

PUBLIC NOTICE
REVIEW PERIOD EXTENSION
Detroit River International Crossing
Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

The review period for providing comments on the draft Terms of Reference has been extended.

This notice follows previous notices published the weeks of March 8-12 and March 22-26, 2004, and Public Information Open Houses held March 22-26 and 27, 2004. Below is background information on the draft Terms of Reference.

THE STUDY:

Transport Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in partnership with the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation, are working to provide for safe, efficient and secure movement of people and goods at the Canada-U.S. border in Southeastern Michigan – Southwestern Ontario.

The Partnership has developed a six-stage process to identify and implement effective solutions to current and future cross-border transportation problems. The first stage was completed with the publishing of the Planning/Need and Feasibility Study in January 2004. The study identifies a 30-year strategy for cross-border transportation in the Detroit River area.

As part of the second of six stages leading to the implementation of major transportation improvements, the Partners are proceeding with the formal environmental study processes on both sides of the border, namely, the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (OEAA), and a study that meets the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA).

THE PROCESS:

Prior to preparing an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA), the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act requires that a proponent prepare a Terms of Reference (TOR). The Terms of Reference is a document that provides the framework the Partnership must follow in completing the environmental study. The TOR requires approval by the Minister of the Environment (MOE), and the subsequent Individual EA is then prepared in accordance with the approved TOR.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The Draft TOR and Supporting Documents are currently available for review. Information provided in the TOR includes:

- Purpose of the project
- Integrated process for conducting the EA
- Framework for generating and assessing alternatives
- Framework for defining study area
- Proposed generation and evaluation criteria
- Proposed evaluation methodology
- Proposed consultation plan

You are encouraged to review the documents on the project website (www.PartnershipBorderStudy.com) and provide comments directly to the Project Team. The document is also available at the following viewing locations:

City of Windsor Clerk's Office
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor Public Library
850 Ouellette Avenue

Town of LaSalle Clerk's Office
5950 Malden Road
LaSalle Public Library
5940 Malden Road

Town of Amherstburg Clerk's Office
271 Sandwich Street South
Amherstburg Library
232 Sandwich Street South

Town of Tecumseh Clerk's Office
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh Public Library
13675 St. Gregory's Road

Essex County Clerk's Office
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex Library
18 Gordon Avenue

EXTENSION OF REVIEW PERIOD:

The review period for providing comments on the draft TOR has been extended.
Please submit comments to the Project Team by April 30, 2004.

Comments received will be considered in the development of the final Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference document. The final TOR will be prepared and submitted to the Minister of the Environment for approval. The Minister of the Environment will provide an opportunity for public and agency input when making a decision.

COMMENTS:

Comments and information regarding this project will be collected to assist the Partnership and the Project Team. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact the following Project Team representatives or visit our web site at www.PartnershipBorderStudy.com:

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