Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives Technical Report Volume 3B: Crossing Technical Data

The Detroit River International Crossing Study





FOREWORD

Background

The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study is a bi-national effort to complete the environmental study processes for the United States, Michigan, Canada and Ontario governments. The study will identify solutions that support the region, state, provincial and national economies while addressing civil and national defense and homeland security needs of the busiest trade corridor between the United States and Canada (Figure F-1).

Figure F-1
Detroit River International Crossing Study
Existing Detroit River International Crossings



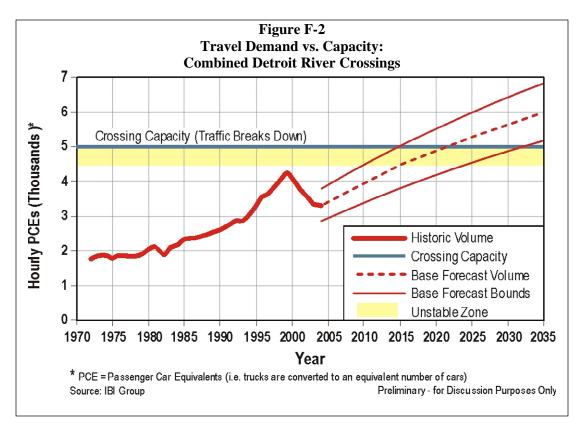
The purpose of the Detroit River International Crossing Project is to: (for the foreseeable future, i.e., at least 30 years):

- Provide safe, efficient and secure movement of people and goods across the Canadian-U.S. border in the Detroit River area to support the economies of Michigan, Ontario, Canada and the U.S.
- Support the mobility needs of national and civil defense to protect the homeland.

To address future mobility requirements (i.e., at least 30 years) across the Canada-U.S. border, there is a need to:

- Provide new border crossing capacity to meet increased long-term demand;
- Improve system connectivity to enhance the seamless flow of people and goods;
- Improve operations and processing capability; and,
- Provide reasonable and secure crossing options in the event of incidents, maintenance, congestion, or other disruptions.

Over the next 30 years, Detroit River area cross-border passenger car traffic is forecast to increase by approximately 57 percent, and movement of trucks by 128 percent. Traffic demand could exceed the "breakdown" cross-border roadway capacity as early as 2015 under high growth scenarios. Even under "low" projections of cross-border traffic, the "breakdown" roadway capacity of the existing Detroit River border crossings (bridge and tunnel combined) will be exceeded by 2033 (Figure F-2). Additionally, the capacity of the connections and plaza operations will be exceeded in advance of capacity constraints of the roadway. Without improvements, this will result in a deterioration of operations, increased congestion and unacceptable delays to the movement of people and goods in this strategic international corridor.



The forecast of capacity indicates that there will be inadequacies in: 1) the roads leading to the existing bridge and tunnel; 2) the ability to process vehicles through customs and immigration; and, 3) the capacities (number of lanes) of the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel themselves. So, even though incremental adjustments can and will be made to the plazas and, even though there is adequate border crossing capacity today (bridge and tunnel combined), the

planning, design and construction of any major international crossing takes time. Therefore, it is prudent to address, now, how and when the capacity need is to be satisfied at the crossing itself as well as the connecting roads.

The Detroit River International Crossing Study (DRIC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addresses the analyses of issues/impacts on the U.S. side of the border for the crossing system over the Detroit River between Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The alternatives are comprised of three components: the crossing, plaza (where tolls are collected and Customs inspections take place), and interchange connecting the plaza to I-75 (Figure F-3).



Figure F-3
Detroit River International Crossing Study
U.S. Area of Analysis for Crossing System

Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

Area of Plaza to I-75
Proposed Canadian Plazas

This is a Summary of the Detroit River International Crossing Study Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives on the U.S. side of the border conducted in 2005. It is one of 13 technical reports supporting the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This summary is Volume 1 of a three-volume set of reports. Volume 2 presents the details of the technical evaluation process. Volume 3 graphically displays the data reported upon in Volumes 1 and 2. The purpose of this summary is to concisely report on the evaluation process and results contained in Volumes 2 and 3.

Introduction

The Detroit River International Crossing Study (DRIC) involves application of a structured process to evaluate Illustrative Alternatives that is consistent with laws and regulations guiding such analyses and past experiences on comparable projects. This process was used to determine which of the Illustrative Alternatives would be subject to more in-depth analysis to be documented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS is to be published by the end of 2007 (Figure F-4).

The evaluation process began when the Border Partnership Steering Committee, with input from the Working Group and its consultants,1 identified options that would meet the project's purpose and need.

Project Purpose

The Purpose of the Detroit River International Crossing Project is to: (for the foreseeable future, i.e., at least 30 years):

- Provide safe, efficient and secure movement of people and goods across the Canadian-U.S. border in the Detroit River area to support the economies of Michigan, Ontario, Canada and the U.S.
- Support the mobility needs of national and civil defense to protect the homeland.

Project Need

To address future mobility requirements across the Canada-U.S. border, there is a need to:

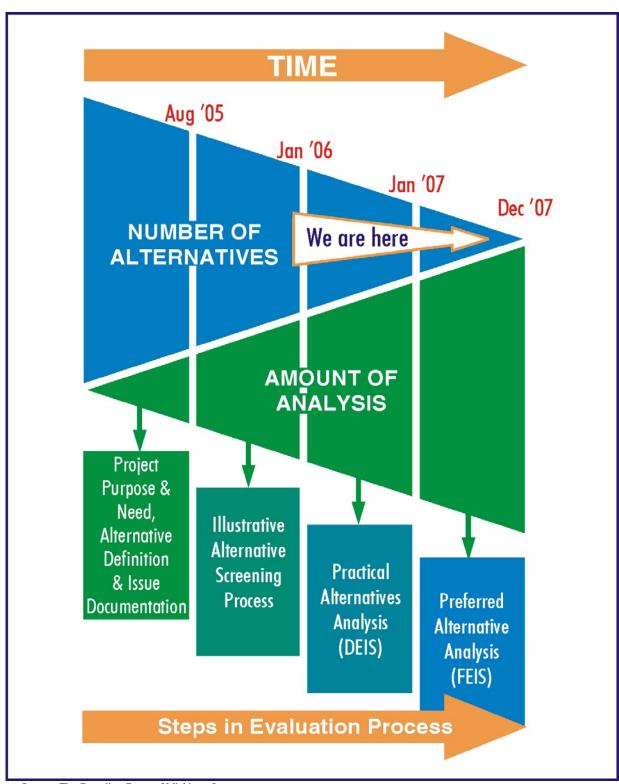
- Provide new border crossing <u>capacity</u> to meet increased long-term demand;
- Improve system connectivity to enhance the seamless flow of people and goods;
- Improve operations and <u>processing capability</u>; and,
- Provide reasonable and secure crossing options in the event of incidents, maintenance, congestion or other disruptions.

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¹ The Partnership Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of the Federal Highway Administration, Transport Canada, the Ministry of Transportation Ontario and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The staff members of these organizations comprise the Working Group. The Consultant teams are led by URS Canada (Canadian Team) and The Corradino Group of Michigan (U.S. Team).

Figure F-4
Evaluation Process



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

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Streets Crossed/Closed During Construction

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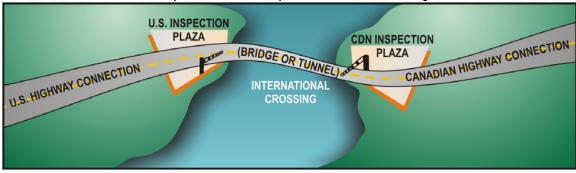
Solution Mining

1. Introduction

This document is Volume 3 of a three-volume set of reports to support the Detroit River International Crossing Study Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives on the U.S. side of the border. This volume includes maps and listings of key issues like wetlands, floodplains, etc., used in assessing the performance of the Illustrative Alternatives as reported in Volume 2. Volume 1 summarizes the evaluation process.

Volume 3 is divided into three sections consistent with the components of a new or expanded international crossing of the Detroit River as shown on Figure 1-1. These are plazas, crossings and routes. This document covers the crossing component of the crossing systems.

Figure 1-1
Components of New or Expanded International Crossing



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

2. Methodologies

The data in this report supports the evaluation of the Illustrative Alternatives on the U.S. side of the border. The evaluation process follows the overall methodology incorporated in the scoping information document,² which is summarized in Table 2-1. The evaluation factors are:

- Protect Community/Neighborhood Characteristics
- Maintain Consistency with Local Planning
- Protect Cultural Resources
- Protect the Natural Environment
- Improve Regional Mobility
- Maintain Air Quality
- Assess How Project Can Be Built (Constructability)

A definition of these evaluation factors and the associated performance measure categories and performance measures is provided below.

2.1 Protect Community/Neighborhood Characteristics

Six different performance measure categories are involved in this area.

To determine neighborhood **traffic impacts**, the volume change on links in the local roadway system that would be affected by connecting to a border crossing is analyzed. Those streets that would be closed during construction (temporarily) as well as permanently have been listed. Likewise, those streets that would remain open but crossed or rerouted are also listed to determine the degree to which the community's basic street network would be modified. Lastly, if there are mainline railroads that may be rerouted because of the plaza's location, they are listed as well.

The number of dwelling units has been calculated within 150 feet of each component of the border crossing system that would have front line (unblocked) exposure to **noise**. Additionally, any significant sensitive receptors such as churches, parks, historic sites and the like, within the 150-foot band are also cited.

² The Detroit River International Crossing Study Draft Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Information prepared by MDOT in partnership with FHWA, July 2005.

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Table 2-1 Detroit River International Crossing Study Evaluation Factors and Performance Measures Illustrative Alternatives Phase

Evaluation Factor Performance Measure Category Description/Units Volume Change – Key Links Figures 5-3 to 5-9 Streets Closed (permanently) Number Traffic Impacts Streets Closed (temporarily) Number Number Number	Data Source GIS/Field Review
Streets Closed (permanently) Streets Closed (temporarily) Number Number	GIS/Field Review
Streets Closed (temporarily) Number	GIS/Field Review
Twoffic Immosts Streets Crossed Number	GIS/Field Review
Traffic Impacts Streets Crossed Number	GIS/Field Review
Streets Rerouted Number	GIS/Field Review
Streets with Interchange Number	GIS/Field Review
Mainline Raillines Rerouted Number	GIS/Field Review
Noise Frontline Exposure Number of dwelling units exposed	Transportation Noise Model (TNM) Version 2.5
Significant Receptors Exposures Number/Specify	Field Review, TNM
Community Cohesion/Character Change from No Action Positive/Negative/Neutral	Professional Judgment
Residential Units Occupied	GIS/Field Review
Residential Units Vacant	GIS/Field Review
Residential Population Number	GIS/Field Review
Active	GIS/Field Review
Business Units Vacant Buildings	GIS/Field Review
Estimated Employees in Affected Census Blocks Number	Tetrad Computer Applications, Inc.
Schools	GIS/Field Review
Potential Acquisition Senior Service Facilities	GIS/Field Review
Government Facilities	GIS/Field Review
Places of Worship	GIS/Field Review
Other Land Uses Affected Traces of Worship Medical Facilities	GIS/Field Review
Protect Community/ State/Federal Government Facilities	GIS/Field Review
Neighborhood Community Services	GIS/Field Review
Characteristics	GIS/Field Review
EJ Population (non poverty)	U.S. Census Data
Population Groups Affected	U.S. Census Data
FI Populations in Affected Census Block Groups	1
Environmental Justice/Title VI Environmental Justice/Title VI Threshold	U.S. Census Data
Households in Poverty	U.S. Census Data
Title VI Groups in Census Tracts Presence of Regionally Prominent Ancestral Groups	U.S. Census Data
Number of heavy industry businesses within 1/2 mile	GIS/Field Review
Number of medium industry businesses within 1/2 mile	GIS/Field Review
Proximity to Industry Number of light industry/office businesses within 1,000)
ft/300m	GIS/Field Review
Proximity to Residential/Retail Number of residences within 500 ft/150m	GIS/Field Review
Number of retail businesses within 500 ft/150m	GIS/Field Review
Number of EPA Licensed Hazmat TSD Facilities within one	-
Public Safety/Security (Plaza Only) Proximity to Hazardous Materials half mile	
Number of MDEQ Licensed TSD Facilities within one-hal	f
mile	
Distance to nearest fire station (mi)	GIS/Field Review
Distance to nearest police station (mi)	GIS/Field Review
Emergency Response Number of streets closed (perm.)	GIS/Field Review
Number of streets closed (temp.)	GIS/Field Review
Mainline Raillines Rerouted	GIS/Field Review
Official Plans Consistency YES/NO	Professional Judgment
Other Plans Consistency YES/NO	Professional Judgment
Maintain Consistency Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Number	Web-based MDEQ files
with Local Planning Environmental Sites Affecting Plan EPA/DEQ Licensed Hazmat TSD Facility Number	Web-based EPA files
Implementation (single sites may have National DEQ Priority List (Superfund) Number	Web-based MDEQ/EPA files
multiple designations) RTK Cerclis (Superfund) Number	Web-based MDEQ/EPA files
Michigan Contaminated Site Number	Web-based MDEQ files

Table 2-1 (cont'd) Detroit River International Crossing Study Evaluation Factors and Performance Measures Illustrative Alternatives Phase

				Performance Measures		
Evaluation Factor	Performance Measure Category			cription/Units	Data Source	
		Historic Districts	Number		Web-based SHPO files	
Protect Cultural Resources		Listed NRHP Sites/Structures	Number		Web-based SHPO files	
	Above Ground Historic Resources	Listed SHRS Sites/Structures	Number		Web-based SHPO files	
		Locally Listed Sites/Structures	Number		Local Historic Groups	
		Potentially Eligible Sites/ Structures	Number		Field Review	
	Archaeology	Previously Recorded Sites	Number		Web-based SHPO files	
	Below Ground Resources	Potential to Find/Record	High/Medium/Low		Field Review	
	Parkland	All Public Parks	Number/Acres		Municipal Web sites/Field Review	
		6(f) Parks	Number/Specify		Web site - National Park Service	
		Coastal Zone Management Projects	Number of Project/Specify		MDEQ and Grant Applications	
		Floodplain	Number/Acres		GIS/Field Review	
		Surface Run Off	Acres		Calculation	
'	Surface Water	Primary Steams	Number/Specify		GIS/Field Review	
		Secondary Streams	Number/Specify		GIS/Field Review	
		Other Water-crossings	Number/Specify		GIS/Field Review	
Protect the Natural	Groundwater	Municipal Wells	Number		Contact with Municipalities	
Environment	Groundwater	Water In-takes	Number/Specify		Contact with Municipalities	
		Wetlands	Acres		Field Review	
	Significant Habitat	Fens/Bogs	Number/Acres		Field Review	
	Significant Monat	Endangered Species	Potential Species		U.S. Fish & Wildlife/MDEQ	
		Designated Wildlife Refuges	Number/Acres		U.S. Fish & Wildlife/MDEQ	
	Prime/Unique Farmland	Farmland	Acres		GIS	
	Mineral Resources	Salt/Limestone	Type/Specify		Field Review/Industry sources	
	Highway Network Effectiveness	VMT (int'l traffic only, PM Peak Hour for 2035)	No Action		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
			With New Crossing		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
			Difference from 2035 – No Action		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
			Percent Difference		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
			No Action		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
		VHT (int'l traffic only, PM Peak Hour for 2035)	With New Crossing		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
Improve Regional			Difference from 2035 – No Action		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
Mobility			Percent Difference		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
		V/C (total traffic)	Table 5-10, Figure 5-11		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
		Diversion due to disruption at crossing	Difference of Int'l VMT with Ambassador Bridge Closed and New Crossing Open Difference of Int'l VHT with Ambassador Bridge Closed and New Crossing Open Number of SEMCOG Network Links Rerouted		SEMCOG Travel Demand Model	
					Detour of Local Arterials	
					Detout of Local Atterials	VOC
	Regional Burden	Change from No Action	CO	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
Maintain Air Quality	Regional Buluch		NOX	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			PM2.5	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			PM10	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			Benzene	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			1.3 Butadiene	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			Formaldehyde	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			Acetaldehyde	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
			Acroline	lbs. in PM peak hour	EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs EPA MOBILE6.2 & model runs	
	Hotspot	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Parts Per Million	ios. Ili Fivi peak noui	Approved Federal Model (CALQ3HC)	
	noispoi	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	rans per Million		Approved rederal Wodel (CALQSIIC)	

Table 2-1 (cont'd) Detroit River International Crossing Study Evaluation Factors and Performance Measures Illustrative Alternatives Phase

			Performance Measures		
Evaluation Factor	Performance Measure Category		Description/Units	Data Source	
Assess How Project Can Be Built	Traffic Maintenance	Streets closed during construction	Number	GIS/Field Review	
		Adjacent businesses affected by construction	Number within 500 ft/150m	GIS/Field Review	
		Adjacent schools or public use facilities affected by construction	Number within 500 ft/150m	GIS/Field Review	
	Site constraints limiting access to the plaza for the river crossing or the roadway connections.	Plaza proximity to crossing landing	Distance (ft/m)	GIS/Field Review	
		Raillines adjacent to or through plaza site	Number	GIS/Field Review	
		Utilities adjacent to or through plaza site	Number	GIS/Field Review	
		Presence of heavy industry adjacent to or on plaza site	Yes/No	GIS/Field Review	
		Contaminated sites/hazardous materials within 500 ft/150m (single sites may have multiple designations)	EPA Licensed Hazmat TSD Facilities	Web-based EPA files	
			National Priority List (Superfund)	Web-based MDEQ files	
			RTK Cerclis (Superfund)	Web-based MDEQ files	
			Michigan Contaminated Sites	Web-based MDEQ files	
			DEQ Licensed TSD Facilities	Web-based MDEQ files	
	Geotechnical constraints – identify any unusual geotechnical features/issues that may be problematic for construction	Proximity to solution mining areas	Number within 1,000 ft/300m	GIS	
		Presence of poor soil conditions (e.g., compressible/expansive and organic)	Yes/No	GIS/Literature Review	
		Presence of noxious gases (e.g., Hydrogen Sulfide and Methane)	Yes/No	Literature Review	
		Presence of artesian groundwater	Yes/No	Literature Review	
	Relative risk of known site conditions (environmental, geotechnical, other physical/ construction methodologies)	Engineering Consideration	High/Medium/Low	Professional Judgment	

Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

The professional assessment of whether a **community's cohesion/character** would be affected by a component of the crossing system is based upon an understanding of the characteristics of the affected neighborhood(s)/community(ies). The entirety of the information presented in this category is used to make that judgment.

The **potential acquisition** of residential units (single-family and apartments) and the number of inhabitants who may have to be relocated is included in the assessment by each component of the border crossing system. Similarly, the number of businesses potentially affected, along with an estimate of the number of direct jobs at those businesses that are expected to be relocated, have been identified. Lastly, other land uses that could be affected are incorporated into the analysis.

They include: schools, senior service facilities, city government facilities, places of worship, medical facilities, state/federal government facilities, and community service facilities, such as recreation centers, counseling centers, and the like.

Presidential Executive Order 12898 on **Environmental Justice** (EJ) sets out objectives and procedures: to identify, address and avoid disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. The population groups likely to be affected directly and/or indirectly by a component of the border crossing system have been defined by using Census data at the "block-group" level. In addition, the number of people potentially impacted have been estimated. It is noteworthy that this latter number may exceed those people potentially relocated because the block-group data are much broader than the in-field counts of dwelling units that could be acquired. Nonetheless, it serves as an estimate of EJ impacts.

Those social/cultural groups covered by **Title VI** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are also reviewed in this evaluation category. Title VI mandates that discrimination not occur on the basis of race, color or national origin in connection with programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. To properly account for Title VI issues, all groups which comprise at least two percent of the SEMCOG region's population were chosen for analysis. These include Arab, Asian, Black or African-American, English, French, German, Hispanic/Latino, Irish, Italian, Polish and Scottish. Because the data to address Title VI ancestry issues are only available at the large Census tract level (as compared to the Census block-group level for minority populations), only the ancestral groups that could be potentially affected by a border crossing component are identified at this time, not the specific number of people. More detailed analysis of ancestry (and Environmental Justice) issues will be conducted for the Practical Alternatives analysis.

In order to determine the relationship of the plaza (and only the plaza) to the **security** of the neighborhood/community in which it may reside, and the effect of the surroundings on the plaza's security, several factors have been examined. A "proximity index" has been used to determine the

number of heavy³ industries and medium⁴ industries within one-half mile of the plaza's edge (not its center); this is a "risk-to-plaza" issue as the activities at these industries can affect the security of the plaza. Likewise, the number of light industry and office businesses within 1,000 feet/300 meters of the plaza's edge have been determined. The proximity index for residences and retail businesses is even more narrow at 500 feet/300 meters. These two latter proximity indices are associated with a plaza's potential risk to the community.

In order to determine the possible effect of the plaza on emergency services response, the plaza's distance to the nearest fire and police stations have been measured as well as a listing of the number of streets that may be closed temporarily during construction and permanently after the plaza is in operation. Likewise, the mainline railroads that would be crossed have also been defined because crossing a rail line may impede the responsiveness of emergency services.

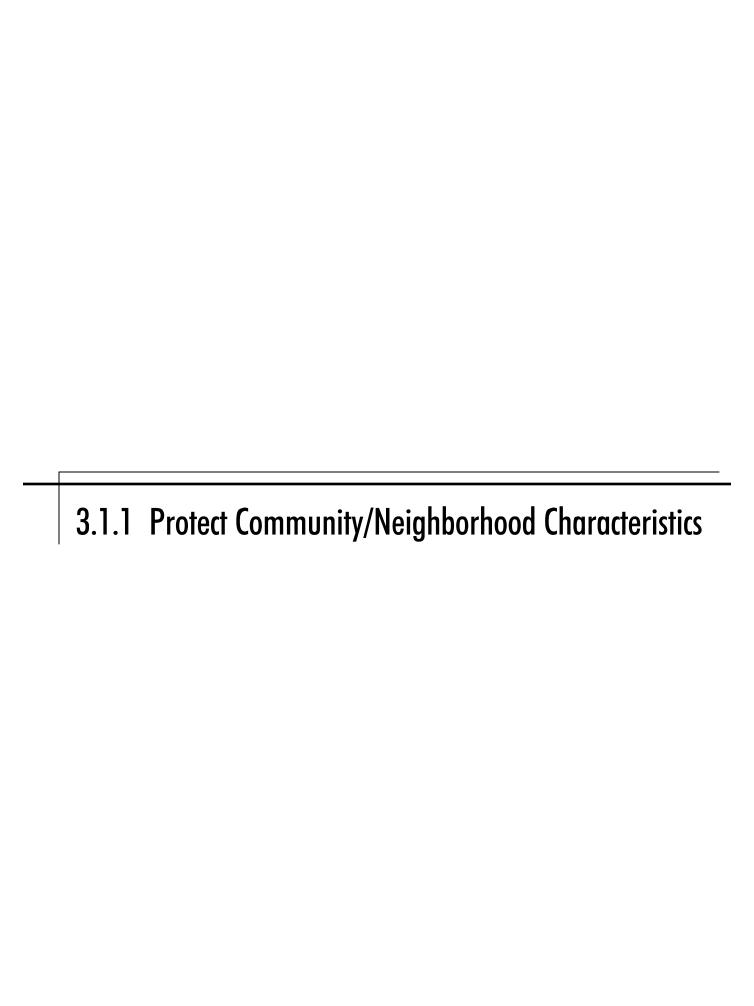
The last issue in this category of public safety/security, as it relates to both the risk to the plaza and the plaza's potential risk on a community, is the number, within one-half mile of the plaza, of any Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/EPA-licensed Transfer/Storage/ Distribution (TSD) facility, which handles potentially hazardous materials.

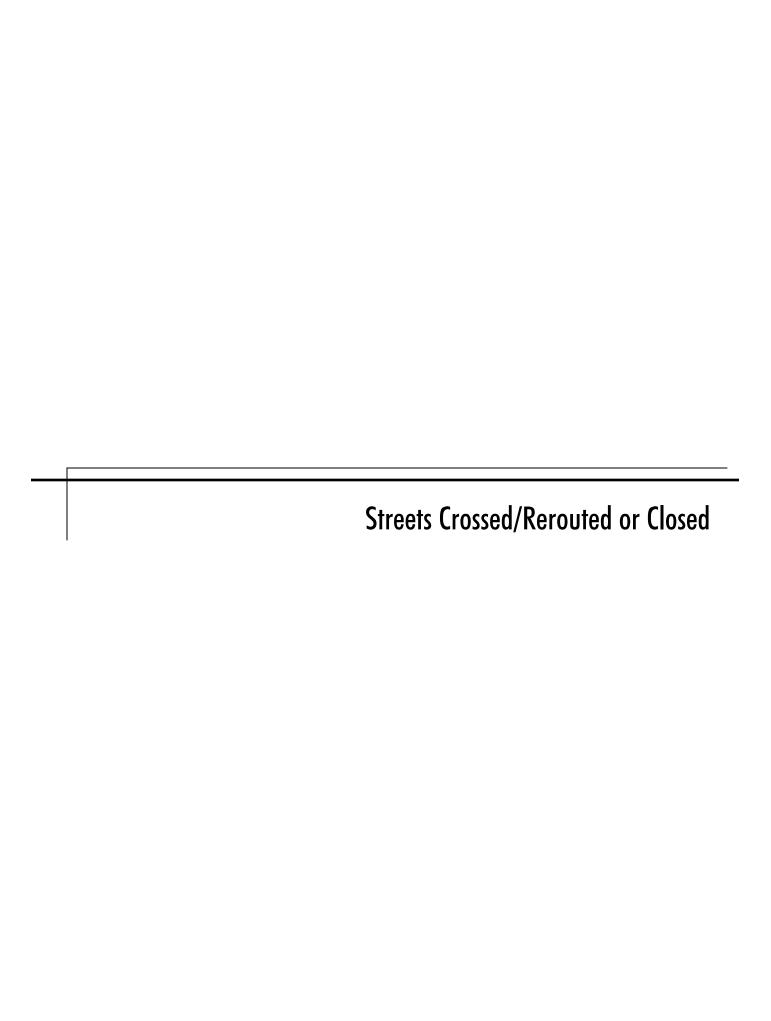
³ Heavy industry is defined as those industrial land uses that present a potential for significant difficulty in demolition or removal as well as legacy issues that would affect construction such as environmental contamination. Such land uses may include chemical production facilities, hazardous waste processing facilities, foundries and blast furnaces, steel mills, etc.

⁴ Medium industry is considered a location of moderate manufacturing or industrial activity such as a distribution facility or a small (non-auto) assembly plant.

3. Supporting Data

3.1 Crossings

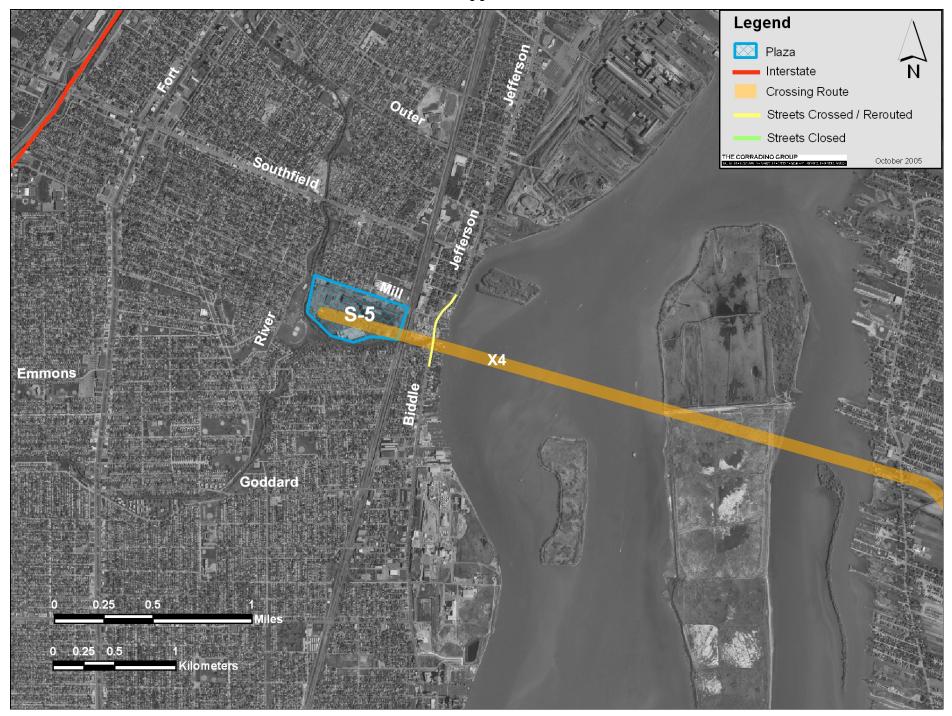




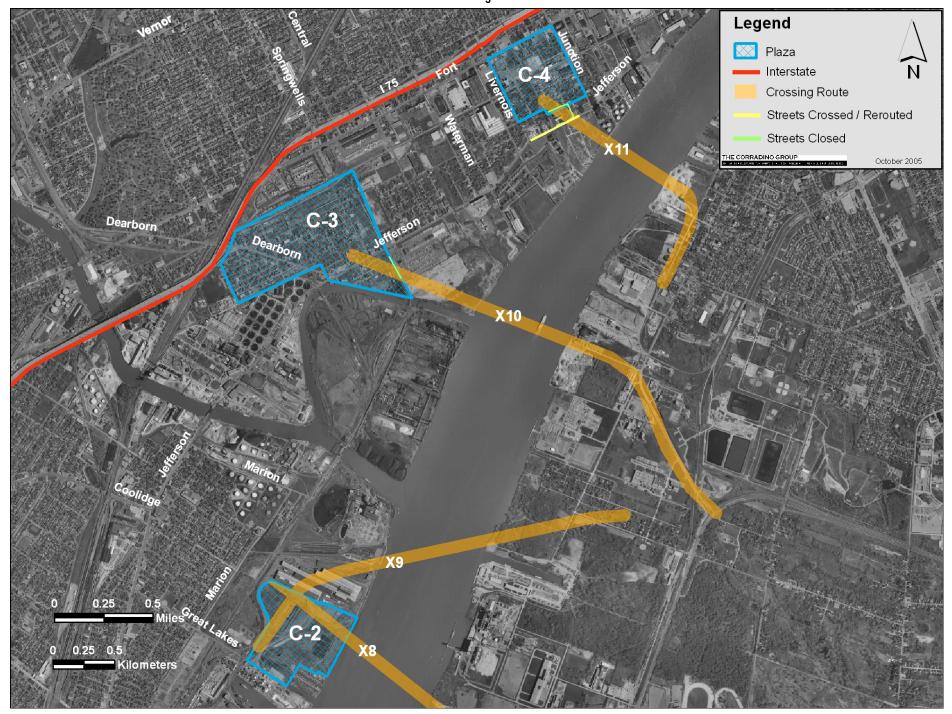
Streets Crossed/Rerouted or Closed S-1 through S-4



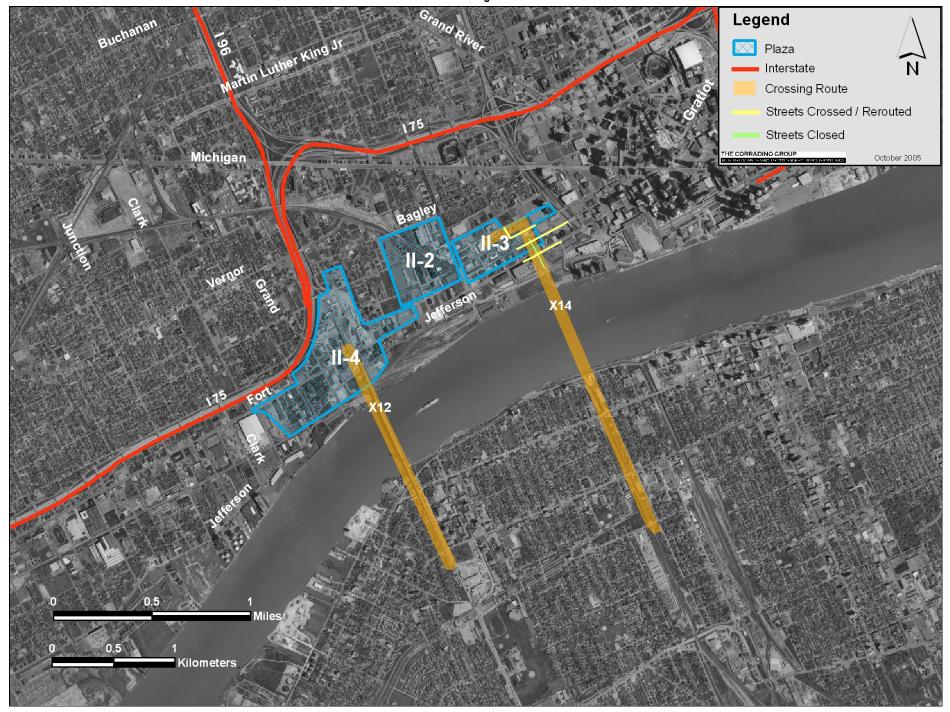
Streets Crossed/Rerouted or Closed S-5



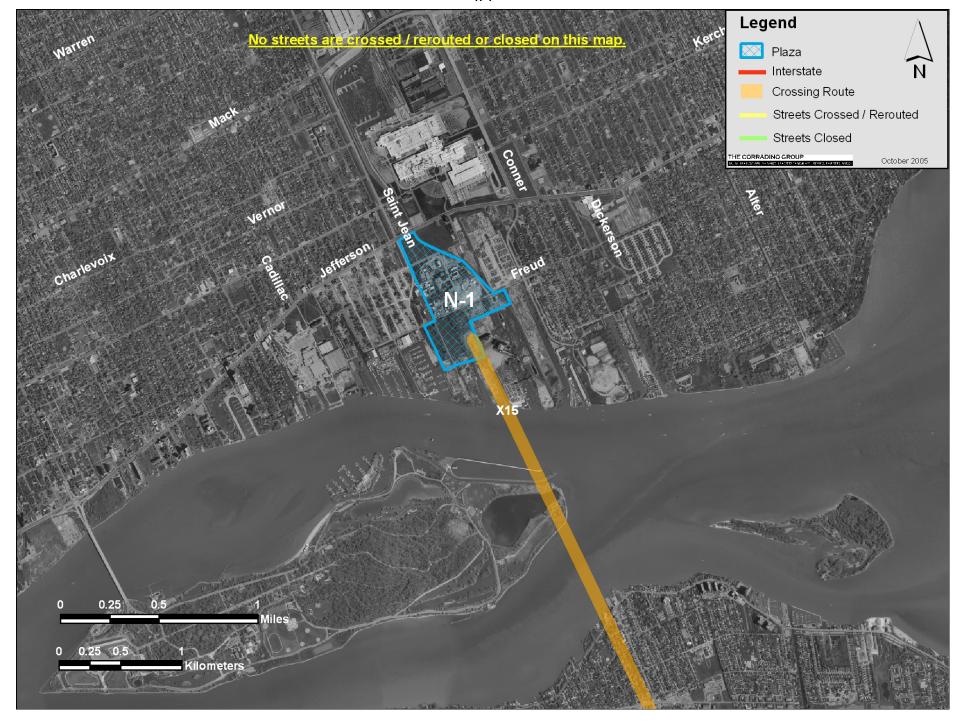
Streets Crossed/Rerouted or Closed C-2 through C-4

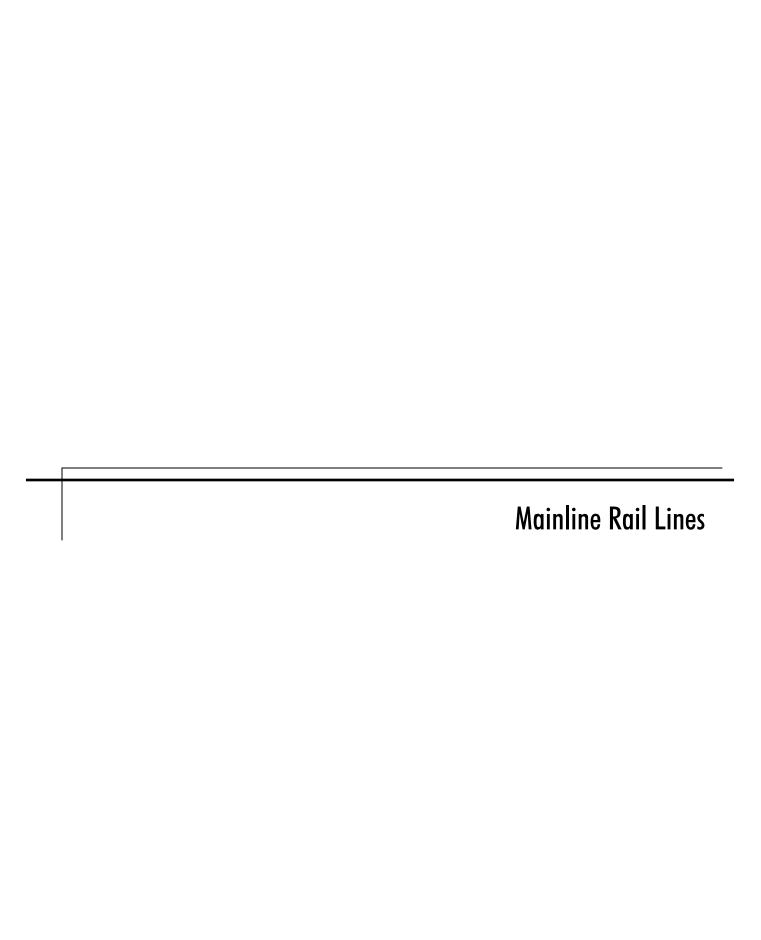


Streets Crossed/Rerouted or Closed II-2 through II-4



Streets Crossed/Rerouted or Closed N-1



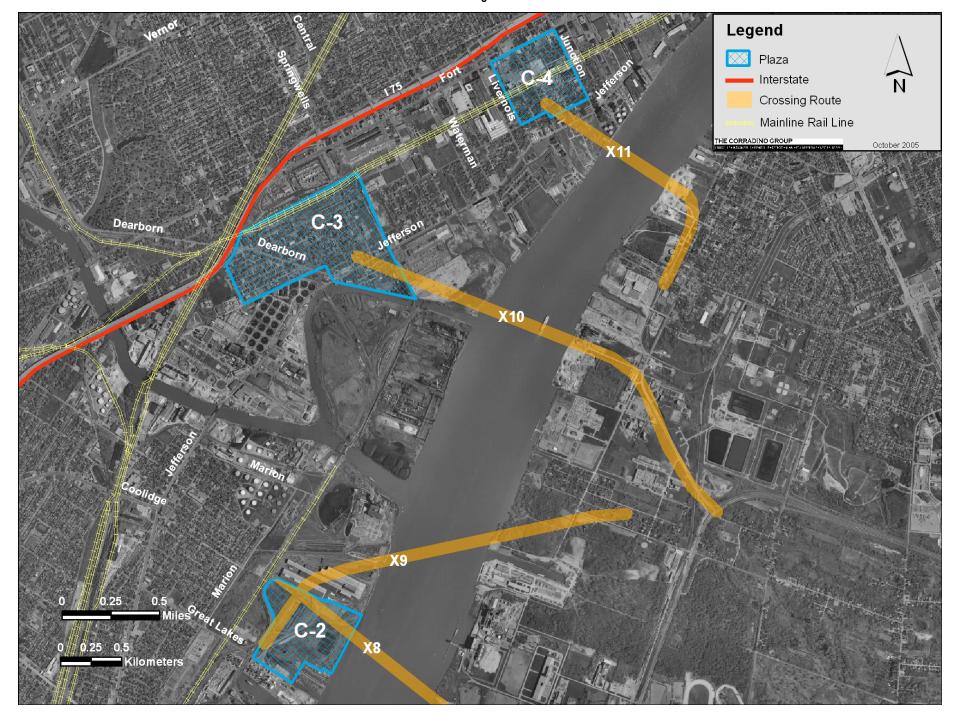


Mainline Rail Lines S-1 through S-4

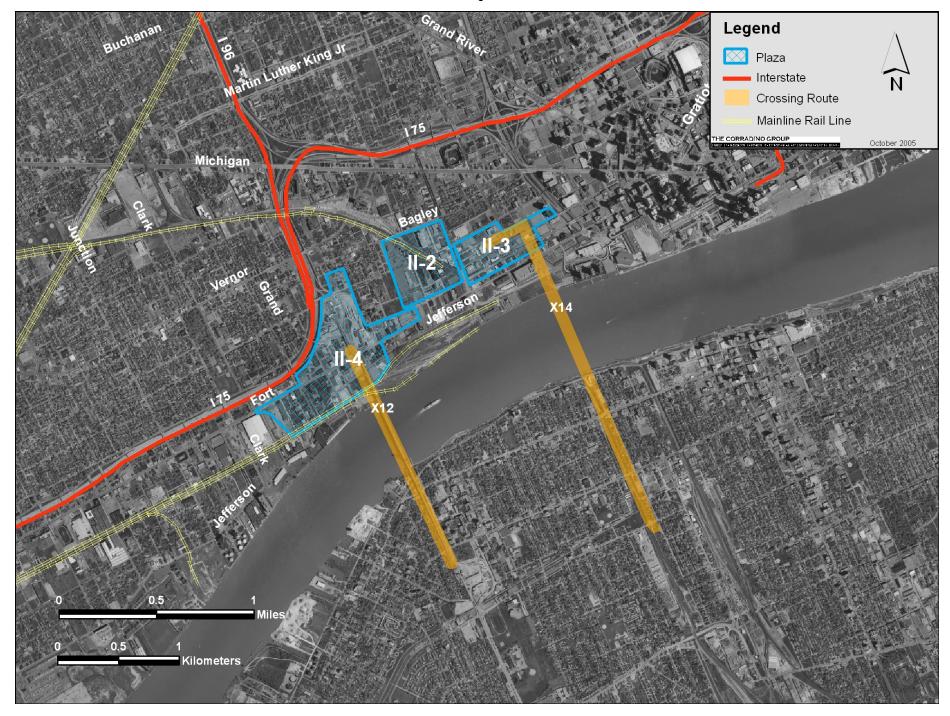


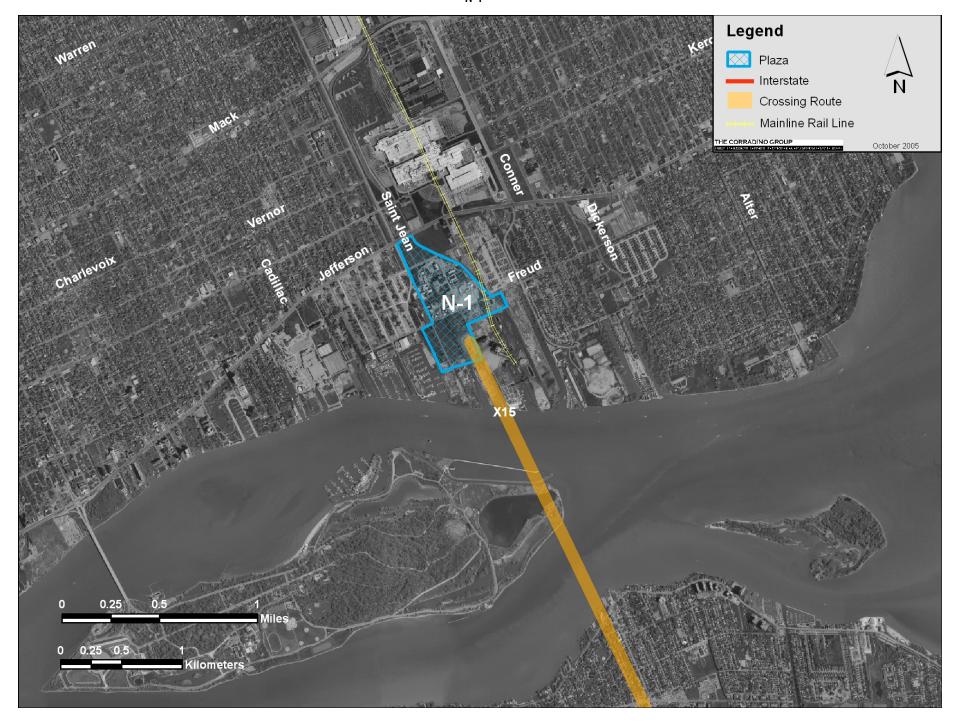


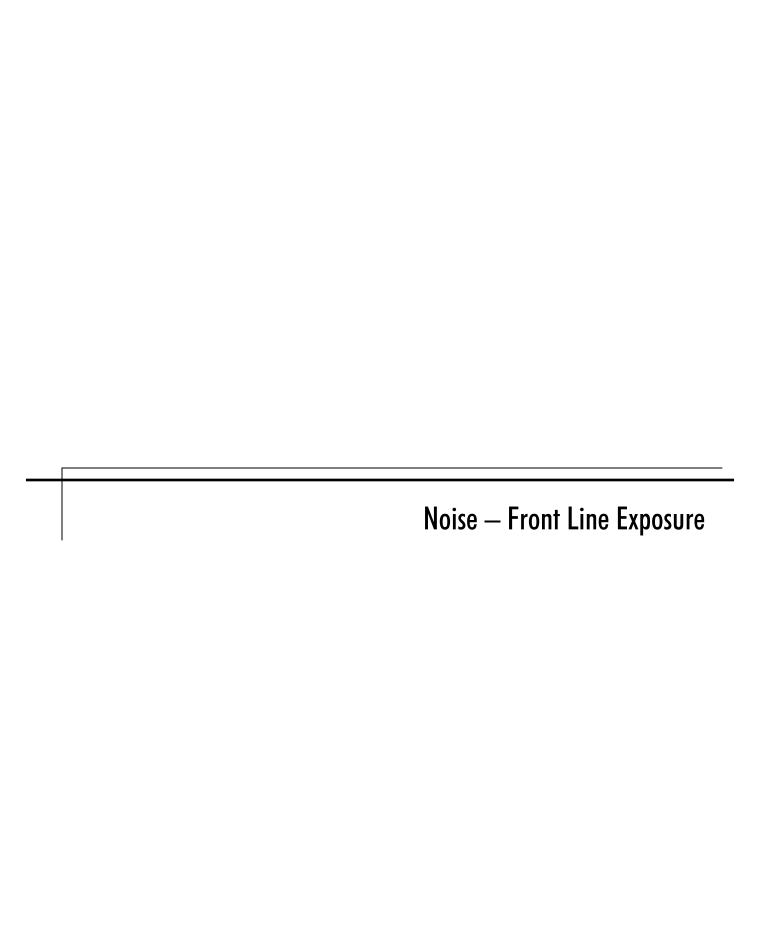
Mainline Rail Lines C-2 through C-4



Mainline Rail Lines II-2 through II-4



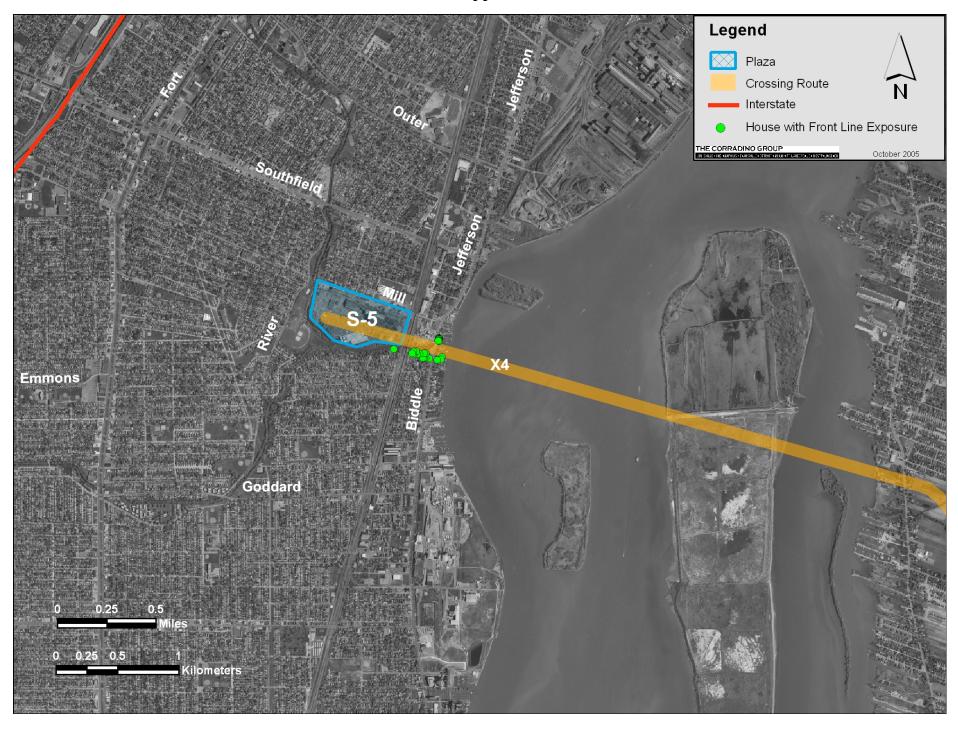




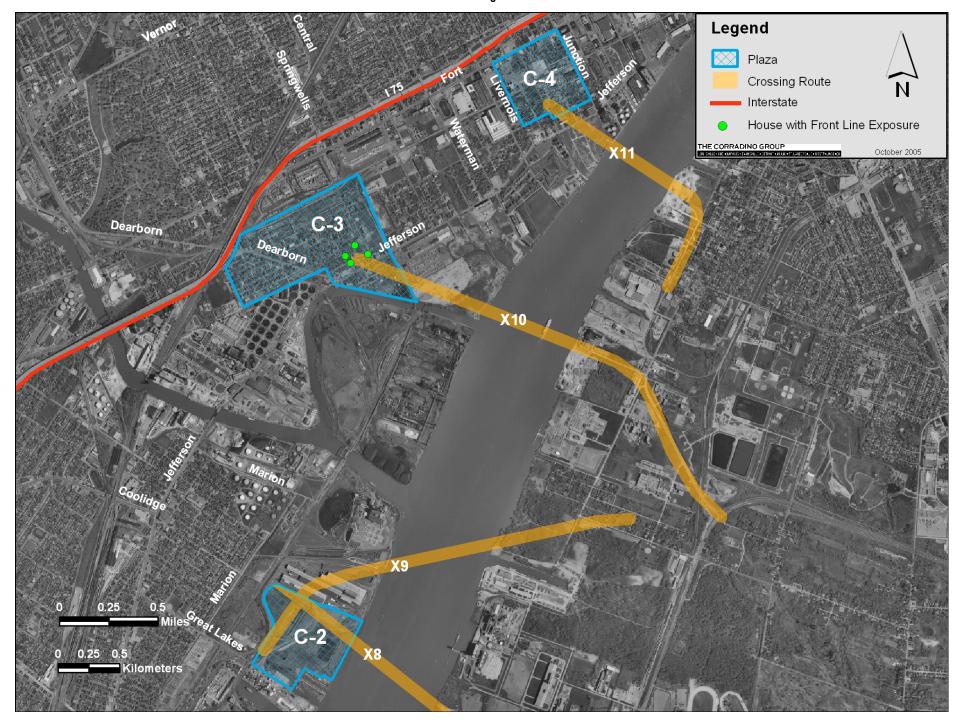
Noise — Front Line Exposure S-1 through S-4



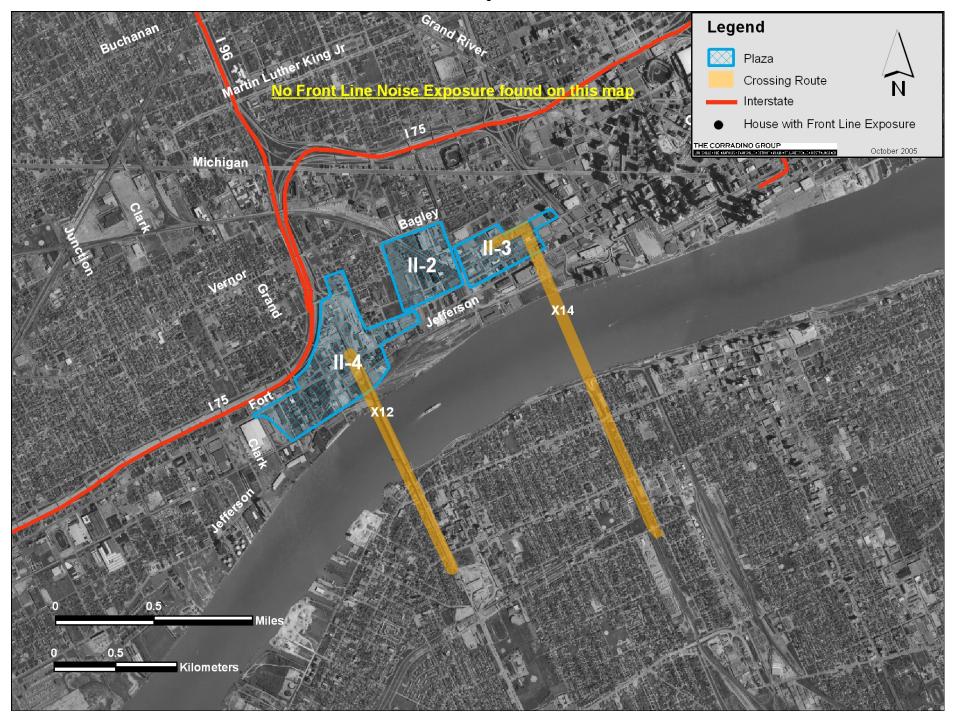
 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Noise} - \text{Front Line Exposure} \\ \text{S-5} \end{array}$



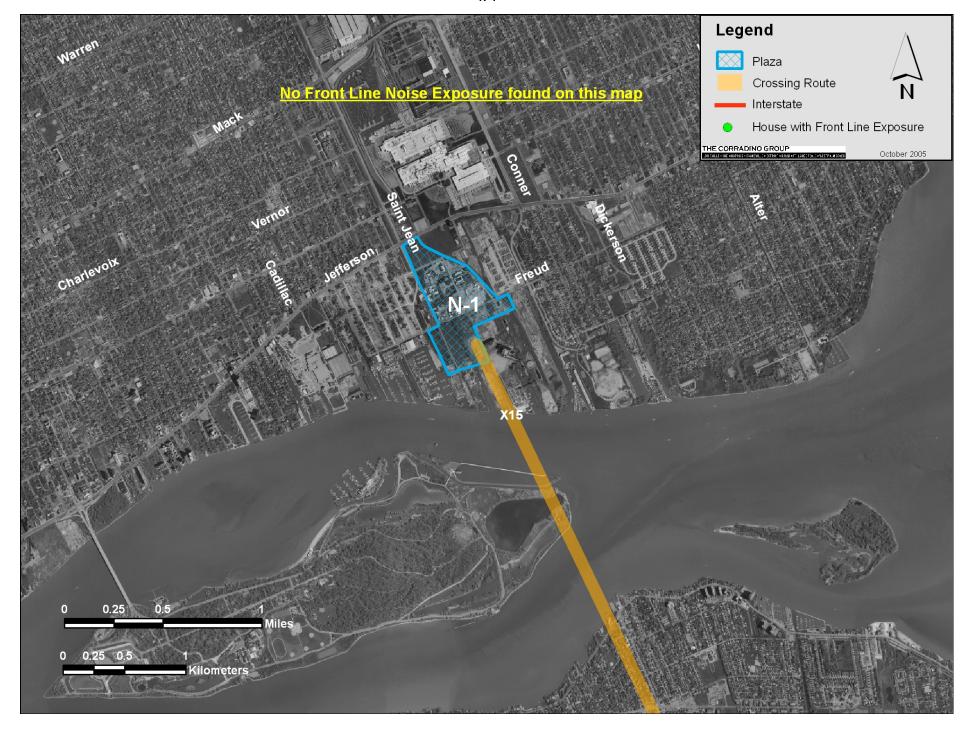
Noise — Front Line Exposure C-2 through C-4

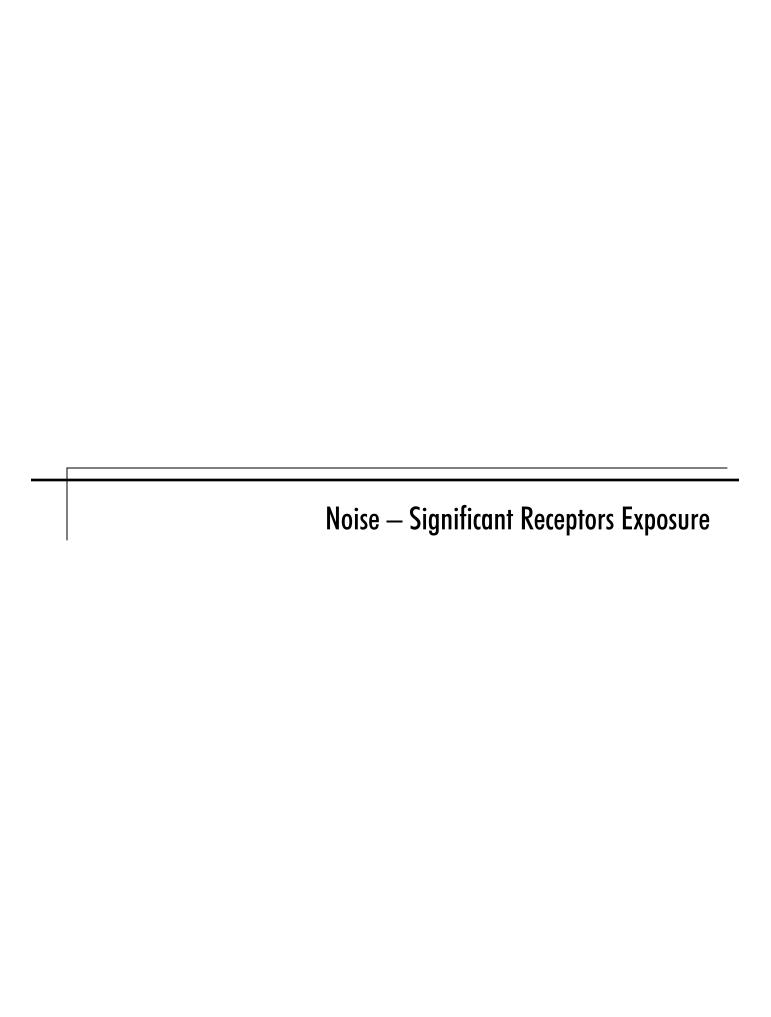


Noise — Front Line Exposure II-2 through II-4

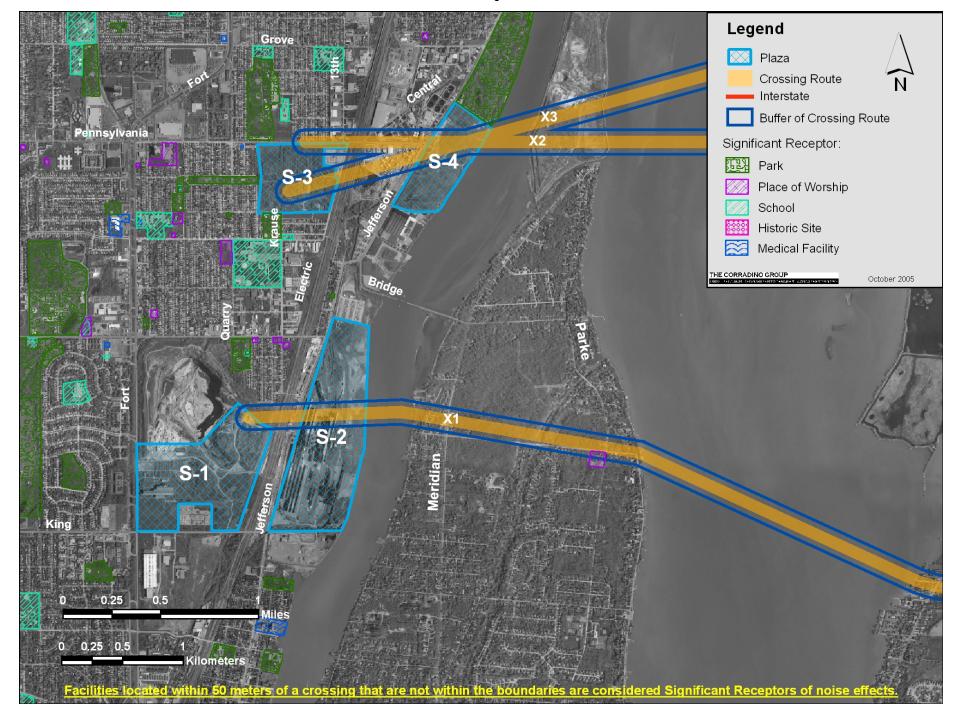


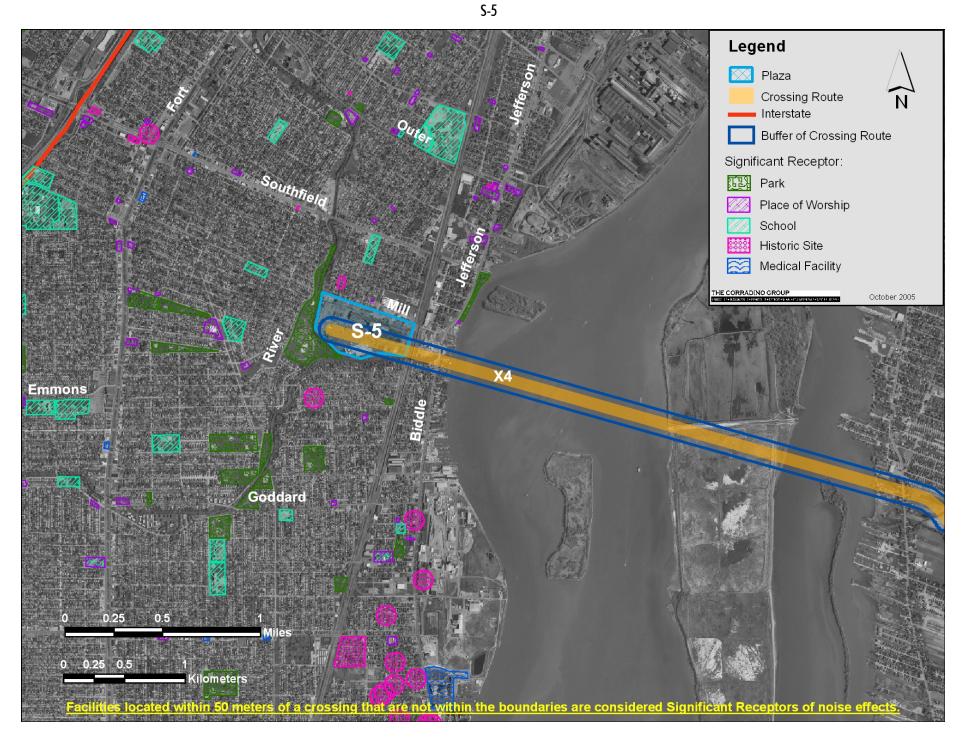
Noise — Front Line Exposure N-1



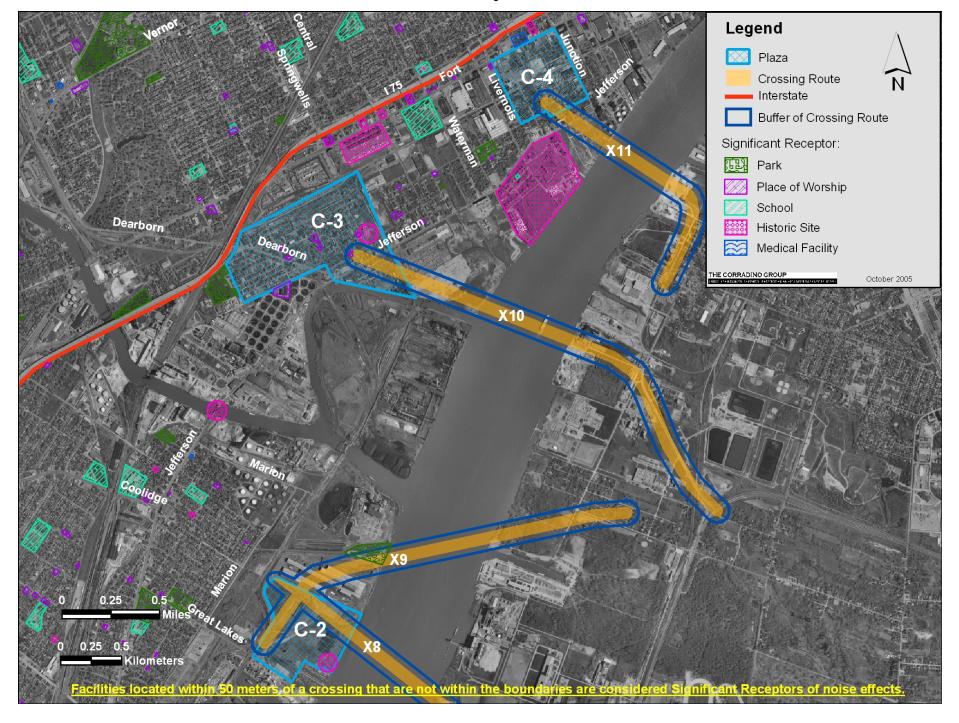


Noise — Significant Receptors S-1 through S-4



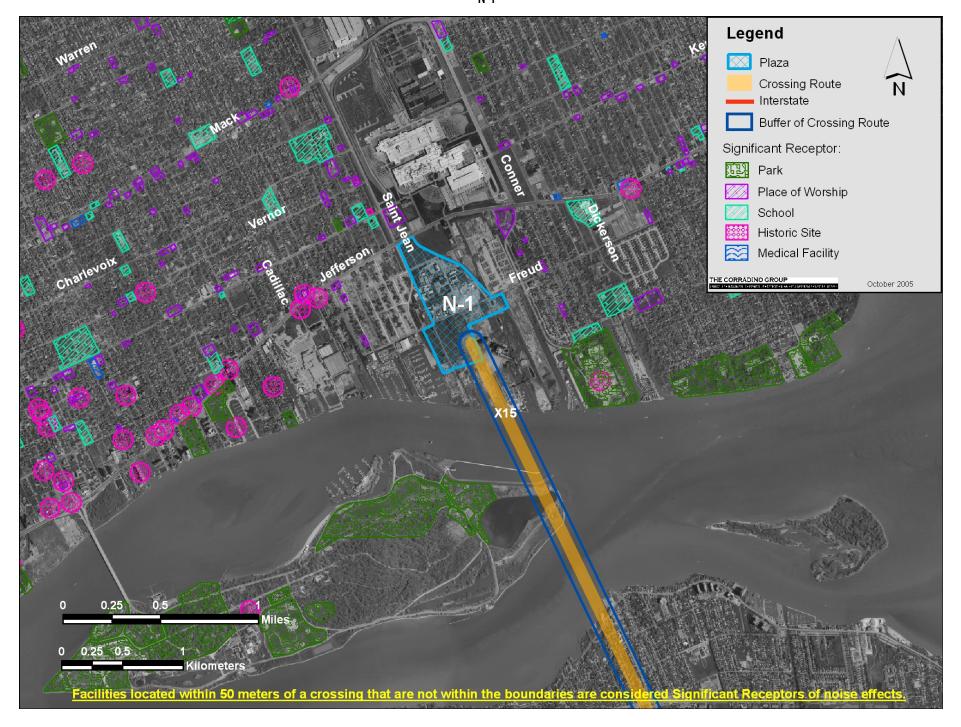


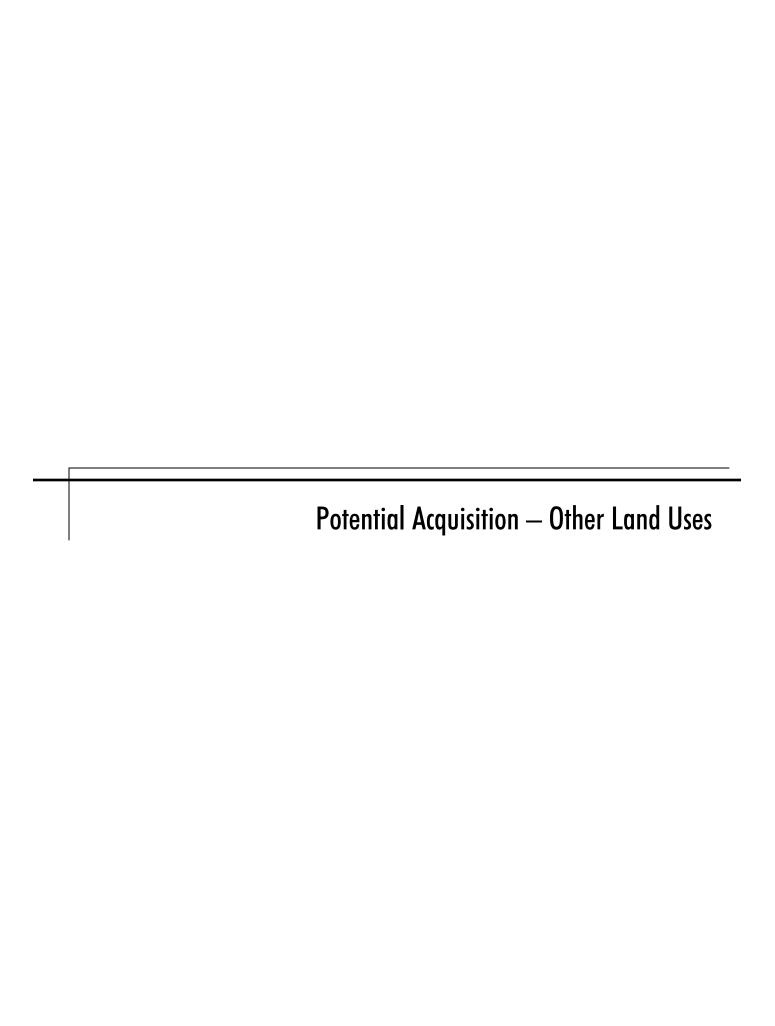
Noise — Significant Receptors C-2 through C-4



Noise — Significant Receptors II-2 through II-4





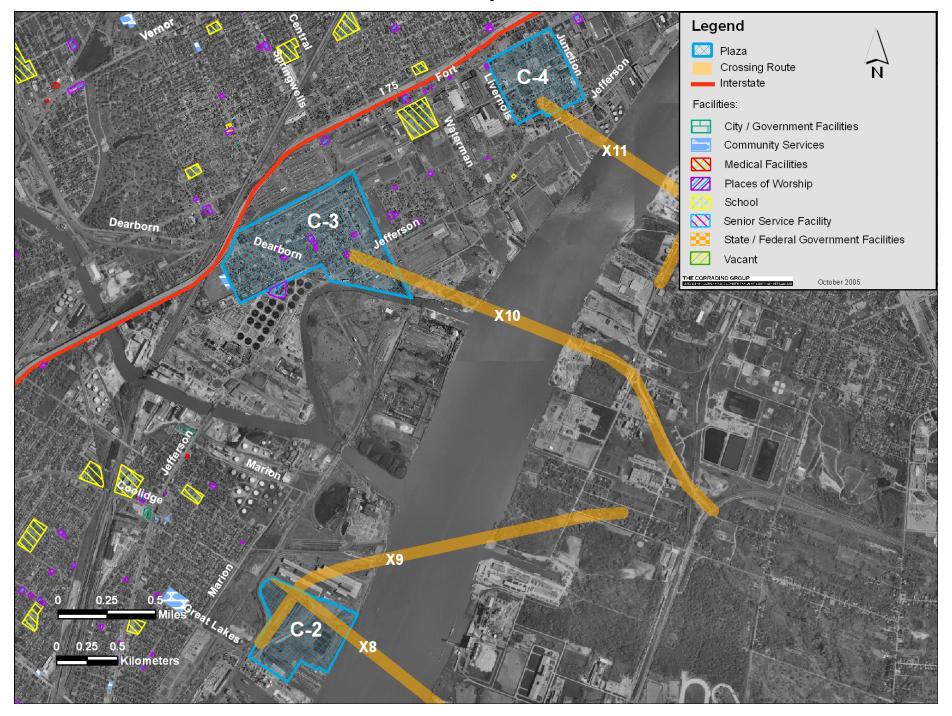


Potential Acquisitions — Other Land Uses S-1 through S-4

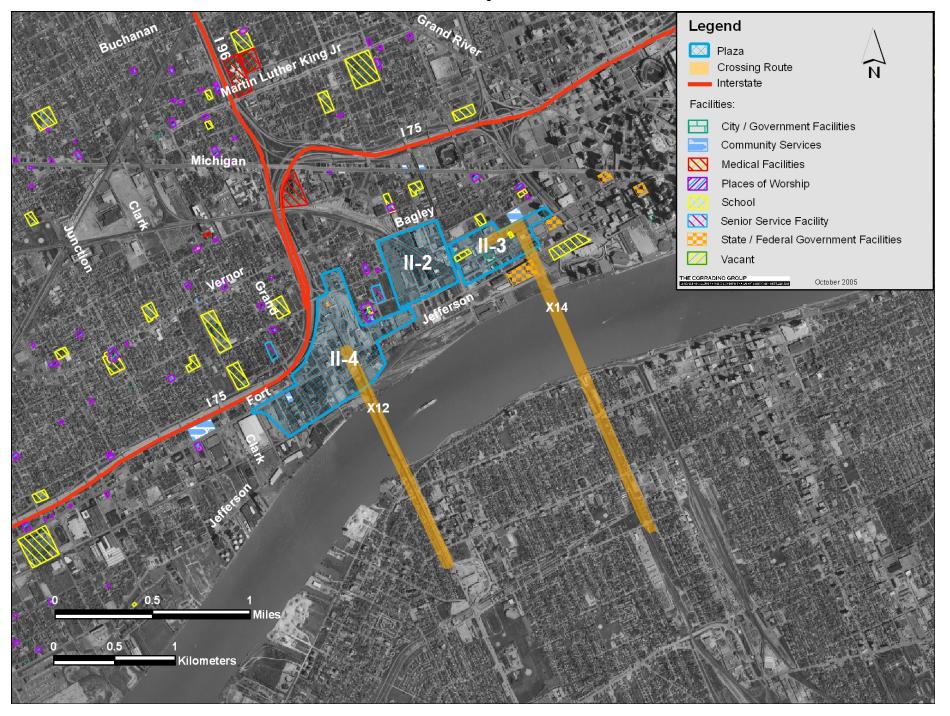




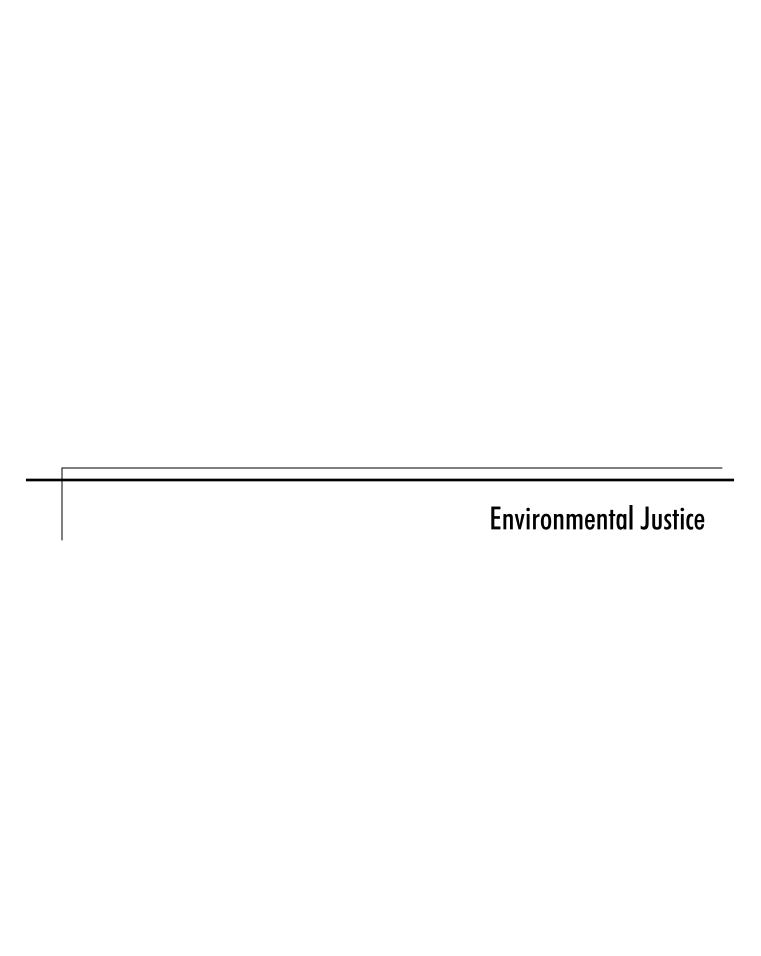
Potential Acquisitions — Other Land Uses C-2 through C-4



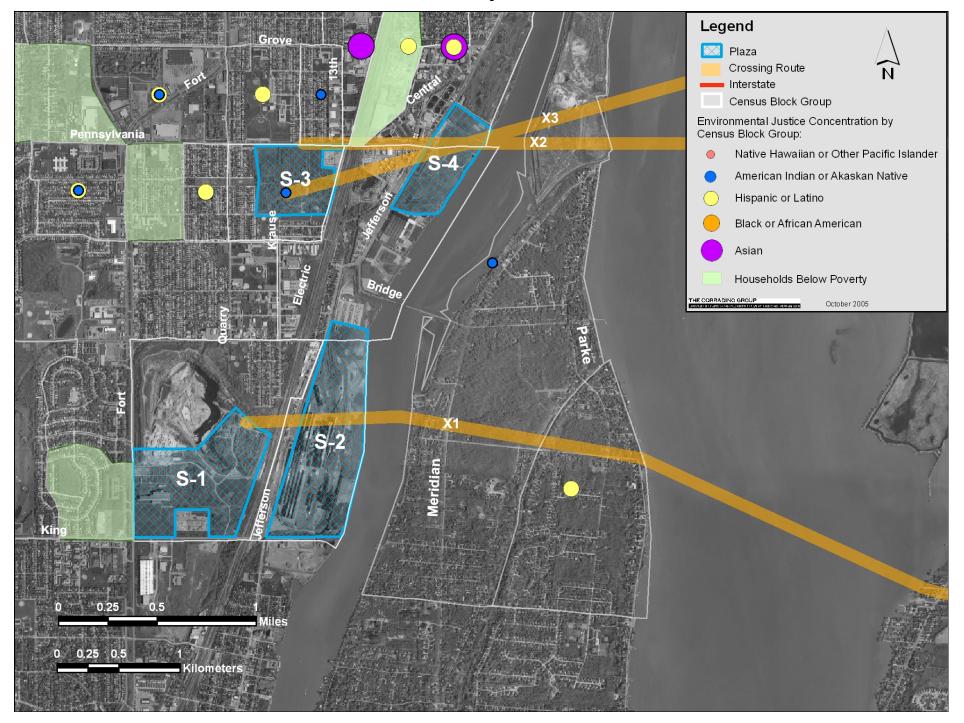
Potential Acquisitions — Other Land Uses II-2 through II-4

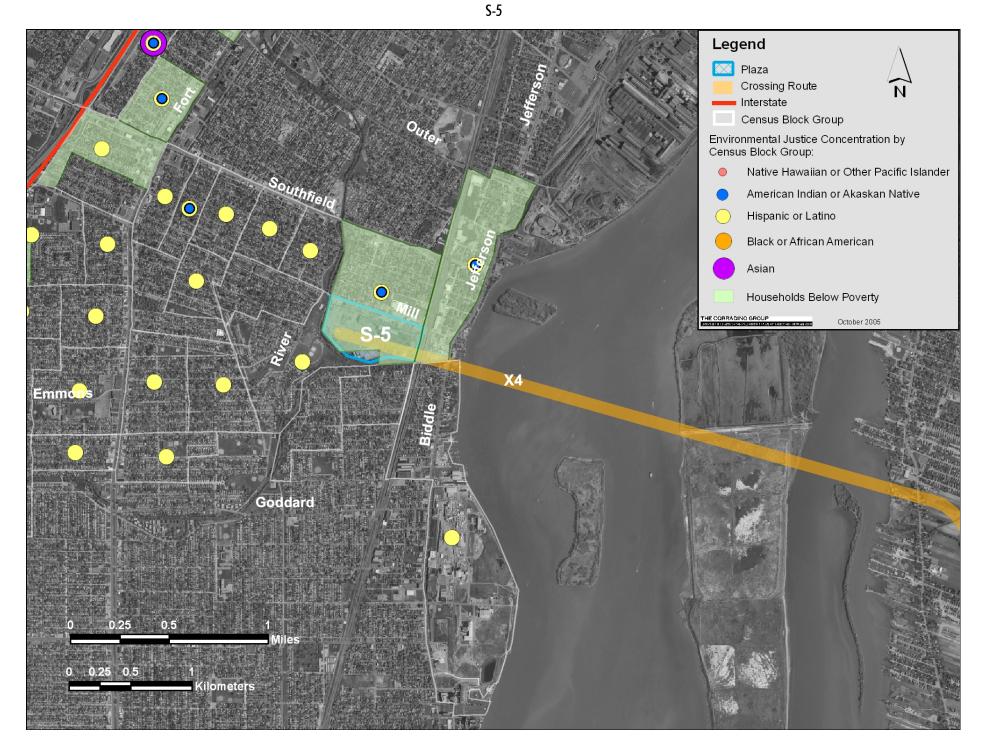




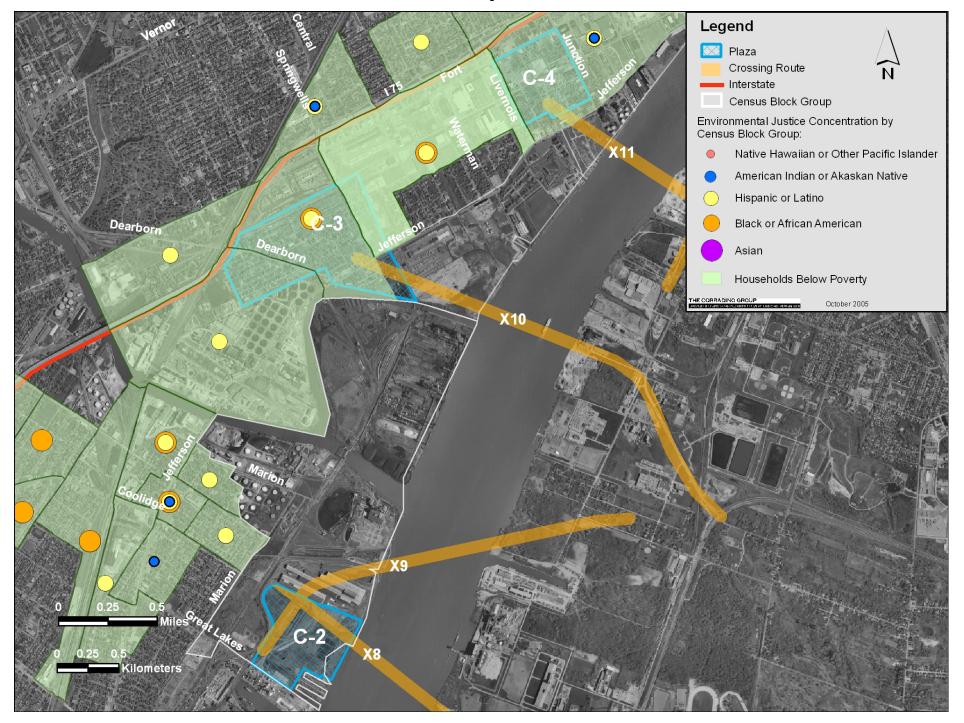


Environmental Justice Populations S-1 through S-4





Environmental Justice Populations C-2 through C-4



Environmental Justice Populations II-2 through II-4

