

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Joint LAC/LAG Meeting
March 26, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Southwestern High School

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

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introductions

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting with introductions.

Meeting Conduct Procedures

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that the meeting will be conducted so that the observers could comment both at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. The Local Advisory Council and Local Agency Group will conduct their business uninterrupted in the core of the meeting. The observers would also be able to comment on the DEIS after the members of the LAC/LAG commented.

Agenda Review:

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any changes to the meeting agenda. None were suggested. He stressed comments on the DEIS must be made on the provided comment form.

Public Comments

Lisa Goldstein announced that Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, in cooperation with Peoples Community Services, Delray Community Council, Bridging Communities, and Representative Steve Tobocman's office, will be holding a meeting on April 3rd at the Delray House related to the Community Benefits Agreements. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. At this meeting they will be conducting elections for the Board of Directors. If anyone has nominations or is interested in serving on the board, they should submit by the April 1st.

LAC/LAG February Meeting Notes

Richard Rosen pointed out that Councilman Kwame Kenyatta should be referred to as "Councilman."

Public Hearing Review

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that he felt the public hearings were useful to listen to the public. On the first night 200 people attended and 11 people spoke. On the second night 70 people attended and four people spoke. The comment period is open until April 29th.

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that he was interested in receiving more comments.

Comments on DEIS

Delores Leonard stated that she was pleased that citizens did come out and felt free and comfortable to ask questions. She indicated that she arrived with her questions about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and has returned with more questions. Overall the meeting went well without any unruliness.

Next Steps

Mohammed Alghurabi stated that MDOT is still receiving comments and there is still more opportunity to comment by the April 29th deadline. The Canadian and U.S. teams will begin working on the preferred alternative looking at the end-to-end solution. It is expected there will be an announcement on the Preferred Alternative in late spring. The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in the fall.

Joel Foster commented that the Canadian process is on schedule.

Other LAC/LAG Business

There was no other business.

Public Comments

Q: Richard Rosen: When will the EIS be completed?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi stated the FEIS will be completed in the fall.

Q: Richard Rosen: When will design begin?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi responded that, if there is a project, design will happen in a following phase.

Q: Richard Rosen: When will you have acceptance of the project?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi responded the Record of Decision will come at the end of 2008.

Q: John Nagy: Will you select the Preferred Alternative then do the FEIS?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi said yes.

Q: Frank Rodriguez: Can you address the Springwells interchange? What will happen at that location?

R: Joe Corradino said that there is not a simple answer to the question. He offered to review the interchange data for each alternative after the meeting.

Q: Lisa Goldstein: At the Public Hearing, I asked an engineer about the plaza in regards to which one has more of a buffer. It looks like Alternatives #1, #2, #3 and #5 have a larger area for a buffer. Is that correct?

R: Joe Corradino responded that each plaza will have a buffer and wall on the outside of the buffer. More detail by alternative can be provided after the meeting.

Q: Richard Rosen: The DEIS book does not clearly show Southwestern High School, and other neighborhood features. The only things that are visible are ramps and the plaza.

R: Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that the Conceptual Engineering Report provides the detail requested.

Next LAC/LAG

April 30th at Southwestern High School.