



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Under Secretary for Policy

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

April 12, 2007

The Honorable Michael P. Jackson
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I thank you and your representatives for their participation in our meeting on the "Federal Role in the New Detroit – Windsor International Crossing," March 14, 2007. I am pleased to report that we made considerable progress in reaffirming our intent to work together to support a single set of federal goals as we move this project forward.

Enclosed for your information are the conclusions from the meeting, a list of participants and a description of each agency's role. In taking these actions, the group will ensure that the implementation of a new international crossing at Detroit-Windsor, as an asset critical to our national interest, will proceed expeditiously with appropriate federal input and support to the benefit of generations to come.

I thank you for your support and for the dedicated efforts of your fine staff. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey N. Shane".

Jeffrey N. Shane

Enclosures

**MEETING ON FEDERAL ROLE
IN A NEW DETROIT-WINDSOR
INTERNATIONAL CROSSING**

March 14, 2007

**U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Headquarters in
Washington, D.C.**

Per discussions among our agencies, this summarizes the proceedings and outcomes of our meeting, convened at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 14, 2007.

Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Discuss the current status of planning for a new Detroit-Windsor international crossing, and
- Re-energize cross-agency commitment to defining a solution which will ensure adequate infrastructure to meet the mutual economic and security needs of the United States and Canada in the years to come.

Participants:

A list of meeting participants is enclosed.

Unified Federal Approach to DRIC

The group reviewed the progress and status of the Detroit Windsor International Crossing (DRIC) Partnership, under which the U.S. federal government has been engaged for over three years with the state of Michigan, the Canadian federal government and the province of Ontario. We concurred, given the critical economic importance of uninterrupted flow of trade with Canada, that project planning has reached a critical stage at which a coordinated and unified federal approach to DRIC is warranted. Such an approach will ensure:

- Uninterrupted progress in DRIC planning and construction;
- Proper coordination with the Government of Canada, the state of Michigan, the province of Ontario and other stakeholders; and
- A governance structure for the new crossing which is consistent and compatible with the goals that U.S. federal agencies have for the crossing in the national interest.

With regard to the DRIC project, the agencies affirmed that the U.S. Government will work in a coordinated way to ensure:

- Safety and security of transportation users, the public, transportation infrastructure and crossing operations.
- Facilitation of the legitimate movement of trade and people.
- Protection of the national economy.
- Maximized value and economic benefits over the life of the crossing.
- Adequate, reliable and sustainable capacity for the life of the crossing.
- A crossing option and chosen governance structure acceptable to the United States, Canada, Michigan and Ontario.

Major Points of Agreement:

During the meeting, participants discussed and concurred with the following points:

- Each agency acknowledges the respective roles of the other agencies (also enclosed for your reference).
- The agencies will work together to support the goals related to their respective responsibilities.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will take the leadership role in advancing planning and implementation of this important transportation project. The Department of State is the lead for the DRIC Presidential permitting process. Each of the other agencies listed is a cooperating agency in the project.
- A common set of talking points will be developed for use by all agencies to facilitate the federal government speaking with one voice for this project. USDOT will take the lead in drafting this document for cooperating agency input.
- The agencies will communicate regularly on issues related to the DRIC to keep all agencies informed and to engage discussion and input on upcoming decisions. Attending principals will constitute the core decision making group and will meet at least quarterly to review project progress and upcoming milestones. The existing "Senior Staff" level group will develop recommendations for concurrence by Principals. This communication will include:
 - Real time updates via email or conference call on issues of immediate or timely importance.
 - Periodic briefings on the DRIC project at key milestones, and on no less than a quarterly basis.
 (Cooperating agencies will notify Roger Petzold, Federal Highway Administration, of changes in their representation to the groups.)
- Cooperating agencies will have the opportunity to review and comment on issues related to the development of a DRIC governance structure to ensure compatibility with their roles and responsibilities pertaining to the crossing.
- USDOT, in its capacity as group lead, will communicate with Transport Canada and with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Conclusion:

In taking these actions, the group intends to ensure that the implementation of a new international crossing at Detroit-Windsor, as an asset critical to our national interest, will proceed expeditiously with appropriate federal input and support to the benefit of generations to come.

Roles of Federal Agencies in the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Working Group

**Meeting of Federal Agencies on the
Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC)
March 14, 2007**

Department of Commerce (USDOC)

USDOC will serve as liaison to U.S. industry, including the North American Competitiveness Council of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, to ensure that planning and implementation of DRIC benefits from the views, needs and demand forecasts of industry stakeholders.

General Services Administration (GSA)

GSA is a cooperating agency in the DRIC NEPA process. GSA helps federal agencies perform their core mission by offering, at best value, superior workplaces, expert solutions, acquisition services, and management policies. For the Detroit River International Crossing, GSA will design, build, or acquire land port of entry facilities to meet CBP and other federal agencies' needs based on the selected alternative.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

CBP is a cooperating agency in the DRIC NEPA process. CBP is responsible for securing the nation's borders while facilitating the movement of legitimate trade and travelers through the ports of entry. CBP will specify the requirements for the land port of entry inspection facility at the Detroit River International Crossing, and will operate the facility at completion. CBP will partner with GSA, FHWA, and the state and local entities in developing these facilities in a timely, efficient, and cost effective manner.

Department of State (DOS)

DOS is lead agency for the DRIC Presidential permit process and a cooperating federal agency for the DRIC NEPA process, as well as responsible for international relationships and agreements with Canada.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

DOT's role is to improve the efficiency and reliability of goods and people movement at the Detroit River international land border facilities for the next 30 years. DOT is the lead federal agency for the NEPA and construction of transportation infrastructure for the DRIC in partnership with Michigan DOT.