

March 29, 2006

Representative Phil Lajoy,  
The Honourable State Representative 21<sup>st</sup> District  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Sir,

Olde Sandwich Towne is a community at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Our Towne received its charter in 1797. It is the oldest continuous European Community west of Montreal, although Native Aborigines, French and English settlers were living here as far back as the late 1500's and early 1600's. The boundaries - about 3.2 square kilometers, reflect a very diverse community that 10,000 people call home.

We would like to offer support for the DRIC process and the need for a new crossing in our area.

The DRIC process has been open, transparent and fair. After 4 years of involvement, the final stage of crossing identification is just one year away. We ask that nothing alter their course or deflect from the issue at hand - the need for another crossing.

With respect for the need of a new crossing, there are some very compelling benefits to consider:

- *Can be the economic engine that helps the revitalization of the region's economy.*
- *Can be a catalyst to the implementation of numerous interrelated projects.*
- *Helps to insure the free flow of trade between Canada and the United States.*
- *Provides redundancy to the existing infrastructure.*
- *Repositions the (existing bridge) as the gateway and "front door" between Canada and the United States rather than the "loading dock".*
- *The addition of hundreds of acres of property to the tax rolls.*
- *Reuse of existing brownfields.*
- *Strategic location to capture additional economic benefits and jobs through intermodal trade opportunities.*
- *High quality jobs to support the construction, maintenance and operation of the new facility.*
- *Private sector funding.*
- *Elimination of truck backups.*
- *Shorter duration border crossings.*
- *A second crossing in a region that is in desperate need for more choices.*

These are benefits that have been voiced before. **These are listed on the Ambassador Bridge's Niagara website.** They are being used to justify the proposal of the Ambassador Bridge to build a new bridge two miles from the Peace Bridge in an area that

has 4 bridges with a capacity of 14 lanes carrying a total of 12.3 million cars and 2.3 million trucks in 2005.

The same list of benefits applies here in the Detroit-Windsor area – even more so. When the capacity of the Niagara Region and the number of vehicles crossing there is compared to the Detroit-Windsor area ( one bridge, one tunnel) capacity (6 lanes) and the number of vehicles crossing (9.4 million in 2005 using just the 4 lanes on the Ambassador Bridge), common sense let alone the results of traffic and economic indicators being used today and studies projecting 30 years out most certainly justify the need for another 6 lane crossing.

The Ambassador Bridge's argument that there is no need for a crossing in Detroit-Windsor is invalid. This region deserves an honest explanation why they have two opposing arguments for the same issue – an additional crossing.

Thank you for allowing us to make this submission. We have enclosed a booklet, outlining the historical and heritage value of Olde Sandwich Towne and wholeheartedly invite you to contact us for a personal guided tour.

Sincerely



Mary Ann Cuderman, Chair  
Windsor West Community Truck Watch Coalition  
and

The Olde Sandwich Towne Business Improvement Association.  
3118 Sandwich St.,  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada, N9C 1A6  
Phone: 519-258-0361  
Fax: 519-258-5209