

# The Detroit River International Crossing

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**



April 19, 2006

# Meetings Summary

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
**Public Meetings**  
**April 19, 2006**  
**10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**  
**SUMMARY**

Mailed Invitations:	2,000 (approx.)
Mailers Returned:	15
Invitations Distributed:	900 (approx.)
<u>Public Access Television Stations</u> <u>Airing DRIC Video</u> City of River Rouge City of Southgate City of Riverview City of Trenton City of Ecorse City of Detroit City of Grosse Ile City of Lincoln Park City of Melvindale City of Allen Park City of Wyandotte	
Attendees (non-project staff):	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Delray Recreation Center – Detroit, MI 43 Attendees (signed in)  April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Southwestern High School – Detroit, MI 84 Attendees (signed in)
Number of Speakers:	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m.: 9 April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m.: 11
Number of Written Questions/ Comment Forms:	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m.: 0 April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m.: 0

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
Public Meeting  
Delray Recreation Center  
April 19, 2006  
10 a.m. to noon**

# Meeting Notes

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
**April 19, 2006 - 10:00 AM to Noon**  
**Public Meeting on Context Sensitive Solutions**  
**Delray Community Center**

**Introductions**

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He then reviewed the agenda, which would cover in depth: 1) a summary of the eight previous public workshops and the resulting community master plan concepts; 2) an explanation of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), including examples of CSS; and, 3) a session where feedback from those in attendance will be sought on some CSS elements. Joe Corradino added that this meeting will begin blending master planning with the border crossing system – bridge, plaza and interchange. He noted upcoming meetings on May 23 and June 22 would again focus on master planning. On June 8, 2006, a bus tour of the Maumee River and Blue Water bridges will be conducted. The latter will provide concrete examples of how CSS is applied in other locations and how communities relate to a major bridge.

**Context Sensitive Solutions - Overview**

Bob Hostler explained the concept of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). He noted there would be an increasing focus of integrating the Delray area master planning effort with a potential bridge and plaza into the community, while keeping in view the fact that a new bridge would represent a national/international symbol.

**Context Sensitive Solutions – Community Planning**

Jeff Mason provided a brief synopsis of the eight previous workshops related on Delray area master planning. He summarized by showing allocation of potential land use with a new bridge noting the plaza would draw from land that would otherwise be dedicated to industrial uses. He showed example sketches of the land uses the citizens indicated they prefer. He noted conceptual land use plans are being developed for each of the plaza options. Preliminary results were displayed in the meeting room for the first three of these.

**Question:** What are those crosses I see on the pavement?

**Response:** Those are “targets” used to orient photography taken from the air for the DRIC Project.

**Comment:** You are concentrating on Delray south of the railroad. You are ignoring Fort Street and its businesses and the area north of I-75 where there are many homes. There is a Renaissance Zone there.

**Response:** The Fort Street area is not being ignored. We have been and will continue to work with the Fort Street business community to minimize impacts and shape the project. Under some scenarios, I-75 would be shifted south to minimize impacts to the north.

**Question:** How are you going to resolve the presence of the railroad, the high-tension lines and other major infrastructure?

**Response:** The plans being studied take all these elements into account. For example, we are exploring the possibility of removing/relocating the railroad. There are security issues with its presence by or under the plaza.

#### **Context Sensitive Solutions – Key Elements**

Craig Richardson explained how CSS concepts would be perceived. For example, what does a visitor see? How would a visitor perceive the local community? What community themes can be explored in the project's development? He stressed there are opportunities to emphasize local themes that be mutually beneficial to the traveler and the resident and give a sense of place and pride. The job of the DRIC Study Team will be to develop these themes with the community and help them take form.

Bruce Campbell said the bridge, if built, would be a lasting symbol. To start to build a dialogue on the bridge he reviewed relevant terminology.

**Question:** The Ambassador Bridge crosses Fort Street. Will the new one?

**Response:** No. It will cross Jefferson, but will touch down in the plaza before Fort Street. The interchange bridges will go over Fort Street.

**Question:** Where is the money coming from for the study?

**Response:** The money is 80 percent federal and 20 percent state of gasoline tax monies.

Bradley Touchstone showed a series of slides to highlight the major bridge types, using examples of great bridges from around the world. Based on span length, two bridge types are candidates in the DRIC Study: suspension and cable-stayed. Slides were then used to illustrate the scale of the bridge being planned and its uniqueness.

**Comment:** You are glossing over impacts and trying to divert our attention by showing all these pictures.

**Response:** There have been many meetings related to project impacts and there will be more. Today's meeting was announced as being devoted to the consideration of CSS and its integration into the ongoing master planning for the Delray area.

**Comments:** Several people spoke saying they were glad to have the opportunity to participate and give input.

**Question:** What is the schedule; when will a decision be made? What do I do with my house in the meantime?

**Response:** The schedule calls for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to be issued by the end of 2006. Early in 2007 there would be a hearing on the project at which the public will be encouraged to comment on the DEIS. During the summer of 2007 there will be a decision on a preferred alternative. That alternative might be to do nothing. The best advice in the meantime is to continue your life and business in a normal way, as if nothing has changed.

**Comment:** I am on the east side of Delray and this is the first I have heard about this.

**Response:** We have been doing our best to notify residents. We have even hand delivered flyers door-to-door. Please make sure you signed up to get on the mailing list.

Bradley Touchstone and Bob Parsons then led the audience through a dynamic voting process related to bridge color, lighting, height, and pylon/tower configuration. During this process, slides were shown to give examples of the range of choices. It was emphasized the voting was to stimulate discussion, not to endorse a new bridge. The information gathered will allow the team to get a feel for the opinions of the public. The results of the preference were then displayed, as follows.

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Use of Color on the Bridge:



Voting Results a.m. Meeting

The Detroit River International Crossing Study

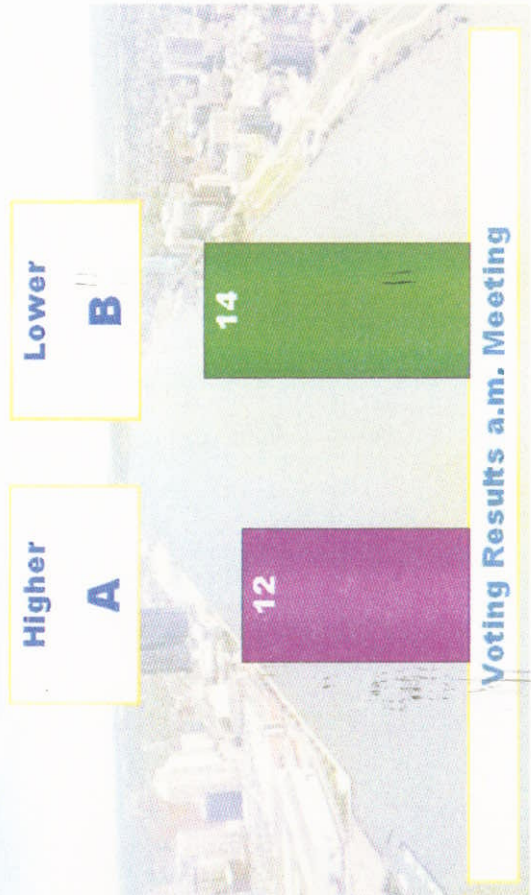
Use of Color Lighting on the Bridge:



Voting Results a.m. Meeting

The Detroit River International Crossing Study

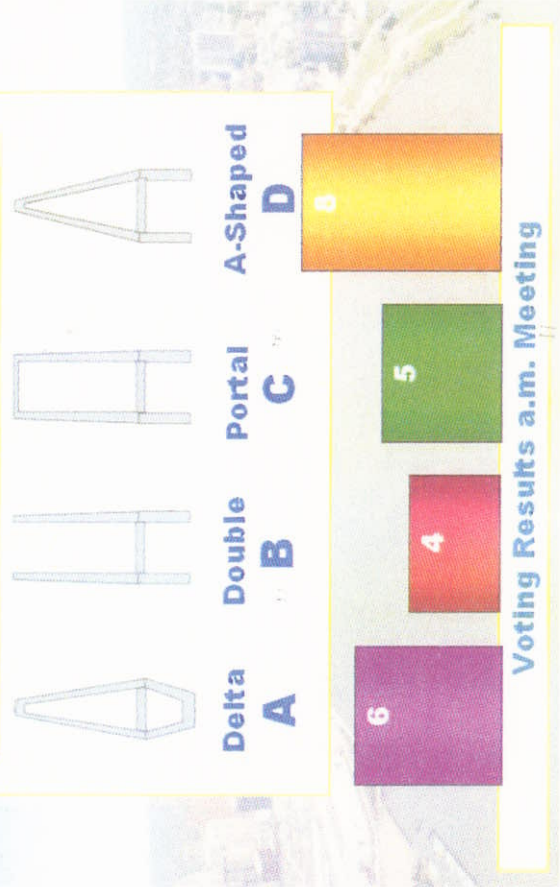
Height of the Pylon / Tower:



Voting Results a.m. Meeting

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Pylon / Tower Configuration:



Voting Results a.m. Meeting