

**Detroit River International Crossing Study
Joint LAC/LAG Meeting
April 30, 2008 7:00 PM
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 members will conduct their business uninterrupted in the core of the meeting.

Agenda Review

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any changes to the meeting agenda. None were suggested.

Public Comments

Darrell Bryant indicated that he lives on Green Street north of I-75 and his experience with the information related to the DRIC study is that everyone has a different story. “If you talk to one neighbor he tells you one thing and if you talk to another neighbor she tells you a different story.” He is confused and wants clarity on the study and what the “real deal” is. He works on his house everyday and with all the construction that is taking place, MDOT needs to consider what happens when freeways are torn up. The cement has lime as an ingredient and is not good for people who have breathing problems.

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated the purpose of these meetings is to provide current and complete information on the DRIC Study. And, because this is Mr. Bryant’s first LAC meeting, he urged him to stay afterwards for details and to come to others.

LAC/LAG March Meeting Notes

There were no comments.

Ongoing Work

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that FHWA has granted a 30-day extension to the comment period to May 29th. A press release will go out tomorrow. Each of the 22 depositories have been contacted to make sure they display the DEIS documents for an additional 30 days. Because of the magnitude of the study and its complexity, FHWA and MDOT officials felt it was fair to have an extended time for the public to comment. To date we have had more than 80 meetings over the course of the study. Additional public meetings, with translators, will be held, as needed.

Q. Is it possible to restate where the DEIS is available?

R. Mohammed Alghurabi read the locations of the depositories.

Joe Corradino indicated all comment letters/e-mails/forms are being analyzed to categorize every comment to which a response will be prepared. The process has been to use the comments to help establish the end-to-end crossing system solution. The Canadian and U.S. teams will collaborate to establish this preferred alternative. The X-11 crossing connects to plaza P-a, while the X-10 crossing connects with P-c. So, if the crossing is ruled out, the plaza is ruled out.

Q. Tom Cervenak: Does the extension mean that the selection of a final alternative is also going to be set back as well?

R. Joe Corradino: The schedule has not been revised because of the extension of the comment period. So, until further notice, the Preferred Alternative is still to be announced this spring; the FEIS by the end of September; the Record of Decision one month later; and, the Interchange Access Justification study by the end of the year.

Q. Tom Cervenak: When is the FEIS coming out?

R. Joe Corradino: The current schedule calls for it to be finished by the end of September.

Q. Tom Cervenak: So, the Record of Decision is in October or November.

R. Joe Corradino: Yes.

Q. Delores Leonard: I reviewed the CD in back of the DEIS and did not recognize what the flyovers are.

R. Joe Corradino: After the meeting, let's sit down and review the CD.

Q. Delores Leonard: Are the flyovers coming in front of or on the side of Southwestern High School?

R. Joe Corradino: No. The ramp flyovers are near Livernois/Dragoon.

Q. Lourdes Jasso: What is the proximity of a new bridge to Ft. Wayne?

R. Joe Corradino: Explained where the X-10 and X-11 crossings are located with respect to Fort Wayne.

Q. Lourdes Jasso: What are the impacts to the West Delray neighborhood?

R. Joe Corradino: Explained the direct and indirect impacts and asked if Ms. Jasso would stay after the meeting to discuss the issue in detail.

Q. Tom Cervenak: When will the decision be made on a cable-stay or suspension bridge?

R. Mohammed Alghurabi: No decision will be made on that in this DEIS process. It will be dealt with later, in the design phase of the project.

Acknowledgement of DEIS Comments

Discussed above.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

Discussed above.

Other LAC/LAG Business

There was no other business.

Public Comments

Q. What is going to happen to the Green Street overpass over I-75, and will the service drive be widened and if the freeway will be widened how deep will it go into the neighborhood?

R. Joe Corradino: Please stay after the meeting so we can review material in detail to answer your questions.

Q. Fr. Don Hanchon: I realize that the present construction on I-75/Gateway is not related the DRIC. But, is the ongoing construction for a new twin span of the Ambassador Bridge?

R. Mohammed Alghurabi: As far as Gateway Project is concerned, no construction is related to a new bridge. The Gateway Project is strictly about connecting I-75 to the Ambassador Bridge.

Q. John Nagy: Are the footings that are being built related to the construction of a new bridge?

R. Joe Polak: The pylons you see are for new connection between I-75 and the existing bridge.

Q. Richard Rosen: When will a decision be made on the bridge type: cable-stay or suspension, and will it involve the public?

R. Mohammed Alghurabi: The decision will be in the design phase and it is expected the public will be involved.

Next LAC/LAG

The next LAC/LAG meeting is May 28, 2008.