Dear Members of the Michigan Legislature:

Pursuant to Public Act 116 of 2009, Section 384, enclosed is a report intended to fulfill the requirements of the following language:

(1) The department may continue with preliminary legal, financial, traffic and revenue study, permitting, engineering, and other ancillary work for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) so that it can solicit from the private sector requests for proposals for public-private partnerships to construct the bridge, plaza, and related infrastructure. The department shall submit proposals to the legislature by May 1, 2010. Those activities associated with the DRIC project shall not bind the state in any way to construction.

(2) The department shall submit an investment grade traffic study to the legislature by May 1, 2010 from a reputable traffic company with appropriate experience intended to provide a detailed traffic projection for the ensuing 10 years, taking into account projected infrastructure modifications, expansions, and improvements announced.

(3) The department shall not expend more than $2,500,000.00 from state transportation revenue sources for activities enumerated in this section.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature to fully adopt or reject authorizing legislation by the full legislative bodies by June 1, 2010 to do all of the following:
   (a) Construct a new international crossing jointly and in agreement with Canada.
   (b) Create an authorized tolling authority.
   (c) Create a public-private partnership.

The report includes a “Report to the Legislature of the State of Michigan responding to Public Act 116 of 2009, Section 384”, the investment grade traffic study, and twenty proposals of interest from the private sector for Public-Private Partnerships to construct the bridge, plaza, and related infrastructure.

The Michigan Department of Transportation takes great pride in the way we are conducting the DRIC project. We urge you to visit the project Web site, www.partnershipbordersudy.com, where a wealth of additional information regarding study data and activities has been available since 2005. All material attached to this memo will be made available on the project Web site if not already posted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (517) 373-3946 or decookr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. DeCook
Director
Office of Governmental Affairs

Enclosure