

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Joint Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Meeting
Notes
August 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Doubletree Motel Dearborn

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

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introductions

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Agenda Review

Mohammed reviewed the agenda. He noted that the meeting would focus on the project footprint, the status of Team II activities, an update from the CBC on housing, and determining what Green Sheet (mitigation/enhancement) topics should be focused on at the September meeting. There were no changes to the agenda.

Meeting Conduct Procedures

Mohammed Alghurabi said that, due to the different format of the meeting from the usual LAC meeting format, questions/comments would be taken throughout.

Public Comments

C: It was noted that the “Windsor City Blog” was asserting that MDOT had applied to the U.S. State Department for a Presidential Permit and that it had been denied.

R: Hugh McNichol said that the blog was wrong. Mohammed Alghurabi noted the Presidential Permit was under development with FHWA.

C: *It was stated that the Canadian EA for the access road to Canadian Highway 401 was complete.*

R: Mohammed Alghurabi said this was the Ontario environmental document. The Canadian federal document for the plaza and the bridge would follow. The U.S. already has a signed Record of Decision for all parts of the DRIC project.

LAC/LAG July 29, 2009 Meeting Notes

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any comments, corrections or revisions to the July 29 LAC/LAG meeting notes.

Ms. Leonard said that the first two paragraphs of page 2 appeared to be contradictory. Mohammed Alghurabi agreed they related to truck traffic were and represented two different opinions of different individuals. Joe Nagy repeated what he had said as reported in the notes—the problem with trucks in Delray was not congestion but quality of life.

Mr. Rosen stated it was still unclear to him whether, if the project brought increased trucks, a truck route could be supported by MDOT after the project was in place. Joe Corradino and John Baron reiterated what the notes indicated-- addressing truck traffic was still under review.

Project Footprint Presentation

Joe Corradino used a video to review the footprint of the project, pausing at key points to highlight the relationships between project elements and key points in the neighborhood.

Status of Team II and Local Agency Group

Mohammed Alghurabi reported that John Baron of the City of Detroit was working to engage departments of the city on the DRIC. As the city's review process progresses, separate meetings of the Local Agency Group will be held. Mohammed noted that Representative Tlaib has requested that the CBC be allowed to have someone present at the Team II meetings. John Baron said that was premature until the agencies had a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Q: Mr. Rosen asked who would be responsible for maintaining landscaping on the plaza?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi said that it is now expected that maintenance would be the federal government's responsibility.

Community Benefits Coalition (CBC) Update on Delray Housing

Tom Cervenak said the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has paid for a study of how to redevelop Delray. It is expected the results would be available at the end of September. John Baron said Hamilton Anderson would be involved in the planning. Tom also indicated Bridging Communities had received approval of a proposal to build homes in Delray under the Homes Program of MSHDA.

Tom also reported changes at the Delray Neighborhood House. Insurance money from the truck crash on the adjacent I-75 ramp has rebuilt the playground equipment on the opposite side of the building. A contribution had been received for soccer goals. He has heard from a league that would like to use the field.

Legislation – P3

Mohammed Alghurabi said a joint hearing of the Michigan Legislature is planned for September 15 to consider legislation to allow for Public-Private Partnerships (P3). This legislation relates to projects in general, so it would apply to the DRIC.

Other Public Comments

Q: Mary Ann Cuderman asked about other legislation needed for the DRIC.

R. Mohammed Alghurabi said legislative changes are needed for: 1) P3; 2) tolling; and, 3) to allow an agreement with Canada to build the new bridge.

Discussion Groups

Mohammed Alghurabi asked those sitting at each table to participate in identifying topics from the Green Sheet that should be the focus of discussion at the September LAC meeting. Each table reported its results. These are summarized below:

Table	Green Sheet Category						# of Topics
	Air Quality	Noise	Vibrations	Relocation	Land Use	Jobs	
1	1			1		1	3
2	1	1	1				3
3	1						1
4	1	1		1	1		4
5	1		1	1			3
6	1	1		1	1	1	5
Totals	6	3	2	4	2	2	NA

These results indicate that the three topics of greatest concern are air quality, relocation and noise. The second tier of interest is in vibration, land use and jobs.

Other Business

May Ann Cuderman invited everyone to Sandwich Towne’s annual celebration September 11, 12, and 13.

Next LAC Meeting

The next LAC meeting is scheduled for September 30 at Southwestern High School. With that, the meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.