

**New International Trade Crossing
Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Meeting
Notes
April 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Southwestern High School**

Purpose: To review the progress of the New International Trade Crossing Project.

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introduction/Agenda

Mohammed Alghurabi asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. He reviewed the meeting conduct procedures and agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

Public Comments

John Nagy said he was asked to appear on Mildred Gaddis' *Inside Detroit* radio show on WCHB AM 1200 to talk about the NITC. He asked that representatives from the SWCBC be interviewed in the future and *Inside Detroit* agreed. Subsequently, he was told that the project was no longer a subject of interest to the program. Soon after this, Mr. Dan Stamper appeared on the show.

Mr. Nagy asked if anyone knew Bertha Washington from the Delray neighborhood. No one in attendance did. He went on to note that there was a commercial running that included a woman named Bertha Washington claiming she is a 30-year-resident of Delray. However, John cannot find anyone in the Delray community who knows her.

There was a hearing yesterday before the zoning board on the rescinding of the Systematic Recycling permit. They are the compost operation. The board voted not to revoke the rescission. Their decision can be appealed in court.

Simone Sagovac stated the CBC has put together postcards for residents to sign and send to their state senator and representative. The cards were passed around to everyone.

Mario Hernandez stated he is concerned the money the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is spending to build the 26 new homes in Delray is the same money MDOT

promised to use for relocation costs after the ROD. He stated this money should be given out equally to everyone, not just to the 26 households who are staying in Delray.

Mohammed explained that the MSHDA funding for the 26 homes in Delray is not and cannot be funded by MDOT. The funding is through a federal government grant and is being administered by the non-profit group Bridging Communities. The opportunity for eligibility to acquire one of the homes will be open to anyone. This is separate and distinct from the MDOT acquisition and relocation program which has not started. In terms of acquisitions and relocations, everyone will receive fair and equal treatment.

Paul Sander further explained there are established benefits such as acquisition, relocation, and housing of last resort. The owner can then decide how they wish to spend that benefit. They could buy a new home or one of the MSHDA homes. MDOT is not responsible for this – MDOT deals with roads and relocations.

Delores Leonard asked about the status and impact of a bill that would keep property taxes at the same level to assist people who are being relocated from their properties.

Mohammed replied that the “pop-up” tax issue is a legislative issue. It was taken up in the last session of the legislature but never passed. Mr. Sander added that FHWA has given approval for five years of “pop-up” tax relief. Beyond that, it is up to the legislature.

Mark Hesse asked about the status of the Gateway Project.

Mohammed replied there is a new staff person, Mark Sweeney, taking the lead since Victor Judnik left. Mr. Sweeney can be reached at 313-965-6350 or at sweeneym@michigan.gov. Mohammed did not have an update on the project at this time but will ask Mr. Sweeney for one.

Cedric Jones asked for clarification regarding the lieutenant governor’s statement that no state tax money will be used for the project. He also asked when the legislation will be introduced.

Mohammed stated the governor has been clear that no Michigan money will be spent on the project. He then explained how costs would be allocated between Canada, the General Services Administration (GSA), and a private developer. The draft bill, which was crafted by the administration, clearly states there will be no Michigan tax dollars spent on the project. At this time, it is unknown when the bill will be introduced, as that is the prerogative of the legislature.

Steve Walker asked for clarification regarding the “secret email” referred to in the DIBC ads.

Mohammed stated the email is from 2007, was sent between the Washington D.C. and Michigan FHWA offices, and is in the record, not “secret.” The email presents the author’s opinion that the full project cost, from end-to-end, would exceed the financing capabilities of a public-private partnership. MDOT’s 2010 legislative report acknowledged that the project must be funded by different sources and details how the costs would be split up so it is financeable. This is consistent with the opinion expressed in the email.

Mr. Jones asked if the lieutenant governor had plans for a rebuttal to the ads. He wanted to know when the legislature would act.

Mohammed answered he did not know.

Richard Rosen stated last month’s meeting notes did not accurately reflect his comments regarding materials handed out by a participant at the March 30th meeting and the meaning of his statements was distorted. He felt the handout was slanderous and improper. He was not asking for censorship but for consideration of a policy for materials handed out or entered into the record.

Mohammed stated these are meeting notes and not intended as minutes or a transcript. The notes are intended as a general record of the subjects discussed and not a word-for-word record.

Mr. Rosen then asked about the establishment of a policy.

Mohammed said that he talked to Mr. Hernandez personally regarding the issue. He had two choices, 1) enter the material into the record and redact portions of it; or, 2) acknowledge the receipt of the material but not publish it in the meeting notes. After discussion with Mr. Hernandez, he chose the latter. Items such as this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Tom Dombrowski noted that according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*, this issue is a point of privilege between Mohammed and Mr. Hernandez, and as such, it was handled properly.

Mrs. Leonard called for a point of order.

Mohammed asked the LAC members if they had any comment regarding establishing a policy.

Mr. Cervenak stated that sometimes the meeting gets bogged down in the public comment period. There are ten minutes for comments in the agenda. He asked the LAC if they should consider some kind of time limit on remarks.

Mohammed concluded the matter, stating his policy, generally speaking, is to consider including anything requested by a member of the public.

Notes of LAC/LAG Meeting of March 30, 2011

It was noted that Ilona Varga's first name was misspelled.

John Bendzick said that he had missed a couple of weeks due to personal matters but had read the meeting minutes and felt they were very well done and kept him well informed.

Simone Sagovac stated she will bring written copies of her remarks to the next meeting as the notes of the last two meetings did not convey her idea fully due to its complexity.

Bruce Campbell stated the meeting notes are done by hand and are intended to be a general record of the subject of the conversation. If someone has something they want worded very specifically or is somewhat complex, it would be best if they could provide written remarks which can be reflected more accurately.

Detroit Works Update

John Baran said the next summit meeting will cover environmental issues and will take place on May 5th from 4 to 8 PM at the Gleaners facility at 2131 Beaufait. The RSVP number is 313-833-3935 extension 27. This meeting is sponsored by the Consortium of Environmental Groups.

SWCBC Update

Scott Brines gave the SWCBC update. There was a Delray Vision meeting, for which U of M is developing a community plan, on April 12th and two more are scheduled for May 10th and 12th at the Delray House. He thanked everyone who came to the Bridge to a Healthy Community meeting. The meeting was well attended and included several legislators. Mr. Brines asked everyone to please send the postcards Ms. Sagovac handed out.

CBC is continuing to work on the community benefits issue. They will be having dinner with Lieutenant Governor Calley and giving him a tour sometime soon.

Mr. Dombrowski announced that Representative Tlaib had a baby boy, 9lb 5oz.

John Gonzales stated he felt the oil cracking plant and the rouge plant were more serious health concerns than trucks. Mr. Brines acknowledged that but noted these pollution sources are cumulative.

NITC Status

Mohammed stated MDOT is still waiting for introduction of authorizing legislation. He also noted the 2011 MDOT budget authorization expressly prohibits expenditures on the project after May 31, 2011 unless the project is authorized by the legislature. Therefore, unless there is authorizing legislation passed before then, there will be no meeting in June or until legislation passes.

Other LAC/LAG Business

There was no other business.

Additional Public Comments

Mr. Rosen asked for a clarification on the possible suspension of further meetings and if suspension would be indefinite.

Mohammed said they would be suspended until legislation was passed. He will send out an email notice for the June meeting either way. The May meeting will proceed as planned.

Terry Kennedy stated the Canadian federal election was scheduled for May 2nd and that all three parties have committed to funding the project.

Next LAC/LAG Meeting

The next LAC/LAG meeting will be on May 25, 2011 at Southwestern High School. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Notes – REVISED 05/10/2011
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Southwestern High School**

Please see highlighted areas for corrections.

Alternative Option 1 would raise Junction Street enough to clear the new ramps - this introduces a number of additional impacts to both sides of the freeway. Alternative Option 2 would raise Junction Street to clear the new ramps and would also bridge Fort Street. While this reduces some of the impacts of Option 1, it introduces some additional impacts. MDOT is continuing to look at ways to move the pedestrian bridge to reduce the additional walking distances and making the bridge more convenient and inviting to the walking public.

Mr. Cervenak noted that CHASS is a very important part of the community, and he is happy to hear the MDOT is continuing to look for ways to accommodate their needs.

Corkey Benson asked, considering the costs associated with the other options, if the estimated \$4 million could be spent on busses instead of construction. This would help eliminate walking in the winter. Mohammed said that this would be a point of negotiation during the ROW acquisition process.

Commissioner **Iлона Varga** asked if the City will have set-back requirements for properties adjacent to the new bridge. Mr. Baran said that he does not see any zoning restrictions that would apply. Mr. Campbell noted that the project design includes substantial buffering 100 feet around the plaza, meaning no property would be any closer than it is currently to the bridge, plaza, or interchange.

Mr. Dombrowski asked if Representative Tlaib had been advised of any of the Junction Street alternatives. Mohammed said MDOT sent a copy of the presentation to Representative Tlaib but had not been able to schedule a meeting with her.