Ontario

MEETING NOTES

Ministry of Transportation (MTO)/ Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Ontario

(ACEC-ON)

Engineering Subcommittee Meeting

Date	September 15, 2026
Time	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Meeting Hosted By	MTO
Location	MTO CETI Building & Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE:

Attendee	Organization	Attendee	Organization
Jenn Meleschuk (Co-Chair)	**MTO**	Steven Pilgrim (Co-Chair)	**ACEC-ON**
Erika Varga	**MTO**	Kelly Harris	**ACEC-ON**
Trish English	**MTO**	Tim Sorochinsky	**ACEC-ON**
Rina Kulathinal	**MTO**	Magdy Samaan	**ACEC-ON**
Joanna Long	**MTO**	Ken Smith	**ACEC-ON**
Dr. Yolibeth Mejias	**MTO**	Andrew Wittig	**ACEC-ON**
Melissa Buelow	**MTO**	Naveen Kaushik	**ACEC-ON**
Christine Costa	**MTO**	Richard Morales	**ACEC-ON**
Jeremy Landry	**MTO**	Sunil Kothari	**ACEC-ON**
David Brake	**MTO**	Andrew Hurd	**ACEC-ON**
Fahad Mateen	**MTO**	Arsalan Zargar - regrets	**ACEC-ON**
Amanda Naylor	**MTO**	Heather Templeton - regrets	**ACEC-ON**

Guests	Organization	Guests	Organization
Mireya Hidalgo	**MTO**		
Penuel Adiyiah	**MTO**		
Anthony Akomah	**MTO**		

INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACCESSIBILITY MOMENT:

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1 Item No.	Action By: None

Introductions / Announcements

Description:

- Welcome David Brake, Consultant Management Project Lead, ER
- New ACEC team member: Arsalan Zargar from CIMA+
- Departing ACEC-ON team member: Tanya Cross
- Updated Timeline for Review of Meeting Notes
    - Draft meeting notes will be shared with ACEC-ON within three (3) weeks of the meeting date.
    - ACEC-ON to review the draft meeting notes and provide any comments, revisions, or proposed edits within two (2) weeks of receiving the draft notes.

Discussion:

- Arsalan was unavailable today - new ACEC-ON team member.

Action:

- none

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2 Item No.	Action By: None

Accessibility Moment

Description:

- What is Accessibility?
    - Accessibility means removing barriers so everyone can participate fully, regardless of disability.
- Many disabilities are not visible, including:
    - Hearing loss
    - Low vision or colour blindness
    - Learning disabilities
    - Cognitive impairments
    - Mental health conditions

Background Information:

- Before Sending a Document or Presentation:
  - Use built-in headings instead of manually formatting text.
  - Add alt text to images, charts, and graphics.
  - Avoid relying only on colour to convey information.
  - Example: Don't say "items in red need action."
- Check colour contrast.
  - Light grey text on a white background can be difficult to read.
  - Run Microsoft Accessibility Checker.
  - Takes less than a minute and identifies most common issues.
- Safety Takeaway
  - Just as we identify physical hazards before work begins, we should identify accessibility barriers before sharing information.

Discussion:

- This was a helpful reminder for everyone.

Action:

- None

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3 Item No.	Action By: ACEC-ON

Review of Past Meeting Notes

Description:

- The last draft meeting notes were shared with ACEC on July 3, 2026
- Meeting Notes were posted to TCP on August 12, 2026
- MTO received comments from ACEC-ON on Aug 24, 2026
- Updated timing for Meeting Notes:
  - Draft meeting notes will be shared with ACEC-ON within three (3) weeks of the meeting date (Oct 6/26).
  - ACEC-ON will review the draft meeting notes and provide any comments, revisions, or proposed edits within two (2) weeks of receiving the draft notes (Oct 20/26).
- Ask ACEC-ON: Status of the action items

Discussion:

- NOTE: Today's agenda includes time for discussion on items b, f, g.

a) ACEC-ON survey RE RAQS ESP feedback on system – provide info to MTO – any updates?
b) Electronic Format Native Document Group - Members and ORBA Survey – ACEC-ON to establish lead to follow up with ORBA – Erika has received two responses
c) Highway Design Process Review: ACEC-ON/Steve to provide email with questions Re Implementation and Advanced Engagement
d) ACEC-ON survey RE Engineering Experience Matrix - ACEC-ON is working to get feedback from members
e) Steve and Sunil to review workplan - how to share for all live edit
f) Heather and Andrew potential ACEC-ON grant to support Succession Management J-scan
g) Accelerated Procurement – ACEC-ON to provide comments and once the report is finalized, forward to a broader audience.

Action:

- ACEC-ON to provide updates on surveys and workplan.

OPEN/STANDING ITEMS:

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4 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Highway 3D Design Software

Description:

- Current status of the procurement, closing date, etc.
  - RFB posted on Aug 6, closing on Sep 17.
- Key milestones and next steps.
  - RFB evaluation
  - Award recommendation and approvals
  - Contract award/signs contract
  - Implementation (project kick-off, testing, data integration/migration, solution implementation, training)
- Expected implementation timeline: Feb 2, 2027 – Jan 28, 2028
- Expected impacts to consultants.

    - Improved alignment with MTO requirements and standards
    - Reduced effort associated with multiple file formats and transfers
    - More efficient review comment resolution process
    - Compliance with digital delivery standards and workflows
    - Potential investment in software, training, and process updates
- Risks, dependencies, and change management considerations.
  Key Risks
    - Project schedules may require adjustment
    - Integration with existing systems may be more complex than anticipated
    - Consultant readiness

  Key Dependencies
    - Active participation from Design Standards, Engineering, Construction, Regional Offices
    - Standards development (customized configuration, updated standards, guidelines, templates, and workflows)
    - Training (role-based training for designers, reviewers, PMs, construction staff, consultants)
    - Ownership and management of digital project data
- Any feedback, decisions, or support we are seeking from CFT/EFT.
    - Confirmation that identified workflows meet operational needs
    - Input on consultant capability and adoption considerations
    - Recommendations for industry engagement strategy
    - Resource commitment on business and technical resources required to support rollout
- The goal is to position this as a ministry-wide modernization initiative that supports improved project delivery, consistency, efficiency, and digital engineering across MTO.

Discussion:

- Procurement and contracting activities are targeted for completion by December 2026, with implementation beginning in February 2027 and continuing through January 2028.
- The implementation timeline focuses on establishing MTO systems, processes, standards, and workflows required to support the new software.
- MTO's internal implementation is targeted for completion by January 2028 and does not include consultant onboarding or training activities.
- Consultant training and rollout timelines will be finalized during implementation and following testing and pilot activities.
- Consultant-facing changes are not expected to be incorporated into RFPs until implementation readiness has been confirmed (after the 2028 completion date).

- In response to a question on contract duration, it was noted that procurement details cannot be discussed while the RFB remains open. Additional information will be provided in a future update.

Action:

- MTO to continue to provide updates.

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5 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Early Debriefs

Description:

- MTO received executive approval to proceed with offering 'Early Debriefs' to unsuccessful firms after Phase I of the RFP. The scope of debriefs will only focus on improvements to Phase I submissions of the firm being debriefed, nothing related to Phase II.
- This will be offered on a TRIAL/PILOT BASIS - The timing, scope and length of the trial have not been established yet.

Next Steps:

- Communicate internally via policy memo
- Update the existing (CSD-led) debriefing guide to include Phase I debrief for firms not short listed
- Develop 'debriefing' training for all procurement staff (on-demand, pre-recorded) - to be completed Fall 2026
- Update the RFP and RFP retainers to include offering a Phase I debrief to firms not short listed. Update unsuccessful letters to include availability of debrief after Phase I.
- Implement new RFP language/trial/pilot

Discussion:

- Members welcomed the decision to pilot Phase I debriefs for unsuccessful proponents.
- It was noted that the pilot is expected to run for at least one year to allow sufficient time to assess effectiveness and gather feedback.
- Depending on the results, the practice may be adopted as a permanent process or concluded earlier if significant issues are identified.

Action:

- MTO will continue to update ACEC-ON as this initiative as it progresses.

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6 Item No.	Action By: MTO

ORBA Survey for Electronic Format Native Document Group

Description:

- Survey was distributed by MTO Construction Contracts to ORBA on July 23, 2026.
- Responses were requested by Friday August 14, 2026
- Erika requested information/responses from Ouda (Aug 17)
    - So far 2 survey responses have been received from ORBA members
- The 2 responses are under review. Hoping for more - will prompt ORBA to seek additional responses.

Discussion:

- Members suggested promoting the initiative during the upcoming ORBA President's Tour. The first session is scheduled for September 24 in Kingston.
- A question was raised regarding how this work aligns with other digital initiatives, including 3D Design, BIM, and Digital Delivery.
- The importance of engaging contractors was emphasized, including considerations related to digital documents, insurance, legal requirements, and industry readiness.
- It was noted that these initiatives are being developed as part of a broader digital transformation strategy and will be implemented in coordinated phases with the intention of total digital delivery by 2034.
- The team intends to seek contractor feedback and gain a better understanding of industry perspectives as the work progresses.
- Engagement and consultation with contractors will occur throughout the initiative, with more detailed discussions planned once requirements and implementation plans are further defined.
- Members expressed support for the phased approach and the long-term vision of achieving digital delivery objectives.

Action:

- MTO will explore adding this topic to the agenda during the upcoming ORBA President's Tour to aim for more responses from ORBA.

7 Item No.	Action By: MTO

BIM Post Workshop Update

Description:

- MTO held a BIM workshop on May 20–21, 2026 in partnership with Western University.
- The workshop had 5 breakout sessions on topics relevant to BIM focusing on construction.
- The breakout sessions included: Common Data Environment (CDE), change management plan, industry readiness, digital as-built, etc. Topic is subjected to change based on survey result.
- Approximately 200 attendees participated in workshop and included members from industry, academia, all levels of government including other provinces in Canada and DOTs.
- Feedback was well received. Presentations were shared to all participants.

Discussion:

- A request was made for a summary from the BIM workshop to support information sharing with ACEC-ON.
- MTO indicated that workshop results and feedback are being compiled and information to date will be appended to the meeting notes.

Action:

- MTO to append workshop information to meeting notes.

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8 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Highway Transfer Secretariat – update on DVP/Gardiner and Hwy 174 Upload

Description:

- The Province and the City are actively working together to support planning and implementation activities for the highway upload planned for Fall 2027.
- During the interim period, the City of Toronto retains ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities, and operational inquiries should continue to be directed to the City.
- Planning and implementation activities continue to advance through ongoing collaboration between the Province and the City.

- Information regarding future opportunities or procurement activities will be communicated through the appropriate channels, as required.
- MTO appreciates ACEC-ON's ongoing interest and engagement and will continue to keep the group informed as planning and implementation activities progress.

Discussion:

- ACEC noted that the primary area of interest remains understanding the upcoming project pipeline and associated opportunities.
- Members requested additional information on future work, including project ownership and responsibilities following the transfer.
- It was noted that Fall 2027 is currently the only confirmed milestone communicated to stakeholders.

Action:

- MTO to continue to follow up on MTO’s role in ongoing projects, status of upload and timeline for MTO projects and possibility of consultant to oversee upload.

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9 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Modernized Total Project Management

Description:

- The Modernized Total Project Management (MTPM) initiative proposes retaining a single service provider to deliver both Engineering and Contract Administration (CA) services.
- The objective is to establish a more seamless, coordinated, and efficient project delivery model.
- MTO has identified key risks and challenges associated with the initiative and is developing corresponding mitigation strategies.
- In addition, MTO is working to refine the Request for Proposal (RFP) Terms of Reference.
- The RFP is planned to be posted on the Technical Consultation Portal (TCP) to seek feedback from ACEC-ON.
- TBD on stakeholder engagement sessions
- MTO has also identified proposed upgrades to the supporting systems required for MTPM implementation, including Bid Evaluation, RAQS, and Project Selection Criteria, and has completed internal consultations on these enhancements.

- Funding considerations for the MTPM delivery model are currently being assessed, considering MTO's current payment systems, cost centres, that are separate for engineering and construction administration.
- MTO looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with its industry partners to successfully advance and implement a MTPM pilot including up to five assignments

Discussion:

- Members requested clarification on the proposed pilot assignments, including regional distribution. MTO advised the current intent is to include one pilot assignment per region.
- MTO noted that the draft RFP/TCP consultation materials are tentatively planned for October, with pilot assignments targeted for the new year.
- Questions were raised regarding how the success of the MTPM model will be measured. MTO indicated that meaningful results may take several years to assess, given the project delivery lifecycle.
- The pilot is expected to evaluate both the integrated Engineering/CA delivery model and the associated procurement approach.
- Members requested additional information on the overall MTPM framework and expressed interest in engagement opportunities beyond the TCP process, such as virtual or in-person discussions.
- Questions were also raised regarding the criteria for selecting pilot projects and the potential future application of the MTPM model.
- MTO advised that additional details, including project selection criteria, will be shared as part of the draft RFP consultation materials on the TCP.

Action:

- MTO to provide additional information on the MTPM framework and project selection criteria through the upcoming TCP consultation.
- MTO to consider stakeholder engagement sessions in addition to the TCP consultation process.

Post Meeting Note:

- Due to time constraints, the MTPM was posted to the TCP on October 22, 2026 and ACEC-ON was advised the same day.

10 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Progressive Design Build for Highways

Description:

- MTO held a stakeholder engagement session on the Highway 413 East Progressive Design-Build (PDB) project and provided an update on feedback received through consultations held throughout the past year.
- Consultation sessions were held in January, March, April, and June 2026, with key materials and discussion topics shared with stakeholders in advance.
- MTO received valuable feedback from industry partners and is reviewing opportunities to incorporate that feedback into the procurement approach and project requirements.
- The announcement of the Highway 413 East PDB project represents the culmination of the consultation work completed over the past year.
- Additional information, including project background and procurement requirements, is expected to be posted to the RAQS Portal.
- MTO is preparing to release the first PDB RFP, currently targeted for mid-October 2026.
- MTO will continue to engage with ACEC-ON and other stakeholders throughout the procurement and implementation process.
- While MTO anticipates using the PDB model on future projects, a long-term project pipeline has not yet been established.
- Lessons learned from the Highway 413 East project and ongoing stakeholder feedback will be used to inform future applications of the PDB model.

Discussion:

- Members expressed interest in understanding where the Progressive Design-Build (PDB) model may be used in future projects and requested greater visibility into the potential project pipeline.
- MTO advised that approvals are still being finalized and that additional information will be shared as it becomes available. Potential future opportunities under consideration include projects within the Highway 413 corridor and the Highway 410 extension.
- Members emphasized the importance of understanding the criteria used to select delivery models, particularly the distinction between PDB and CMGC, to support industry readiness and partnership planning.

- MTO noted that the decision framework is still being refined and may consider factors such as project complexity, staging requirements, schedule, and risk allocation.
- MTO is reviewing lessons learned from Highway 413 East, consulting with other jurisdictions, and will continue to engage stakeholders as the framework evolves.

Action:

- MTO to provide additional information on future PDB opportunities and pipeline planning as approvals and project details become available.
- MTO to share further information on the criteria and decision-making framework used to determine when PDB or CMGC delivery models will be applied.

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11 Item No. Action By: MTO

Engineering Pipeline

Description:

- The NHP and SHP were published on August 14, 2026
- Working on pipeline – anticipated by October 2026, likely after the Exec Mtg Oct 14/26
- There will be a CA pipeline and this is an item at the CA ACEC-ON subcommittee if they have further questions.

Discussion:

- Members requested clarification on how the engineering pipeline will be distributed to industry stakeholders. MTO will confirm the communication approach.
- MTO confirmed that updates will be provided as new information becomes available, including significant project changes and Treasury Board approvals.
- Members emphasized the importance of visibility into regional changes, procurement approaches, and delivery models to support business planning and partnership development.
- MTO noted that future pipeline updates will include available information on delivery models and project changes.
- ACEC requested that the pipeline reflect planned work to be procured via retainer

Action:

- MTO to confirm the distribution method for the engineering pipeline and will continue to provide a mid-year update (typically in May, or sooner, if available).

- MTO to include available information on delivery models and significant project updates in future pipeline communications. MTO will discuss the request to identify projects where succession management would be used with the Succession management Subcommittee before confirming any changes.

Post Meeting Note:

Tracking if a planned stand-alone procurement was instead procured in a retainer is beyond the level of detail that can be provided by AMB. The pipeline contains the best information known at the time, likely in advance of procurement type being decided. A look back at chosen procurement types would fall under DEB/CPDB, not AMB.

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12 Item No.	Action By: MTO

West Region Rotational Retainer

Description:

- Awarded May 27, 2026. The initial touch base meeting held June 11, 2026 with all proponents.
- It was awarded to Dillon Consulting Limited, WSP Canada Inc., Parsons Inc., and Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- The first draft work orders have been shared with service providers and they are working collaboratively to finalize.
- MTO will be sharing the total funds committed across all Work Orders at regular touch base meetings.
- MTO is carrying a contingency based on the Work Order value to account for future WO's and design liaison during construction.
- Clarification requested: as to what 'end-of-term funding management' means – answered by contingency fund response

Discussion:

- Members asked whether other regions are considering similar rotational retainer models.
- MTO noted there is interest from other regions, including the East and Central Regions, but additional implementation will depend on the results of the West Region pilot.
- Members requested clarification on bid disclosure and questioned why only a single bid was shared given that four firms were awarded contracts.

- Questions were also raised regarding whether separate assignment numbers and award values exist for each successful proponent. MTO agreed to review and provide clarification.

Action:

- MTO to consider feedback regarding bid disclosure and provide clarification on the reporting of award values for the successful proponents.

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13 Item No. Action By: ACEC-ON & MTO

Corporate Performance Rating/Performance Management

Description:

- A proposal for the future of ESP performance management has been developed by VMR - a proposed 'collaborative and risk-based contract (performance) management model
- The proposed model is currently under internal review and is intended to be:
  - Simpler
  - More Objective
  - Less Administrative Effort
  - Earlier Intervention/More Collaborative
  - Better Accountability
  - More Details will be Available at the Engagement Opportunities
- There will be upcoming engagement with joint ENG and CA ACEC-ON members – anticipated to be in October 2026

Discussion:

- MTO advised that the proposed performance management model is still under development and will be shared with stakeholders for input before any implementation decisions or timelines are established.
- Members emphasized the importance of clear requirements, reasonable expectations, and understanding how performance evaluations may affect vendor scoring and future opportunities.

- Questions were raised regarding the timeliness of RAQS prequalification approvals, with concerns expressed about approval timelines. MTO requested specific examples for follow-up.
- MTO confirmed that proposed changes may include updates to evaluation documentation and performance management processes.
- It was noted that the intent is to move toward a more collaborative, risk-based performance management approach, with further details to be shared during upcoming engagement sessions.

Action:

- ACEC-ON to provide MTO with specific examples of lengthy RAQS prequalification approval timelines for review.
- MTO to share additional details on the proposed performance management model and anticipated changes through upcoming stakeholder engagement sessions.

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14 Item No.	Action By: ACEC-ON

Succession Management Joint Subcommittee

Description:

- Infrastructure Opportunities Program and Transportation Career Development Program are being expanded and made consistent with how students will be hired provincially.
- ACEC-ON is championing adding a lessons learned minute into all design and contract administration meetings - communication for this piece will be sent throughout the association to ensure consistency.
- Last item is that the previous engineering subcommittee item, about identifying succession management projects in the pipeline reporting, will be discussed at the next succession management meeting which is being held September 29.
- Heather and Andrew - update on potential ACEC-ON grant to support Succession Management J-scan?

Discussion:

- Members suggested that, as participation opportunities expand under the 2027 program, a lottery-based selection process be considered rather than a first-come, first-served approach.

- It was noted that there was strong interest in participation within the Central Region, and members shared positive feedback from the experience in the East Region.
- An update was requested on the potential ACEC-ON grant to support the Succession Management J-scan initiative.
- ACEC-ON advised that the grant opportunity may no longer align with current timelines; however, eligibility for a future funding cycle is being explored.

Action:

- ACEC-ON to provide an update on the status of the potential ACEC grant funding for the Succession Management J-scan initiative.

15 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Road Building Strategies

Description:

- Current status is that RBS is drafting a report on suggested strategies that could accelerate delivery.
- The Highway Design Office is the overall coordinator for this file. Meaning that when road building strategies moves to the implementation phase, they will be the lead on the file.
- An information session for this file is being created and an invite to the session will be sent shortly to ACEC-ON and ORBA. The session is expected to occur late-fall this year

Discussion:

- MTO advised that a report identifying strategies for not only how to construct more quickly but how to get to construction more quickly is currently under development and review.
- Responsibility for implementation will transition to the highway design office once the recommendations are approved.
- MTO is planning information sessions with ACEC-ON and ORBA to discuss the initiative and proposed next steps.

- Timing for the information sessions has not yet been determined, with further updates expected at a future meeting.

Action:

- MTO to provide an update on the report and anticipated stakeholder engagement timelines at next meeting.

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16 Item No.	Action By: ACEC-ON & MTO

Accelerated Procurement

Description:

- MTO and ACEC-ON workshop attendees met to review AP report July 22, 2026
- MTO shared 'final' report with ACEC-ON Aug 04, 2026 and requested that ACEC-ON circulate to larger ACEC-ON audience.
- ACEC-ON to provide comments from broader audience.
- Next steps:
  - Review feedback and discuss with senior management
  - Develop pilot project to test chosen model

Discussion:

- ACEC-ON will confirm circulation of the Accelerated Procurement report to the broader membership as soon as possible.
- Members agreed to seek feedback from the broader ACEC audience by October 9, 2026, to allow time for consolidation and review following Thanksgiving.
- MTO will review the feedback received and discuss potential next steps, including pilot opportunities, with senior management.

Action:

- ACEC-ON to circulate the Accelerated Procurement report and provide consolidated feedback to MTO following the October 9, 2026 comment period.
- MTO to review stakeholder feedback and determine next steps for potential pilot implementation.

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17 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Hwy 413 Update

Description:

- Environmental Impact Assessment Report was published in March 2026
- Preliminary Design for the entire corridor was completed in August 2026
- The Highway 410 Extension design contract was awarded to Parsons/Egis in June 2026. The Construction Manager contract was subsequently awarded to Infrastructure Partners of Ontario (Miller Paving Limited and Brennan Paving & Construction Ltd, Amico Infrastructures Inc, and GIP Paving Inc.) on September 1, 2026. Clearing activities are expected to commence later this year.
- The Program Management Consultant (PMC) contract for the Highway 413 corridor was awarded to 413 Continuity Partners (AECOM/WSP) in July 2026.
- MTO is proceeding with Early Works projects as planned. The Bovaird Drive contract was advertised on August 19, 2026 and includes construction of an underpass structure along Bovaird Drive and widening of Bovaird Drive from Heritage Road to Mississauga Road. The Highway 10 contract was advertised on September 2, 2026 and includes construction of an underpass structure along Highway 10. Both contracts are anticipated to be awarded in late 2026.
- MTO is initiating procurement for the Highway 413 East Section, which extends from Highway 400 to approximately 1 km west of The Gore Road and includes the Highway 427 Extension. The project will be delivered using MTO's new Progressive Design-Build for Highways (PDBH) model. A Notice of Procurement was issued on September 1, 2026, a Procurement Initiation Notice in RAQS is expected the week of September 21, 2026, and RFP release is planned for the week of October 12, 2026.
- Through market-sounding exercises and industry consultations conducted throughout 2025 and 2026, MTO has refined its delivery approach and is proceeding with a staggered procurement strategy using large, integrated delivery packages. Current construction phasing identifies the Highway 413 East Section as a PDBH delivery, while the Highway 410 Extension is being delivered through a CMGC model. Delivery models for the remaining sections of the corridor are still subject to government approvals.
- MTO recently completed an industry engagement on Sept 8, 2026, where the project update was also shared with the industry partners

Discussion:

- MTO noted that the update reflects information shared during the recent Highway 413 industry engagement session, which was attended by a number of ACEC members on Tuesday September 08, 2026.

- MTO highlighted the continued focus on advancing delivery of the Highway 413 program, including procurement of the Highway 413 East Section through the Progressive Design-Build model, with the RFP targeted for release in October 2026.
- Members were advised that bridge design work and other advanced works are progressing, with procurement notices being issued through established channels.
- MTO is continuing to work closely with municipalities to coordinate advanced works and optimize delivery. In some cases, municipalities are advancing works independently; in others, municipal scope is being incorporated into MTO contracts to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- Members requested that future updates include high-level schedule information where available, recognizing that timing remains subject to government approvals.

Action:

- MTO to continue providing Highway 413 program updates, including schedule and procurement information as approvals are obtained and milestones are confirmed.

18 Item No.	Action By: MTO

Ring of Fire Update

Description:

- Environmental Assessment (MECP)/Impact Assessment (IAAC) Decision Statements have been received:
  - Webequie Supply Road – June 25, 2026
  - Marten Falls Community Access Road – August 31, 2026
- Work may now progress subject to conditions of approval
- MTO Class EA concluded for Anaconda/Painter Lake Road on June 29, 2026
- Ontario is working with partnering Indigenous communities (Webequie FN, Marten Falls FN and Aroland FN) on fulfilling agreement commitments to ensure meaningful contribution of each FN in procurement, development, detail design and construction of the roads projects
- Webequie Supply Road Construction Manager agreement - announcement forthcoming

Discussion:

- Members requested clarification on the roles and responsibilities of MTO, Indigenous communities, and consultants in the detail design and delivery of Ring of Fire road projects.
- It was noted that stakeholders have received differing information regarding procurement approaches, consultant engagement, and the division of responsibilities between MTO and participating First Nations.
- MTO advised that multiple projects and delivery approaches are being advanced and that further clarification is required.
- A request was also made for ongoing updates on both the Ring of Fire program and Highway 413 initiatives.

Action:

- MTO to seek clarification on the roles of MTO, participating First Nations, and consultants in the procurement, design, and delivery of Ring of Fire road projects, and provide a response through meeting notes or at a future meeting.
- MTO to continue providing program updates on Ring of Fire and Highway 413 initiatives.

NEW ITEMS:

19 Item No.	Action By: ACEC-ON & MTO

ACEC ITEMS

Description:

- SUE/Utility Scope – Varies across RFPs. Hard to price and scope as a service provider
- Additional Biddable Items – too many on some bids and challenging to price theoretical situations.
- Posting of Bid awards – not consistently listing all bidders
- Request for project acceleration – How to obtain formal authorization of scope of changes to accelerate projects and timely payment of work
- Buy Ontario Presentation was appended to last meeting minutes.

Discussion:

SUE / Utility Scope

- Members noted inconsistencies in how SUE and utility work is scoped across regions, making it difficult to accurately price services and assess risk.
- It was suggested that greater consistency in RFP requirements and improved understanding of SUE deliverables would benefit both MTO and service providers.
- Members recommended involving SUE subject matter experts in future discussions and considering knowledge-sharing sessions or training opportunities.
- MTO agreed to raise the issue through existing process review channels and consider industry participation in future discussions.

Additional Biddable Items

- Members expressed concerns about the growing number of theoretical and contingent bid items included in some procurements, which can be difficult to price and increase proposal effort.
- It was suggested that undefined work could, where appropriate, be addressed through change orders or allowances rather than extensive bid item schedules.
- MTO acknowledged the feedback and noted that bid structures are intended to accommodate potential project requirements but agreed to review the concerns.

Posting of Bid Awards

- Members noted that bid award disclosures are not always consistent across regions and requested more complete reporting of bidders and award information.
- MTO advised that reminders are regularly provided to staff and encouraged industry to flag any inconsistencies when identified.

Request for Project Acceleration

- Members raised concerns regarding delays in formal authorization and approval of accelerated project work, which can create uncertainty around scope changes and associated compensation.
- MTO requested specific examples to help identify process bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement.

ACEC Surveys

- ACEC advised that surveys on procurement and related topics have been circulated to members but have received limited responses.
- A consolidated summary of feedback is expected to be presented at the October 14, 2026 Executive Meeting.

Buy Ontario

- Members asked whether any changes are anticipated to Buy Ontario requirements, particularly for engineering and design services.
- MTO advised that there are currently no planned functional changes and that any future considerations will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Members encouraged continued consideration of opportunities to support greater Canadian participation in design and construction activities.

Action:

- ACEC-ON to provide a summary of member survey results at the October 14, 2026 Executive Meeting.
- ACEC-ON members to provide examples of project acceleration approval challenges for MTO review.
- MTO to explore opportunities to include industry and SUE subject matter experts in discussions related to SUE scoping and procurement practices.
- ACEC-ON will set up meeting with Richard Morales, Steven Pilgrim, and MTO Reps (Dave and Melissa) to review this in more detail and to bring a SUE SME to the discussion too.
- MTO to review feedback regarding additional biddable items, bid award disclosure consistency, and Buy Ontario considerations.
- ACEC-ON to provide examples of bids where too many additional biddable items have been used.

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20 Item No.	Action By: [MTO]

Other Potential MTO Items

Description:

- MTO is leading an effort to improve consistency across ACEC-MTO subcommittee materials, including agendas, meeting notes, and related documentation. Members are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.
- The award for the new Digital Procurement System (DPS) has not yet been announced.

- MTO will continue to utilize RAQS ESP and RAQS Construction until at least October 2027. Should the DPS not be ready for implementation at that time, an extension of the existing RAQS platforms may be required.

Discussion:

- ACEC expressed interest in being involved in future Digital Procurement System (DPS) engagement activities.
- MTO noted that the new procurement consistency role is helping to improve document review, debriefs, and standardization efforts across the ministry.
- Members raised concerns regarding proposal page limits, formatting requirements, and bid inquiry responses that provide limited clarification.
- MTO advised that some responses refer proponents back to the bid documents to ensure fairness during procurement processes.
- Members also suggested improving bid inquiry response timelines and considering flexibility where responses are received close to closing dates.

Action:

- MTO to consider ACEC involvement in future DPS engagement activities.
- MTO Project Lead, Consultant Management to review feedback regarding bid inquiry response timelines and practices.

ADJOURNMENT:

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21 Item No.	Action By: [ACEC-ON & MTO]

Roundtable

Discussion:

- Members raised concerns regarding challenges with adding resources through the prequalification process and the use of low-value retainers for specialized services.

- Concerns were also raised about retainer scoring methodologies, particularly where high-value but infrequently used items can disproportionately influence the weighted financial results.
- Members noted that culvert-only focused procurements (price per culvert for all design) and utility-related work can be difficult to scope and price consistently, creating challenges during the bidding process.
- There was interest in continuing discussions on these topics through future agenda items or stakeholder engagement sessions.

Action:

- MTO and ACEC-ON to continue discussions on prequalification processes, retainer scoring methodologies, and pricing challenges for specialized services such as geotechnical, culvert, and utility work.
- ACEC-ON to bring forward specific examples and recommendations for consideration at a future meeting.

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22 Item No.	Lead: MTO & ACEC-ON

Future Meeting

Date of Meeting:

- Wednesday, January 13, 2027

Location:

- Virtual via MS Teams

Time:

- 9:30am – 12:00pm

Subsequent Meetings

- Spring 2027 TBD May 18, 2026 (in Person/Hybrid - hosted by ACEC?)
- MTO to send out meeting hold for next two meetings.
- Fall 2027 TBD (in Person/Hybrid)

INFORMATION SHARED FOR THIS MEETING:

Document Title	Shared By	Format

MTO/Western University BIM Workshop - Presentations and Breakout Session Recap	Mireya Hidalgo	Zip Files - PDFs