

Transportation Association of Canada Maintenance and Construction Standing Committee 2011 Spring Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes **Sunday, April 16th, 9:00 – 17:00** **Panorama Room, Penthouse Level** **Delta Ottawa City Centre, Ottawa**

Attendees

Chair, Ron Weatherburn, Manitoba
Vice-Chair, Harvey Olsen, Stantec
Secretary, Phil Hutton, Ontario
Past Chair, Moh Lali, Alberta

Gary Todd, Ontario
Reg Fredrickson, British Columbia
Hector Moreno, Toronto
Heather McClintock, Ontario
Adnan Aamir, Northwest Territories
Steve Otto, Alberta
David Cogswell, New Brunswick
Don Snider, Alberta
Paul Goodman, Newfoundland and Labrador
Bruce Stapleton, Transport Canada
Nicole Fleury, Manitoba
Larry Halayko, Manitoba
Jason MacNeil, Clifton
Mark Pinet, Aecom
Graham Gilfillan, IRT

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions(Chair)

- Welcome to all attendees
- Outlined TAC committee organization structure and operations

2. Regular Business

2.1. Introduce Executive members

- Attendees introduced themselves with broad representation from across Canada

2.2. Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Minutes discussed and accepted
- Moved by Gary Todd, Seconded by Harvey Olsen

2.3. Messages from Chief Engineers Council

- Noted letter from Chief Engineers Council to Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) regarding chlorides.

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2.4. Update on presentations for 2011 TAC Annual Conference in Edmonton

- Harvey Olsen outlined status
- Good interest with more than 30 applications for the two topic areas.
- Topics areas include Innovations in Construction and Innovations in Maintenance
- A broader theme provided increased opportunities and likely the reason for increased interest.
- Looking for committee members to chair panel sessions

3. Reports from Subcommittees and Others

3.1 Best Practices Database Management Group

- Glenn Cole outlined the initiative
- Database up and running, 170 documents broken into separate categories
- Accessed regularly
- Please provide comments for improvements
- Current suggestions
 - Outline new documents posted in regular communications
 - Include listing of studies, research or initiatives done by other agencies or organizations

3.2 Public Utilities Management Subcommittee

- Dave Cogswell provided update
- Continuing work on project 'Guidelines for Underground Utility Installations Crossing Highway Right-of -Way.
- On track for completion and submission to MCSC in April 2012

3.3 Summer – Winter Maintenance Subcommittee

- Heather McClintock provided update
- Alberta RWIS expansion, good public access to information
- Road Condition Terminology - will be discussed under later agenda item
- Chief Engineers Council sent a letter to CCME, which expresses support for this important work but concerns for some facets of the approach and chloride levels specified and requested additional time to provide further input. The response received back from CCME was not positive and no additional time was allowed.
- Salt Management Guide Update moving forward
- MTO Culvert Management System presented
- Discussion about 'official' membership approach

3.4 Construction Subcommittee

- Moh Lali provided updat
- Discussed level of attendance and committee membership approach
- Presentation and discussion on Winter Roads Project
- Some discussion on process and role for project report to submit through committee structure to Chief Engineers Council
 - MCSC relies on Project Steering Committee to oversee the technical details of the report
 - MCSC has a representative on each project
 - MCSC role is to ensure that Project Committee met the terms of reference was followed
 - Detailed content of report is not reviewed by subcommittee
 - Concern that MCSC is submitting a report to CEC where the actual report has not been formally tabled at the committee.

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- Detail review is managed through 'letter ballot' after circulated by CEC
- **Motion ... "MCSC role is to confirm the project met the original intent of the project's terms of reference."**
- **Moved by Ron Weatherburn, Seconded by Gary Todd, Passed**

3.5 Report from Environmental Council

- Don Snider provided update.
- Continued discussion on a number of issues and various acts and regulations including Navigable Waters, Source Water, Species at Risk, etc.
- Formal information or submissions from Federal contacts was not available.
- Will continue to bring forward and work within each organization and with Federal counterparts to pursue balance interests are managed.
- Delays to project delivery is a concern in all jurisdictions
- Invasive alien plant species (otherwise known as 'weeds') is an emerging concern.
- Some initial discussion on appropriate approaches to monitoring environmental requirements during construction.
- Presentation from TRB SHRP program. Invited TAC members to participate and put forward research projects for the TRB program.
- **MCSC would like a presentation on Salt Management Project at Fall TAC session. Don to arrange through Environmental Council**
- Undertaking a synthesis of Environmental Best Practices.
- Green Guide for roads initiative ongoing.

3.6 Asset Management Task Force

- Harvey Olsen provided Update
- Committee is working to confirm future responsibilities and activities of Task Force
- A survey will be circulated to jurisdictions to determine current state of Asset Management Activities, which will help to focus future efforts of Task Force.
- Asset Management Task Force reports to CEC.

3.7 Climate Change Task Force

- Graham Gilfillan provided update
- Mandate extended to 2012
- Will review and recommend future of Task Force at fall conference
- Primary role is coordination of issues and input to other parts of the TAC structure rather than initiate and deliver specific projects
- The Task Force is interested in a few additional members, especially from Maritimes.
- Maintenance and Construction activities may be impacted increasingly due to severe weather events.
- Priorities include....raise awareness, leadership, improved data, economic implications and input to TAC products.
- Encourage all members of all committees to consider Climate Change as part of each initiative.
- Future article activities....best practices for evacuation, severe weather impacts on transportation, northern airports and road rehabilitation and effects on bridge hydraulics and costs
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3.8 Presentation from Manitoba

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- Ron Weatherburn provided an update to the committee on current status of issues in Manitoba related to weather and the flooding currently underway.
- Significant rainfall, coupled with ice flow, Over 80 separate sections of highway closed, a number of bridges destroyed.

4. Project and Discussion Items

4.1. Winter Ice Road Code of Practice Project

- Larry Halayko and Sam Proskin presented the project's final outcomes
- Some minor edits will be made to the final draft report based on the Project Steering Committee meeting on Thursday.
- The Project will be presented to CEC tomorrow.
- The Project Team was thanked for their work on this important initiative.
- **MCSC agreed that the project met the terms of reference and should proceed to submission to CEC. Committee voted to approve and motion passed.**

4.2. Winter Roads Condition Terminology Project – Who has implemented?

- Use of report recommendations in the process of being implemented by many jurisdictions.
- Some have decided to use condition terminology, yet will use their existing color scheme approaches.
- Some have chosen to supplement the recommendations with their current terminology to continue to provide existing public expectations.
- Some challenges experienced with 'colors' due to conflicts with base map approaches such as 'google maps'. Manitoba has implemented and overcame the challenges and has offered to provide support to other jurisdictions.
- Minimal, if any concerns expressed from public where fully implemented.
- Does require some training for staff and service providers for changes to terminology.

5. Discussion Topics

5.1 Navigable Waters Act Discussion

- Some concern that timing of approval is delaying project delivery.
- Environmental Council has discussed, submitted concerns and are continuing to make submissions to influence things like definition of Navigable Waters
- Some jurisdictions have found success by raising profile within their own organization.
- Has helped to discuss how road authority can assist with focusing limited approval resources to ensure concentrate on key areas of concern and high priority initiatives.
- There are other approval areas emerging that are also delaying projects such as DFO.
- MCSC determined it is appropriate to raise this with CEC to ensure continue awareness and importance of timely approvals.

5.2 Performance Measures (2nd Phase)

- Goals and objectives to identify key performance measure for national consistency.
- Two primary areas of scope include system preservation and safety
- Draft submitted in March with next draft to be delivered in May.
- Goal to bring final version to MCSC and CEC in fall.
- There are some performance measurement variations in different jurisdictions.
- This initiative will assist to aid in comparison across jurisdictions.

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5.3 Presentation - Alberta Transportation's Experience on Maintenance Outsourcing

- Item deferred to future meeting.

6. Ongoing/Completed Projects

6.1 Syntheses of Practices for Management of Public Utilities in Right of Ways

- Update provided under Subcommittee presentation earlier in the meeting.

6.2 Alternative Procurement Processes for Construction

- Looking for synthesis of lessons learned from various jurisdictions so that all can learn from the experiences of others.
- No representative for the project team available to present at this meeting. TAC staff informed the committee that the project is ongoing.

6.3 Committee Membership

- Discussion on how MCSC is organized and what is 'official' membership list.
- A number of various options and approaches were discussed.
- Want to encourage broad participation from a variety of jurisdictions and organizations.
- Necessary to establish an updated and current committee membership list.
- **Harvey Olsen volunteered with thanks from MCSC to get the member list from TAC and make contact to ensure it is current.** Harvey will provide an update at the September meeting
- Discussion on approach of voting member, corresponding member or 'friend of the committee' as MCSC structure options to be considered.
- MCSC decided to first update the member list and then have further discussion in the fall regarding the level of formality for structured membership and approach for voting.

7. Projects for Future Development

- Prior to the meeting committee members were asked to bring potential ideas forward.
- No new or additional projects were identified.
- There are many current projects ongoing.
- Subcommittees were requested to develop a list of new potential projects with a short abstract for discussion at the fall meeting.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Possible presentations/agenda topics for September meeting

- Alberta experience in Maintenance Outsourcing.
- Identified interest in specific presentation on British Columbia's experience on Alternative Project Delivery Methods.
- There are many great things going on in each jurisdiction or organization. All members were encouraged to identify and bring forward these initiatives and experiences for the benefit of other members.

8.2 Round Table discussion. Issues/advancements across Canada

- Performance specifications are under development in Ontario with measurement of expected outcomes. Alternative Delivery models being pursued to supplement the traditional design-bid-build approach.

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- Renewal all of highway maintenance contracts come due in BC over next two years. Looking to other jurisdictions to understand best practices.
- Toronto undertaking a review of all infrastructure activities to identify core activities to determine what, how and who delivers services.
- Current issue in Ontario regarding herbicide usage from 1950' through 1970s. Trying to understand standards and practices plus potential exposures. Does not appear to be an issue in other jurisdictions.
- Montreal reviewing costs associated with their operations with intention of trying to better understand value for money.
- Alberta installed first FAST (Fixed Anti-icing Spray Technology) system. Suggested that investigation into cost/benefit analysis of these types of technology is a key to support proper decision making. Re-tendering maintenance contracts with a longer (ten year) term. Expanding RWIS network including dynamic message signs and broader camera systems. Pilot for Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) initiative shows initial promise. Investigation underway of crash testing and durability of higher poles on highway systems.
- New Brunswick recently completed environmental training for construction and maintenance training with new Environmental Manual for both internal and contractor staff.
- Newfoundland and Labrador growing usage of RWIS, cameras, DLA and pre-wetting. Recently completed comprehensive upgrade to traffic control manual. Hurricane Igor demonstrated importance of business continuity and emergency management plans.
- Transport Canada ... stay tuned on future funding initiatives.
- Identification importance of integration of highway designs to make cost effective decisions for future maintenance requirements. Should identify a range of snow and ice mitigation techniques through a full life-cycle cost approach.
- Alberta Construction reviewing items that tend to delay projects more often. Looking at projects 7 years in advance to establish a shelf of projects that can be delivered. This also aids to ensure advance work for property, approvals, utilities, etc to minimize potential project delay.
- Noted that Canadian standards for construction are very high and attention must be focused on offshore components where the traditional standards from that area may not be as high or monitored as closely.
- Current issue in Ontario with contracting industry regarding Liquidated Damages. Industry believes that it is inappropriate for the owner to recover the LDs if there is an outstanding dispute on the responsibility for the reason for the delay. All jurisdictions present noted that the LD amount is recovered immediately when the completion date has been reached even when there may be an outstanding dispute regarding delay.
- Manitoba received a multi-year public budget and early next week is announcing specific projects over the span of the budget. Recently had a provincial / industry relationship building session that brought forward and resolved a number of key issues.

9. Additional Items

TAC Award Nominations.

- Encourage all to bring forward worthy items for consideration.
- The TAC website has excellent reference information and we should be recognizing those responsible for these initiatives.

TRB / TAC Exchange

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- TRB is interested in a TAC representative attending their annual to discuss the various initiatives we are working on.
- **MCSC should pursue a commitment for someone to attend next year in exchange for a TRB representative to attend TAC to promote an exchange of ideas and initiatives.** Ron to discuss with members of the executive to find a representative and inform TRB.

10. Adjournment