

Context Sensitive Solutions

A key component that is part of the analysis of Practical Alternatives for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment is the incorporation of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). CSS is an opportunity for the public and key stakeholders to provide input on the look and feel of the new access road, inspection plaza and bridge. The purpose in using CSS in this study is to help ensure that the design of the access road, inspection plaza and river crossing seeks to preserve the scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources of the community, while maintaining safety and mobility.

How the Analysis was Done

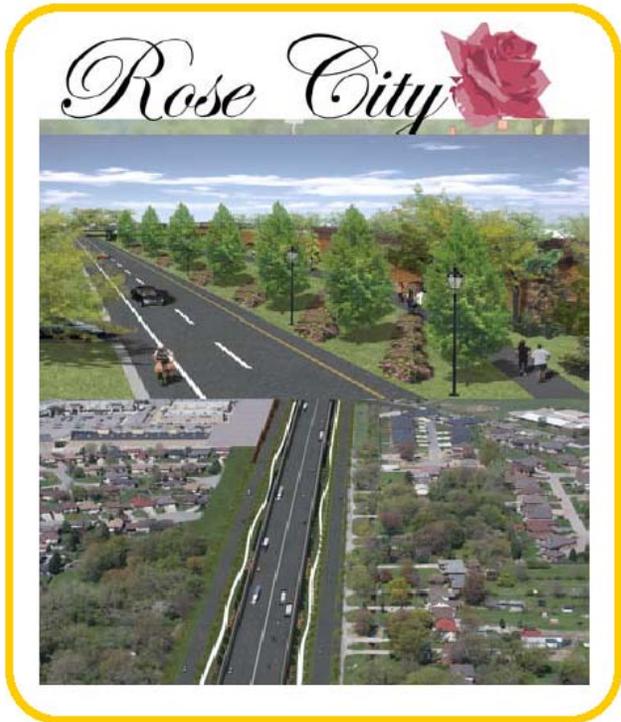
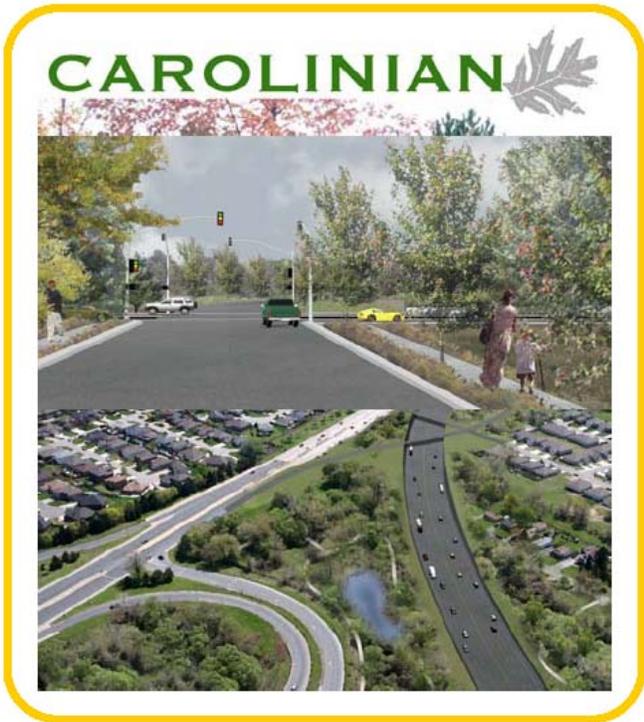
As part of the development of CSS ideas and options, the DRIC study team consulted the Huron Church Road Urban Design Master Plan & Development Guidelines Report (February 2006) which outlines various options to develop high quality urban design elements along the roadway, taking into consideration the existing traffic issues for both vehicles and pedestrians and nearby residents. The Huron Church Road Master Plan includes a design vision and framework for the coordination of the visual, functional, and operational dimensions of Huron Church Road, including lighting, planting, walkways, signage, public art, furniture, and property development. Elements of the Master Plan have been incorporated into the CSS work that has been completed to date. For example, design elements have been incorporated into the examples of aesthetic treatments to noise walls throughout the corridor.

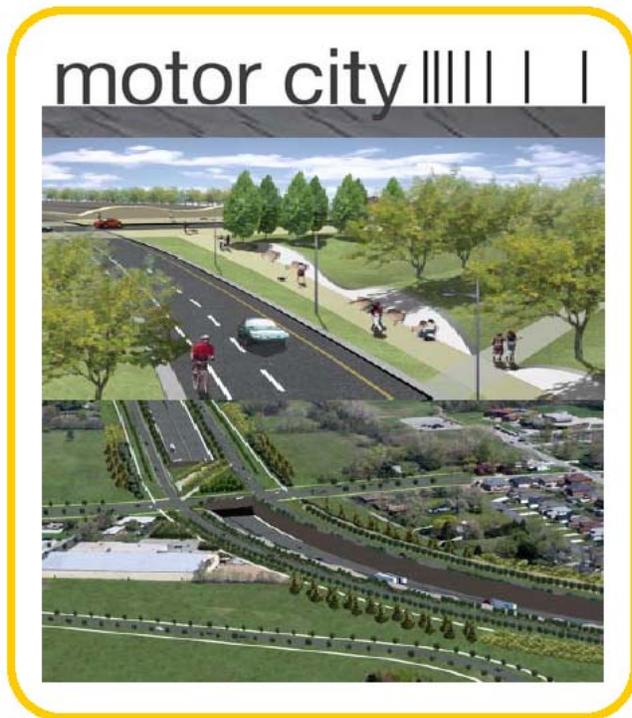
Context Sensitive Solutions Events

Members of the public have had the opportunity to provide input to different concepts and themes for the look and fit of the new access road, plaza and crossing alternatives over the course of 2006. Workshops were held throughout the year.

Workshop Date/Topic	Workshop Agenda
January 2006 Inspection Plaza Location Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participants were asked to define preferred inspection plaza locations several locations were mapped based on community input
February 2006 Access Road Refinement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participants were asked to provide input into the aesthetic look of the new freeway participants suggested berming and noise wall treatments
April 2006 Access Road Refinement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participants provided input regarding refining the design of the access road alternatives
June 2006 Context Sensitive Solutions Preference Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participants were asked for their preferences/ opinions regarding the type/and look of the new crossing, aesthetic treatment options in and around the plazas, and the landscape treatment options along the access road alternatives participants indicated what concepts they preferred; what themes the new access road, plaza and crossing should convey
October 2006 Access Road and Plaza Theme Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> workshop built upon concepts shown at the June 2006 workshop participants were shown examples of landscape treatments as they relate to three focus areas of the access roads, and landscape treatments for the plazas

Workshop Date/Topic	Workshop Agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three themes were developed: Carolinian, Rose City, and Motor City • participants were asked for their preferences/opinions regarding the themes developed for the aesthetic treatments of the access road and plazas
<p>November 2006 Crossing Type Preference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint workshop with U.S. DRIC team; drop-in format; participants used computer workstations, hands on drawing areas to produce drawings for the physical preferences of a new crossing • focused on bridge crossing type, lighting treatment options, crossing theme (friendship and history), colour of bridge crossing





Results to Date

Many of the workshop participants indicated that they were pleased to see examples of what the landscape treatments could look like at different locations throughout the corridor. The outcomes from the October workshops indicated that participants favoured the Carolinian theme for the future landscaping of the new transportation facility. The Carolinian theme was favoured for its natural appearance and relative ease of maintenance. Participants also preferred the Rose City formal plantings at pedestrian-centred areas, and along the service road. Participants did not favour the Motor City theme for its contemporary look, which some felt would become dated in the future.

The outcome of the November crossing workshops indicated that the public favoured the suspension bridge style with a historic theme and the cable-stayed bridge with a friendship theme. Preferences were almost split regarding the suspension and cable-stayed bridges.

Remaining Activities

The Olde Sandwich Town Community Planning Study Report (October 2006) was recently finalized. The study team will review the recommendations of the report to determine if there are additional considerations for the CSS process. Additional workshops will be held in early 2007 in which the public will have the ability to give feedback and provide insight on further design modifications and changes. The input and feedback received at all the workshops will be incorporated into the design of the preferred alternative, which will be determined in 2007.