

June 23 and 24 Context Sensitive Solutions Workshops Sessions

Two days of workshop sessions were held on Friday June 23 and Saturday June 24 at St. Clair College. The workshop sessions were held to gather input from the public regarding the look and fit of the crossing, plaza, and access road alternatives in the context of the neighboring land uses and environmental features. Members of the public were invited to sign up for a 2 hour session, which included a 20 minute presentation of landscape treatments as they relate to the crossing, plazas, and access road alternatives. Following the presentation, workshop participants were asked to participate in workshop sessions led by the Project Team member. Participants were asked for their preferences/opinions regarding the type of and look of the new crossing, the aesthetic treatment options in and around the plazas, and the landscape treatments options along the access road alternatives.

The first series of workshop sessions held on Friday June 23, were held noon to 2:00pm, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, and 6:30pm to 8:30pm. A total of 116 participants attended Friday's workshop sessions. The second series of workshop sessions were held on Saturday June 24, from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m., and again from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 73 participants attended the Saturday sessions.

Below is a summary of the suggested aesthetic treatments for the crossing, plaza and access road alternatives.

Crossing Alternatives

Cable Stayed

- Modern bridges can become dated
- Cable stayed provides a more prominent entrance to Canada
- Described as big and beautiful; more attractive than suspension
- Cable-stayed design provides a contrast with the Ambassador Bridge

Suspension

- More flexible in terms of location (within study area)
- Build exactly the same bridge as the Ambassador; less intrusive on the community of Sandwich; lower tower heights if possible

Colours

- Paint it bright (ie red, yellow/gold); make it stand out
- Paint it neutral/natural colours; compliment the area
- Repeat colour scheme from the Ambassador Bridge
- Allow the colour to match with the water; light to dark from top to bottom

Lighting

- Soft/Accent lighting should be incorporated into the bridge design
- Add dramatic lighting to make the bridge stand out at night
- Lighting should be more modern than that used on the Ambassador Bridge
- Lighting should contrast the Ambassador Bridge

Other Suggestions

- No glass panels should be used
- Naturalize areas around the bridge
- Include a Welcoming Centre
- Include windmills on the bridge

Motifs

- Canadian/U.S. Symbolism to be incorporated:
- Maple leaf/eagle design elements;
- Heritage and history of both cities on the bridge; 4 cornerstones (education, community, justice, religion)
- Include a lot of steel to make it industrial looking
- Include both Canadian and U.S. Flags
- Call it the "Friendship Bridge"

Plaza Alternatives

Edges:

- Create naturalized berms (with trees) and green areas between plaza and existing land uses
- Include berms interspersed with roses, trilliums, maples, goldenrods

- Include berms and sound walls
- Include vegetation that would be aesthetically pleasing year round
- Include wildflowers
- Incorporate native plantings; naturalized look
- Incorporate prairie vegetation/Carolinian species; low maintenance
- Improve and reflect adjacent ANSI areas; green and natural look; non-manicured
- Include sound walls
- Provide a community connection; through linking the surrounding areas

Interior:

- Create a park like setting within the plaza
- Create a botanical garden
- Include water features
- Incorporate prairie vegetation/Carolinian species; low maintenance
- Incorporate native plantings; naturalized look
- Include treed parking areas as shown in examples
- Create lots of parking spaces for trucks
- Create as much "green" as possible
- Include exhaust for trucks; with heat/ac hookups; no idling policy
- Integrate stormwater management treatments
- Screen truck operations in plaza
- Reflect natural beauty into the plaza design
- Include art into the interior of the plaza; blend in riverfront trail and art into the design
- Incorporate naturalized stormwater management ponds
- Include signs for downtown Windsor
- Include windmills
- Include a large sculpture that showcases Canada's technology expertise; freedom of population, and natural beauty

Building:

- Create multi-leveled buildings
- Use natural materials; uniquely shaped; reflect Canadian architecture

- Create a minimal horizontal expanse to the buildings
- Blend in look of building with existing landscape
- Include natural/historic building design
- Incorporate sustainable technologies; including green roof technology; solar panels; permeable pavement
- Natural light building design
- Use reclaimed products

Motifs:

- Suggested motifs for plaza: automotive and industrial elements
- Northern elements (representing Canada)
- Incorporate Rose City theme
- Timeline of history of Windsor up to present time; seek input from local heritage organizations
- Incorporate Canada's cultural diversity
- Emphasize technology, not necessarily automotive
- Simple Canadian Welcome sign

Access Road Alternatives

Landscaping:

- Include heavily treed/vegetated areas on bermed sections
- Vegetation should be low maintenance
- Include naturalized planting areas where feasible
- Include boulevard plantings
- Reduce signage along the roadway
- Include artwork from the riverfront area along the new roadway
- Plant with oak, elm, maple, walnut; not poplars
- Include coniferous trees

Noise Walls/Retaining Walls:

- Incorporate non-standard noise walls (ie. stylized noise walls)
- Incorporate architecturally detailed retaining walls

Lighting:

- Conventional lighting preferred
- High mast shielded lighting suggested

Connections:

- Maintain connections with bike paths, wildlife, pedestrians
- Include connections for pedestrians/wildlife
- Preserve/add recreational trails
- Improve natural connection between Oakwood Forest and ANSI
- Cross streets should have lots of vegetation; natural connectivity
- Include pedestrian crossings near South Windsor Arena

Sustainable Technologies:

- Include solar/wind technology where feasible

Motifs:

- Provide a gateway feature into the city
- Include Rose City motif

Tunneling Option:

- Tunnel around residential areas

Landscaping:

- Approach to the tunnel should include a vegetated entrance
- Include minimal berming with tunneling option
- Keep as much of existing trees as possible
- Landscape the top of tunnel; include bikepath
- Reuse excavated fill to beautify other areas

Tunnel Design:

- Place service roads on top; with less median/more outside buffer

- Include decorative walls within the tunnel

Ventilation Buildings:

- Ventilation buildings need to be architecturally cohesive with existing neighborhoods
- Berm in front of ventilation buildings; lower their height to hide them

Sustainable Technologies:

- Include solar and wind technologies

Connections:

- Include natural connections with land bridge options
- Include enclosures to prevent pedestrians from throwing objects onto the highway

Gateway Features:

- Include a gateway sign at the entrance to the tunnel
- No billboards

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY
Practical Alternatives
Context Sensitive Solutions
St. Clair College
 June 23 and 24, 2006

Issues	Potential Treatments	Examples of Treatments
Air Quality	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Community Character	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Visual Aesthetics (Views)	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Noise	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Light	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Water Quality	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Soil Erosion	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Wildlife	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Historic Land	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Public	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Historic/Cultural	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Historic Street Views	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology
Historic Landmark Views	Exhaustive Technology	Exhaustive Technology

Workshop Agenda

- Introduction/Workshop Overview
- Issues/Potential Treatments
- Bridges
- Plazas
- Access Roads
- Breakout Discussions
- Regroup/Reconvene
- Next Steps

A sample of slides from the Context Sensitive Solutions Workshop