



January 28, 2009
Our Ref.: 33015835

Essex Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police
1219 10th Concession Road
P.O. Box 910
Essex, Ontario N8M 2Y2

Attention: Provincial Constable Steve Johnston, Strategic Planning Officer

Re: **Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment Study**

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Thank you for your comments submitted in response to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report made available for review between Wednesday, November 12, 2008 and Friday, December 12, 2008.

The design of the proposed roundabout at the intersection of realigned Highway 3, the Howard Avenue diversion and the proposed freeway on and off-ramps east of Howard Avenue is based on FHWA Roundabout Design Standards and a best practices review of other state and provincial road authorities. The study team has thoroughly researched, reviewed and considered the operational requirements for two lane roundabouts and are confident that it will operate safely, with appropriate driver education. A requirement of the successful proponent for implementing the Windsor-Essex Parkway will include a design team with expertise in the design roundabouts in North America.

Regarding the initial public reaction to introducing a roundabout into a community that previously has had no experience with a roundabout, our understanding is that several Ontario jurisdictions have recently introduced roundabouts, and the experience has been very good. A 2001 study (by Persaud et al) of 24 intersections in the United States reported that converting intersections from traffic signals or stop signs to roundabouts reduced injury collisions by 80 % and all collisions by 40 %. Similarly, another study (by Eisenman et al) reported a 75 % decrease in injury collisions and a 37 % decrease in total collisions at 35 intersections that were converted from traffic signals to roundabouts. Furthermore, studies of intersections in Europe and Australia that were converted to roundabouts have reported 41-61 % reductions in injury collisions and 45-75 % reductions in severe injury collisions.

Projected traffic volumes approaching the proposed roundabout are documented in the report entitled *Level 3 Traffic Operations Analysis - Technically and Environmentally Preferred Alternative (December 2008)* which is available on the study website at www.partnershipborderstudy.com. Analysis of the roundabout using these traffic volumes indicate that the roundabout is expected to operate at Level of Service 'B' in the year 2035 PM peak hour. Posted speeds on the roadways approaching the proposed roundabout will be explored further during future design phases in consultation with municipalities and emergency services representatives.

Regarding your inquiry about the possibility of the OPP monitoring CCTV camera feeds for The Windsor-Essex Parkway, the OPP could receive the camera feeds via the Internet over a secure site. The study team will be confirming additional design details in 2009 including the intended procedure to share the images.

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The Ontario Environmental Assessment Report was filed with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on December 31, 2008 (refer to enclosed *Notice of Submission of Ontario Environmental Assessment*). The federal EA Screening Report will be submitted to federal authorities for review/approval under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) early in 2009. Anyone wishing to provide comments on the Ontario Environmental Assessment must submit their comments in writing and/or by fax to the Ministry of the Environment by **Friday February 27, 2009**. All comments must be submitted to:

Catherine McLennon, Special Project Officer
Ministry of the Environment
EA Project Coordination Section
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5
Tel: 416-314-7222/1-800-461-6290
Fax: 416-314-8452

During future design stages, the Partnership will continue to consult on various aspects of the DRIC Study. Stakeholders identified on our contact lists (including OPP) will be advised of upcoming events. Opportunities for public engagement will also be advertised in the local media.

Your contact information has been placed on our contact list and you will receive study updates and be notified in advance of public meetings. If there are any errors in your contact information, or if you would prefer to have your name removed from the contact list, please contact the undersigned.

If you have any further comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact the study team through the project website at www.partnershipborderstudy.com, or by calling the Project Toll Free number at 1-800-900-2649.

Again, thank you for your participation and comments.

Yours very truly,

Murray Thompson, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager

cc. Catherine McLennon, MOE
Dave Wake, MTO
Roger Ward, MTO
Joel Foster, MTO

Encl.

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