

CAN-US-ON-MI Border Transportation Partnership
PIOH #2 Video Presentation Script
June 16-18, 2003

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This slide presentation introduces the Canada-U.S.-Ontario-Michigan Partnership Border Study, also referred to as the Bi-National Partnership Study.

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The study is sponsored by:

- Transport Canada;
- The U.S. Federal Highway Administration;
- The Ontario Ministry of Transportation; and,
- The Michigan Department of Transportation.

“Four Partners, One Future”

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The purpose of this study is to identify a 30-year transportation strategy to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services between Southeast Michigan and Southwest Ontario.

The study is the first stage of the environmental approval processes in the United States and Canada.

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A bridge and tunnel connect the two nations in the downtown areas of Windsor and Detroit.

The Ambassador Bridge is a four-lane suspension bridge which has been a landmark on the Detroit River since its opening in 1929.

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The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, which opened in 1930, is a two-lane facility.

These facilities serve as the strategic roadway links on a vital trade corridor, which is also served by rail and ferry services.

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Canada and the United States share the largest trading relationship in the world.

One hundred forty-six billion dollars in surface trade passes between Southwestern Ontario and Southeastern Michigan annually.

Approximately fifty-five percent of the value of this trade crosses the Detroit River by truck.

This trade is vital to the local, regional and national economies on both sides of the border

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The Partnership has examined potential transportation alternatives to meet the projected growth in future trade and traffic between the two countries.

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A number of factors indicate a growing need for a new or expanded crossing as soon as possible, within the guidelines of the environmental approval processes. Neither nation can afford for this vital trade link to be disrupted.

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The movement of people and goods on this trade route is subject to delays and disruption due to frequent congestion, major traffic incidents, roadway and crossing maintenance operations and security concerns.

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Five corridors for a new crossing or expansion of an existing crossing – and the connecting roadways – have been identified.

These corridors have been reviewed in terms of their ability to address:

- Transportation problems and opportunities;
- Needs of border processing agencies;
- Government, planning and tourism objectives;
- Potential impacts to natural, social and cultural features; and,
- Technical feasibility.

This review suggests that the corridors have varying degrees of feasibility but each of the alternatives represent a reasonable approach.

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The draft Purpose/Need and Feasibility Study Report will be available in the Summer of 2003.

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The next steps in the process will be carried out in consultation with stakeholders and community groups. This phase is scheduled for completion in the Summer of 2004.

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These next steps include:

- Satisfying environmental assessment requirements of all four partners;

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- Undertaking a more detailed review of the five alternative road-crossing corridors;

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- Evaluating alternative corridors on the basis of transportation benefits and impacts to communities, neighborhoods and the environment;

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- Identifying those corridors to be carried forward into subsequent stages in the environmental process;

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- And, Developing the work programs for the next stage in the environmental approval processes of both countries.

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As you leave this part of today's meeting, you will proceed to one or more of five information stations spread around the room. At each station, you will find maps, charts, diagrams and experienced staff who will answer your questions. We will also have a table where you may leave your comments and fill out an attendance card, which will ensure that you will be informed of future meetings on this project.

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The Bi-National Partnership thanks you for being here today. Your input truly matters. In addition to attending meetings like these, you may also stay in touch with our study through a Web site, www.partnershipborderstudy.com, or a toll-free Hotline, 1-800-900-2649. This information will be provided to you in a written brochure you will receive at this meeting. Thank you again.