

Straight Talk On...

Minimizing Impacts on Your Community

Based on ongoing public consultation, we know that you care about the quality of the air you breathe, reducing noise pollution, and protecting local schools, recreation facilities, homes, places of worship and other important community features that make Windsor-Essex County a great place to live, work and raise a family.

We share your concerns. In fact, the DRIC study team is working diligently to identify access road, plaza and crossing options that avoid or limit impacts on important community features, and consider options that will reduce impacts on homes and businesses. Advantages and disadvantages of each option will be investigated.

Sensitive areas that will be given specific and careful consideration include, but are not limited to:

Schools and Day-care facilities;

- Long-term care facilities;
- Places of worship;
- Recreation facilities, parks and other natural areas;
- Local homes and businesses;
- Historic sites and neighbourhoods.

So, how do we ensure that we do not overlook any important factors?

We will continue to consult with local residents and businesses by conducting interviews with business owners, homeowners and families along the corridor and in areas adjacent to the plaza and crossing locations and we will look specifically at social issues.

We will continue to engage the community throughout the study process, through Public Information Open Houses, public workshops, Community Consultation Group meetings, and question and answer sessions.

For those homes and businesses that will be directly impacted, property owners will receive fair market value for their property based on Ontario's property acquisition legislation. (See 'Property Acquisition' fact sheet for more information).

Also as part of the Environmental Assessment study, the DRIC team will review the changes in air quality and noise impacts in the community. The results of all the comprehensive studies will be publicly available.

The assessment of all environmental impacts will be based on "worst-case" scenarios, and will take into consideration the entire length of the access road as well as communities adjacent to the plaza and river crossing locations.

Ongoing assessment work will include, but is not limited to:

- Seismic studies;
- Noise assessments;
- Air quality assessments, including burden and dispersion modelling of pollutants;
- Archaeological studies;
- Mitigation studies.

Although it will be impossible to avoid all impacts, by working with the DRIC study team, you can help ensure we identify the solution that provides the best balance of transportation benefits with community impacts, when compared to other alternatives. Our objectives are the same as the community's: separate international from local traffic; improve the environment, including noise and air; and in general improve the overall situation, to enhance the safe and secure movement of people and goods across the border with minimal impact to the host communities.

Updated
04/20/06