. Collecting comprehensive data over the next 2–3 winters will enable MTO to assess the broader implications for both provincial and municipal stakeholders before making any adjustments to the existing process.</p> <p>2025 - OPSS 127 Schedule of Rental Rates for Construction Equipment Tariff Working Group This is an evolving file, working with our partners and across the provincial government. MTO will move forward with compensation requests related to RAQs. The second component is currently under review. The third involves joint efforts with ORBA to establish a pricing index, and we encourage ORBA members to actively participate in the working group. MTO has committed to continuing this dialogue. ORBA has proposed extending the current two-day pricing window to a weekly or monthly model.</p> <p>Effective October 2–3, MTO introduced new provisions into all current and future construction, engineering, and maintenance contracts to address the financial impacts of tariffs. These updates clarify that:</p> <p>Bidders are responsible for tariff-related costs in effect more than two days prior to tender closing.</p> <p>For tariff changes occurring within two days of tender close or during the contract period, MTO will consider compensation for substantiated incremental material cost increases.</p>	<p>MTO</p>
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	<p>Contractors must provide comprehensive documentation to justify and quantify tariff-related cost impacts and submit formal Compensation Requests or Requests for Clarification in line with MTO’s General Conditions of Contract.</p> <p>In parallel, and at the request of ORBA, MTO is initiating the formation of a Construction Equipment Index Working Group and is currently awaiting ORBA’s response regarding membership participation.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards Phase 1 engagement is complete, with stakeholder input collected on priority standards, governance, and flexibility. MTO is exploring legislative options to support mandated municipal road building standards and compliance reporting.</p> <p>Initial implementation will focus on priority standards, beginning with asphalt specifications and aggregate requirements.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>CMS Update</p> <p>ORBA/MTO CMS meetings will resume post-fall construction season. KPMG has begun estimating the next round of CMS enhancements, including updates to infraction handling, invoicing, mix designs, stored materials, and data integration with CDMS. Additional improvements target fuel adjustment OPAs, NCR processes, and performance tracking grids.</p> <p>Training videos are now available in CMS, and updated User Guides can be found on the Technical Publication site under the CMS tab.</p>	<p>MTO</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>GC Update</p> <p>MTO posted proposed updates to its General Conditions (GCs) on April 30, 2025, with consultation closing on May 28. Feedback was received from ORBA, Miller, and Dufferin, and a productive follow-up meeting with ORBA was held on October 20 to discuss their comments.</p> <p>MTO remains committed to transparency and collaboration, and both MTO and ORBA will continue exchanging information to address outstanding issues and finalize the GC updates.</p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p>Provincial Claims (A) MTO provided an update on Claims, Referee and Adjudication from April 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025.</p> <p>Generally, no significant changes to the trends, backlog is being addressed with improvements to the staffing in the Claims Office and support from others.</p> <p>MTO and ORBA agree this report be shared twice a year.</p> <p>ORBA raised the possibility of MTO issuing partial payments for undisputed amounts prior to the conclusion of the claims process. However, most contractors have expressed reluctance toward partial payments. This topic may be revisited for further discussion later.</p>	<p>MTO</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Delivering a single-day joint symposium on construction best practices including conflict resolution, etc. (identify next steps) Maintenance is interested in participating in any partnership or relationship building/conflict resolution workshops/symposiums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be Tabled next meeting 	
<p>13.</p>	<p>President’s Tour 2025: update ORBA to share a summary of takeaways from members, suggest a partnership workshop.</p>	

NEW ITEMS

13.	<p>Vendor Management Review (VMR) MTO undertaking a review of vendor management processes. The current process started in late 50’s and applies to OD, TIMD and MHPD procurements. MTO is developing a framework and an outreach consultation program with ORBA engagement as milestones come.</p> <p>MTO reaffirmed its commitment to improving vendor oversight and collaboration through the Vendor Management Review (VMR) process.</p> <p>Performance Accountability: MTO is using audit data to track consultant and contractor responsiveness, particularly around CRs and IRs, and is sharing these metrics during spring updates and workshops.</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on setting clear expectations and ensuring consistent communication across all project stakeholders.</p> <p>MTO and industry partners agreed on the need to move beyond transactional interactions and foster a more solutions-oriented, field-level dialogue.</p> <p>Feedback from the VMR process is being used to inform training, contract administration practices, and future procurement strategies.</p>	MTO
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INFORMATION SHARED FOR THIS MEETING		
Document Title	Shared By	Format
Capital Program/Highway Projects Update	MTO	PDF
Claims, Referee and Adjudication from Fiscal 2024/2025 - April 1,2024 to September 30, 2025	MTO	PDF

NEXT MEETING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed 2026 meeting dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ April 29, 2026, in person – MTO to host ○ July 22, 2026 – virtual ○ October 22, 2026, in person – ORBA to host