

## News Release

Canada

 Ontario

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### **CANADA AND ONTARIO NARROW POSSIBLE BORDER CROSSING OPTIONS IN THE WINDSOR GATEWAY**

OTTAWA — Canada and Ontario are pleased to confirm today the announcement by the Office of the Governor of Michigan of the elimination of eight alignment alternatives within two corridors under consideration for a new border crossing between Ontario and Michigan. The alternatives do not meet the technical criteria established by Canadian and U.S. study teams carrying out the Detroit River International Crossing environmental assessment of the possible crossing sites.

In June 2005, the Canada-United States-Ontario-Michigan Bi-national Partnership presented 15 alternative locations for river crossings, customs plazas, and roadways to connect the plazas to the highway systems in both countries. The options which were removed from further consideration include those routes aligned with the downriver locations south of Ecorse, and the area upriver near Belle Isle. There are seven alternatives still under consideration.

The bi-national partnership is proceeding on schedule and will continue to assess the remaining crossing alignments. A shorter list of practical alternatives is scheduled to be released in the coming weeks. The partnership will conduct public consultations to seek input on these practical alternatives in December 2005.

The environmental assessment work for the final alternatives will be completed by the end of 2007. At that time, the bi-national partnership will have developed the preliminary design for the selected river crossing, customs plaza and connecting roadways. Detailed design, property acquisition, and construction will follow, leading to the opening of additional crossing capacity in 2013.

The governments of Canada, the United States, Michigan and Ontario are committed to an efficient Windsor-Detroit gateway. The development of additional border capacity is a national priority in both countries to support the dynamic just-in-time economy in Canada and the United States.

- 30 -

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