

ORBA - MTO Highway Maintenance Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, June 1st, 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
Rudy	Ledcor	Amalia Ray-McIntyre	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) Previous meeting notes (shared May 29, 2026) reviewed and accepted by all.
 - i. Detailed review not required; action items addressed during meeting.
 - ii. Benchmark hours update:
 - MTO analysis ongoing across contract scenarios; results to be shared following executive review.
 - iii. Environmental fees:
 - Existing contract mechanisms in place; Industry to provide supporting cost evidence where applicable at the contract level.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a) N/A

3. STANDING ITEMS

- a) **MTO Applications/ Winter Materials Sub-Working Group:**
 - MSS 2002 Update: Feedback from industry reviewed and addressed. The update will include clarification and consolidation of material requirements. Final review coming soon.
- b) **Operators Sub-WG:**
 - Demographic data received from Industry; Fair Wage review remains in progress.
- c) **Facilities & Equipment Sub-WG:**
 - Radio usage under review; assessment of continued need in progress.
 - Need and utilization under review with consideration of emerging technologies.
- d) **Winter Operations Sub-WG:**
 - Refer to New Business – Section 4.
- e) **Summer Operations Sub-WG:**
 - MTO: action items assigned to Sub-group members; next meeting scheduled June 23, 2026.

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ACTION ITEM: Industry to encourage individual participation.

f) Procurement update:

- MTO: No updates. Will provide info when available for 26/27 season.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Indemnification:

- i. Clarification required; agreement to advance through further discussions either individually or small working group.

b) Post-winter update:

- i. Discussion:
 - Emcon: Very severe winter; impacts to staff/equipment; salt supply tight but managed; needs better stockpiling; operator shortages continue.
 - Ledcor: Continued challenges with operator availability.
 - Fowler: Severe winter; increasing stockpiling; operator gaps persist – sand camps may be needed.
 - IMOS: Wide variation in benchmark hours due to severe winter; 10% spares insufficient - equipment maintenance is impacted; salt low but adequate.
 - MTO: Opportunity to review equipment cycling/maintenance during continuous operations.

ACTION ITEM: Facilities & Equipment Sub-WG to review spare levels and maintenance cycling for prolonged winter events.

ORBA ITEMS:

c) Dome Inspections:

- i. Industry: Concerned about aging, uniquely designed facilities and perceived conflicts between maintenance expectations and lease terms; interested in reviewing standards and exploring joint inspections with MTO.
 - MTO: suggests that the Facilities & Equipment Sub-WG review the facility inspection strategy.

ACTION ITEM: Facilities & Equipment Sub-WG to review facility inspection requirements

d) Early Fill salt details

- i. Industry: Seeking updates on MTO's approach; generally supportive of increased pre-season salt stockpiling.
 - MTO: Exploring proactive approach to reduce supply risk by increasing early-season stockpiling and leveraging advance payment clauses.

e) Benchmark Hours – see Section 1.

f) Continuous Salting:

- i. Industry: Provided compiled input on continuous salting following MTO's request; believes there may be a shift in perceived best practices and potential discussion through a subgroup.
 - MTO: Will review submitted materials; reiterated expectation to follow contract requirements and established guidelines; open to providing further education/clarity through patroller training.

g) CVOR – Hours of service:

- i. Industry: Noted inconsistent direction on CVOR hours-of-service exemptions - Ledcor received written confirmation of flexibility during winter events, while others did not and were told no exemption exists
 - MTO: Confirmed the issue sits with CTSED (enforcement) and existing legislation does include exemption language.

h) Equipment design and capacities:

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i. Industry: Requested update on consultant review of equipment standards. - MTO: Final consultant report on equipment specs is nearing completion, with internal comments submitted and plans to share with industry for feedback via the Equipment Sub-WG); crash truck conspicuity work will proceed with a new consultant when available, with potential field trials. j) Crash truck conspicuity update – see previous item h). k) Fair wage schedule – see Section 3. b) k) Fuel price index: i. Industry: Concern about inconsistency in fuel index methodology - maintenance contracts use the closing month (unknown at bid time), while construction uses the prior month (known) - MTO: Acknowledged. Will review, further analyze and return with a response at a future meeting. l) Maintenance Contract vs Asset Contract: i. Industry: Concerned that in some areas, contractors are being pushed to replace entire assets (e.g., guide rail, roads) at end of life rather than perform maintenance. - MTO: Quantifiable Maintenance Bid Items should mitigate this but not broadly used across all contracts. Requirements should align with contract scope, with major replacements or deterioration beyond maintenance handled through appropriate channels.
5. ROUNDTABLE
a) MTO: i. Brian Utigard is now Head of Materials Standards and Systems. Neil Pawluk has shifted to Maintenance Contracts Engineer. The Materials Engineer position will be filled shortly. ii. MIS entries have been good this season - thank you for your diligence.

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

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	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.	
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Next Meeting: August 31, 2026

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM

Meeting Notes Prepared by: Valérie Labbé/James Hamilton