

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Meeting Notes
Local Advisory Council
May 31, 2006

Purpose: To review the progress of the Detroit River International Crossing Study.

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introductions/Meeting Procedures

Mohammed Alghurabi asked for introductions by all in attendance. Following introductions, he reviewed the meeting conduct procedures.

Agenda Review

Mohammed Alghurabi asked for review of any items on the agenda. There were none.

Public Comments

Mohammed Alghurabi asked for public comments. Sue Weckerle, a Wayne State University student, asked MDOT to strongly consider pedestrian and bicycle lanes as part of the new river crossing's design. She noted that these features would help tourism.

April LAC Meeting Notes

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any comments on the notes from the May 26th meeting. Mrs. Leonard indicated that on page 4, the notes should indicate the April 24th meeting was hosted by the Sierra Club plus MOSES, Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, as well as the Delray United Action Council.

May 9th/10th Public Meetings on Social/Cultural Issues

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any comments on this matter. Mrs. Leonard asked for the attendance of each meeting. Joe Corradino indicated that May 9th had an attendance of about 30 people while May 10th had an attendance closer to 80.

Discussion of May 11th and 18th Legislative Hearings

Mohammed Alghurabi explained what took place at these hearings. He noted the chairpersons of each transportation committee (House and Senate) have since sponsored an amendment to the state budget to stop all funding in Fiscal Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007) of the Detroit River International Crossing Study.

May 23rd Master Plan Workshop

Mohammed Alghurabi noted that the May 23rd workshop continued to advance the Delray master planning with and without a bridge. He stressed that efforts were underway to ensure that various agencies within the city of Detroit were fully informed of the master planning process.

Update on the Drilling Program

Joe Corradino, with the help of Fritz Klingler, made a slide presentation on the drilling program covering the following topics:

- The drilling locations and likely schedule;
- Communications program;
- Safety program;
- Maintenance of traffic program;
- Site access protocol;
- Emergency response program;
- H₂S contingency plan; and,
- Geophysical Issues Advisory Group.

Following the presentation, questions were asked/comments made.

Question: Mrs. Leonard asked what avenue the bridge will take if the brine wells block the current proposed paths.

Response: Joe Corradino responded that the technical specialists on the consulting team believe an alignment will be found within the corridors for which the drilling program is being conducted. He noted that challenges with building bridges throughout the world, equal to or more complex than the presence of brine wells, have been confronted successfully. However, he noted that, if the worst-case scenario were to occur and the brine wells would block all paths within the two study corridors, then the options are to move upstream or downstream. The upstream locations, closer to the Ambassador Bridge, are less affected by brine well cavities. The downriver alternatives are still associated with brine wells. The upstream location closer to the Ambassador Bridge was not highly ranked in the Illustrative Alternatives Analysis on the Canadian side of the border; a downriver location, south of Zug Island, was not highly ranked by the U.S. portion of the Illustrative Alternatives Analysis.

Question: Mrs. Leonard then asked how the residents will be accommodated during the drilling. She elaborated that her principal concerns were of the noise and smells. She indicated that she hopes these people would be properly accommodated.

Response: Joe Corradino responded that for all practical purposes, 10 of the 14 drill holes are away from residential areas. In terms of the residences in proximity to the other four drill holes, MDOT is considering the appropriate accommodation of the residents and a decision is forthcoming.

Question: Mrs. Leonard then asked Mohammed Alghurabi the same question.

Response: Mohammed Alghurabi asked Mrs. Leonard about her concerns. Again, she responded that they included the noise and smells affecting occupants of homes. Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that all was being done to address this issue while, at the same time, accommodating the requirements to receive approval of the drilling from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. A final position of MDOT to answer the question has not been reached.

Question: Alison Benjamin asked about the number of trucks per day to set up drilling the holes, and the number of trucks to tear down the equipment.

Response: Joe Corradino referred her to the chart in the handout materials that explained the number of trucks for both setup and teardown. He indicated that while the setup period was very prescriptive in terms of number of days, the teardown had not been fully developed. But, the LAC would be apprised of those conditions when they are available.

Review of the June 8th Bus Tour

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that the bus tour would be conducted on June 8th with the bus departing at 1:30 p.m. from the Ste. Anne's Church parking lot. Buses would return to the church parking lot at about 4:00 p.m. to allow those who wished to end the tour to disembark. Those that wished to only view Port Huron could be picked up at that time. The day is expected to end about 9:00 p.m. with the bus returning to the Ste. Anne's parking lot.

Other LAC Business

Question: Michael Dempsey asked if there are any alternative drilling sites to the ones that have been defined if obstacles are encountered in the soil or a hole has to be abandoned.

Response: Joe Corradino and Fritz Klingler indicated that the specific sites for the drilling had been determined over the last several months and are felt to be very precise. Shifts in these locations would only start the very long process of gaining permission according to MDEQ requirements as well as right of access/entry to the sites. It was noted, however, that smaller shifts of a few feet may be possible without such disruption.

Question: Michael Dempsey asked the probability of encountering rock conditions that just cannot be penetrated.

Response: Fritz Klingler indicated that the equipment that was being used is able to handle all conditions.

Michael Dempsey indicated that the city of Detroit Planning Department is working with Hamilton Anderson on the master plan for the Delray area and that master plan, if acceptable, will be appended to the city of Detroit's master plan that is currently moving through a review process by City Council. The members of the public will be able to voice their opinions on that plan.

With those comments, the meeting adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.