

ORBA - MTO Highway Maintenance Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, January 19th, 2026

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Virtual – MS Teams

Attendee	Organization	Attendee	Organization
Doug Wipperman	The Miller Group	~~Walid Abou Hamde~~	~~ORBA~~
James Stracey	Emcon Services Inc.	Steven Crombie	ORBA
~~Frank Rizzardo~~	~~Emcon Services Inc.~~	~~Alexis Del Rosario~~	~~ORBA~~
Connor Quinless	Fowler Construction	~~Jason Ranger~~	~~MTO~~
~~John McBride~~	~~Fowler Construction~~	Andrew Alkins	MTO
Thelep Ampalavanar	Webber Infrastructure	James Hamilton	MTO
~~Abdallah Tannoukhi~~	~~Webber Infrastructure~~	~~Nedim Oren~~	~~MTO~~
Greg Ehman	Ledcor	Michael Sleeth	MTO
~~Matt Granger~~	~~Ledcor~~	Nasr Slabi	MTO
~~Ashley Cate~~	~~Ledcor~~	Valérie Labbé	MTO
Ryan Côté	Shwe Miikaan Miller	~~Brian Utigard~~	~~MTO~~
Tom Enright	Bonnechere Excavating Inc.	Neil Pawluk	MTO

Note: Strikethrough in the above table = did not attend the meeting.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES / ANNOUNCEMENTS
a) Welcome; scheduled presenter cancelled; MS went first due to time constraints (see item 3, g)). b) Review of past meeting minutes Note: Previous meeting notes circulated to Industry on December 3rd, 2025 – accepted as final.
2. PRESENTATIONS
a) Cancelled.
3. STANDING ITEMS
a) MTO Applications Update / WOR Sub-WG: i. MTO: WMM migrating to SharePoint; most issues resolved. • Ongoing access/log-in issues reported by Webber, Ledcor, and some IMOS areas. • Emcon reported isolated issues; Fowler noted new staff learning curve. b) Winter Materials Sub-WG: i. NP: Meeting invite to be scheduled soon. c) Operators Sub-WG: No update; next focus will be fair wage workshop. d) Facilities & Equipment Sub-WG: i. MTO: Focus on facility upgrades and improved asset management via condition indexing. • Potential consultant reviews of buildings forthcoming. • Initial equipment manual comments provided to WSP. ACTION ITEM: Meeting to be scheduled with Industry on Equipment Manual TBD. e) Winter Operations Sub-WG: i. Benchmark Hours workshop scheduled for February 10. f) Summer Operations Sub-WG: i. December 9 meeting reviewed requested LS items. • Group paused to confirm risk alignment with executives; feedback requested early January.

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- Focus on patching, potholes, and washouts. ACTION ITEM: Industry (DW) to consolidate received comments. g) Procurement update (MTO): - Sudbury and Ottawa awarded (previously shared). - PHE awarded; York under evaluation. - Light procurement schedule anticipated for 2026. ACTION ITEM: MTO to review policy on notifying industry of contract extensions. - Industry: supportive of transparency on extensions and posting all bid results.		
4. NEW BUSINESS		
a) Winter Operations Update: MTO: Ongoing challenges acknowledged; salt available but delivery rates reduced. Emphasis on appropriate material use. Interest in using MTO facilities to mitigate seasonal risk. IMOS: Extended continuous operations in some regions; workforce fatigue noted. Salt shortages managed internally despite public perceptions. MTO North Area: Salt movement manageable; concerns about public messaging. IMOS: OPSEU bargaining issues impacting Cochrane operations. Emcon: Strong operator retention but high hours; limited maintenance downtime. Supports expanded salt storage. Webber: Continuous operations ongoing; equipment repair needs growing. Fowler: Heavy early winter and equipment wear; planning dome repairs to improve storage. Ledcor: Operator retention strong; concerns about mayor-led rallies near contracts. MTO: Mayor rallies being monitored. b) Salt Supply: - Covered above. c) Contract startup update: Shwe Miikaan: Equipment ready; strong hiring interest. Bonnechere: Equipment orders on track; startup planning aligned with MTO.		
5. ROUNDTABLE		
a) Ledcor: - Nothing to add. b) IMOS: - Staff harassment reported due to misinformation on social media. c) Webber: - Nothing to add. d) Emcon: - Suggested expanding positive social media messaging. e) Bonnechere: - Nothing to add. f) Shwe Miikaan: - Rapid OPP highway closures creating operational and public challenges.		

DATE	OPEN ACTION ITEMS	ACTION BY
Jan-2024-01	TIME & MATERIAL (ORBA) <i>Description:</i> Time & Material vs Lump Sum for Change Orders.	ORBA

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	<i>Discussion:</i> ORBA requesting a workshop with MTO to review the use of T&M which has become more commonly used for change order work. Methods used are not consistent across the province and industry would like a more standardized approach. Industry to provide examples to MTO for improper use of Risk Mitigation as well as frequent use of T&M. Action: Plan to close out this item.	
Apr-2025-01	REGULATIONS AMENDING THE PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE AND LIGHT TRUCK GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REGULATIONS OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (ORBA) <i>Description:</i> Upcoming changes to legislation could affect equipment costs and contract mobilizations. <i>Discussion:</i> Industry requests that maintenance equipment, specifically Winter maintenance equipment, is exempt from this legislation. Note: The proposed changes may or may not be implemented due to the economic unrest related to tariffs being imposed by the US. Industry to collect & provide statistics/risks on how the regulation is affecting industry. MTO to continually monitor this issue. Action: Keep item open.	ORBA & MTO

Next Meeting: March 23rd, 2025

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM

Meeting Notes Prepared by: Valérie Labbé