

MTO – ORBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Date: July 22, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Virtual – Microsoft Teams Meeting

ATTENDEE

Mark Mallet (ORBA)
Walid Abou-Hamde (ORBA)
Malcolm Croskery (ORBA)
Rick Tamburro (ORBA)
Jamie Di Laudo (ORBA)
Steven Crombie (ORBA)
Alexis Del Rosario (ORBA)

ATTENDEE

Eric Doidge (MTO)
 Alain Beaulieu (MTO)
 Michelle McGrath (MTO) regrets
 Frank Lucente (MTO) (Chaired for Michelle)
 Malvika Rudra (MTO) regrets
 Jason Ranger (MTO) regrets
 Susan Nichol (MTO)
 Michelle Pasqua (MTO)
 Kevin English (MTO)
 Brad Thom (MTO)
 Derek Illman (MTO)
 Sharene Dubroy (MTO)
 Craig Kellmann (MTO)

GUESTS

Gary Weiss for Malvika Rudra (MTO)
 Jeremy Landry for Malvika Rudra (MTO)
 Andrew Alkins for Jason Ranger (MTO)
 Jenn Meleschuk (MTO)
 Brandy Duhaime (MTO)

INTRODUCTION / ANNOUNCEMENTS	
1.	- MTO introduced new members: - Craig Kellmann as Executive Assistant for Capital Program Delivery Branch - Derek Illman as replacing Frank Lucente, Manager, Construction and Audit Services - Brad Thom as Manager, Highway 69 Project Delivery Office - Highlighted newest ORBA member: - Alexis Del Rosario, Governance & Board/Committee Relations - Roundtable was held for introductions.

OPEN ITEMS		Lead
2.	Review of previous minutes/action items - Quarterly minutes for April 29, 2026 posted on TCP on, July 15, 2026, with supporting documents - No concerns with the previous meeting notes.	MTO / ORBA

OPEN ITEMS		Lead
3.	Major Projects Update - Highway 413 procurement work is progressing, including Program Management Consultant, Highway 410 extension Construction Manager, and Highway 427 to Highway 413 extension RFP. - Highway 413 industry/stakeholder update planned for late summer/early fall. - Bradford Bypass west section construction began in May 2026 and remains on track for 2030 completion. Project designated as Highway 425. - Highway 401 Tunnel Feasibility Study is ongoing. Draft final report expected September 2026; final report expected January 2027. - Garden City Skyway reached 60% design. Early works continue; major construction remains on track for spring 2027. - Ring of Fire projects continue to advance, including early works, procurement planning, and ongoing work with Indigenous partners. - MTO continues development of the Progressive Design Build for Highways model, with a Highway 413 project targeted for the first use of the model. - MTO's Partnering Framework Stage 1 is complete; Stage 2 is underway. - MTO to continue work on Partnering Framework feedback and report back on progress/success stories.	MTO
4.	Capital Program Update - Q1 tendering was slightly below forecast, with some activity moving to Q2/Q3. - Overall annual tender volume and value remain generally on track. 2026 Ontario Highways Program expected to be published late July/early August. - MTO will continue sharing combined property/design budget rather than separating the two. - Discussion also noted the importance of continued advocacy for rehabilitation funding and highlighted the ACEC Pipeline document shared on the Technical Consultation Publications (TCP).	MTO

5.	Reducing Risk • MTO provided an update on the 2026 OPSS 127 Schedule of Rental Rates for Construction Equipment with an overall increase from 2025. • MTO reviewed stakeholder feedback and updated the 2026 calculations using the 6 months (January to June 2026) of fuel pricing data rather than using the previous one year's worth of data. • The 2026 rates remain on schedule for publication by the end of July and with application as of July 31. • ORBA acknowledged MTO's work to respond quickly and incorporate industry feedback. • MTO is open to reviewing the Equipment Rate Calculation Methodology, which was last reviewed in 2020. Action: • Parties agree to continue discussion on reviewing the Equipment Rate Calculation Methodology through Contracts and Documents Committee.	MTO
6.	CMS Update • MTO provided annual CMS training for contractors on July 6 and for contract administrators on July 7. Both sessions were well attended and well received by industry.	MTO
7.	Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards • MTO provided an update on regulatory feedback, regulation development, stakeholder engagement and technical enablement. • Feedback from the Regulatory Registry is being reviewed, with finalization of the regulation targeted for early August. • MTO continues to engage industry associations, municipal organizations and municipalities on the proposed governance structure and implementation approach. • Technical work is underway including a municipal-facing consultation portal (mirroring the TCP) and an online exemption process.	MTO

8.	GC Update - MTO noted that the updated General Conditions are available on the Technical Consultation Portal and are expected to come into effect later in September 2026. - ORBA noted continued interest in reviewing other specifications through the Contracts and Documents Committee. Ongoing Action: - Parties can continue specification-related discussions through the Contracts and Documents Committee, where appropriate.	MTO
9.	Maintenance Updates - MTO noted an upcoming meeting with ORBA maintenance contractors in August. - Discussions are expected to include quantifiable maintenance items and winter equipment benchmark hours. - A maintenance procurement opportunity in Kakabeka is advancing, with advertisement expected in late summer / early fall. - MTO also noted the upcoming Contractor Directed Maintenance Contract for the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway, with public advertisement and RFP posting planned for late July/early August.	MTO
10.	O/O Permit Turnaround Time - MTO advised that single-trip permit processing is operating within service level agreements. - Operational improvements over the past year have increased processing capacity and efficiency. - MTO continues to explore modernization opportunities to improve timelines and client service. - ORBA suggested the item could be closed or shifted into continuous improvement tracking. Action: - Item to be considered closed.	MTO

11.	Continuous Improvement Initiatives Vendor Management Review (VMR) – Summary Update • MTO advised that there is no significant update at this time. • MTO continues to target November 2026 for stakeholder engagement on the proposed Vendor Management Review framework. Action: • MTO to provide a future update when stakeholder engagement is ready to proceed.	MTO
12.	Buy Ontario • MTO advised that there have been no major updates since the Buy Ontario changes were implemented. • ORBA indicated there have been no significant issues from members on MTO's approach and the process has generally been simple and easy to comply with. Action: • Item to be considered closed.	MTO
13.	Acceleration Workshop • Discussion continued about opportunities to build on the acceleration workshop and related collaboration between MTO, ORBA, contractors and consultants. • ORBA noted the potential value of using the Ontario Infrastructure Academy as a forum to continue this work and test whether the format provides value. • MTO noted that related work is continuing through subcommittees and internal coordination, with a focus on developing practical and actionable improvements. • ORBA and MTO discussed connecting this work with planning for the President's Tour and future reporting back to industry. Action: • Walid to reach out to Michelle McGrath to initiate discussions on President's Tour planning and acceleration workshop next steps.	MTO/ORBA
NEW ITEMS		

14.	Claims Update • MTO provided a semi-annual claims update. • MTO noted that the data remains generally consistent, with no significant outliers or changes to trends. • MTO will continue to provide as per current format.	MTO
15.	Highway 69 • MTO provided an update on Highway 69 and the establishment of a dedicated project delivery office to support accelerated delivery. • The focus is on advancing remaining design and environmental assessment work and reviewing existing design work against current standards. • Delivery is expected to include a mix of competitive tenders and single-source opportunities where appropriate. • ORBA acknowledged the importance of moving the project forward and noted appreciation for the priority being placed on the corridor.	MTO

16.	Speed Reductions in construction zones • MTO and ORBA discussed construction zone safety, speed management and opportunities to improve worker protection. • MTO noted that speed reduction is one element of broader worker safety and that relevant policy documents and Book 7 are under review. • ORBA expressed support for exploring additional tools and innovations, including speed display signs, early warning systems, rumble strips, enhanced enforcement, intrusion detection, AFADs and other technologies. It was noted that solutions may need to vary by highway type, region, contract type and work zone condition. • There was support for forming a smaller working group to identify practical options that could be piloted and implemented. • Discussed challenges with availability of paid duty officers. Action: • MTO to provide an update / overview on speed display sign pilots and other related work. • MTO to initiate a small working group with ORBA to review options and implement one or two pilots for worker safety enhancements for next season. • MTO to review other alternatives to paid duty officers. • ORBA to explore other safety enhancements.	MTO/ORBA
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INFORMATION SHARED FOR THIS MEETING		
Document Title	Shared By	Format
<i>MTO-ORBA Executive Committee – July 22 2026 – Capital Program Update.pdf</i>	MTO	PDF
<i>MTO Claims Status Fiscal 2025/2026 Summary.pdf</i>	MTO	PDF

HOUSEKEEPING**NEXT MEETINGS**

- Fall – October 22, 2026
 - Hosted by ORBA
 - Executive Committee Meeting to follow ORBA Board Meeting at Courtyard Marriott for final stop of 2026 ORBA President's Tour
- Spring – April 2027
 - Hosted by MTO

OTHER ITEMS

- **Action Items List** - ORBA suggested maintaining an informal action item / takeaway list between meetings to track progress outside of the official meeting notes.