

June 26, 2023

Municipal Public Works/Engineering Department Head

Dear Sir/Madam:

Subject: Ontario Provincial Standards

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of nearly 1,200 professional engineers employed by over 100 Ontario municipalities. We also have members from provincial agencies, conservation authorities consulting engineers who are designated as the engineer-of-record for smaller Ontario municipalities. MEA was established 60 years ago.

Through our member volunteers, MEA provides expertise in various areas of municipal engineering to assist Ontario municipalities. One significant area of expertise is our efforts in maintaining Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS). MEA, together with MTO, are the co-proponents of OPS – with MEA taking a lead role in the municipal version of these standards (OPS- MUNI). Many municipalities in Ontario already have adopted OPS for their infrastructure projects – but not all.

OPS provides universal engineering standards/specifications/drawings for municipal project applications (roads, sewers, watermains, traffic safety, structures, environmental). MEA has 10 active committees, staffed by experienced municipal engineering professionals, dedicated to reviewing and updating OPS on a regular basis. Most importantly, OPS is free to use.

If your municipality has not adopted OPS, we would like to highlight various reasons why you should consider doing so:

1. Providing consistent/harmonized standards/specifications would assist in reducing design costs, promote efficiencies for the construction industry resulting in better construction pricing when contractors bid on projects.
2. Maximizing asset life cycle through the use of “tried and true” standards developed over many years by experienced professional engineers.
3. Reducing staff time spent on developing “custom” local standards (let OPS do the work for you).
4. Minimizing municipal risk exposure by using universally accepted standards.

5. Creating better opportunities for knowledge sharing across different jurisdictions, especially where municipalities share "boundary" roads (in some cases, as many as 4 municipal jurisdictions could provide differing standards for the same road).

MEA provides training opportunities so your staff can understand and become proficient in the use of OPS. You can learn more about training opportunities on the MEA website at:

<https://municipalengineers.on.ca/events/opstraining.html> .

You can access the OPS website via the following link:

<https://www.library.mto.gov.on.ca/SydneyPLUS/TechPubs/Portal/tp/opsSplash.aspx> .

If you have any questions regarding OPS, please contact the MEA's Technical Services Coordinator, Amin Mneina, at amin.mneina@municipalengineers.on.ca .

Sincerely,



D.M. (Dan) Cozzi, P. Eng.
Executive Director
Municipal Engineers Association