

October 3, 2006

Mr. Mohammed Alghurabi, Project Manager
MDOT, Design Division
425 West Ottawa
Lansing, MI 48933

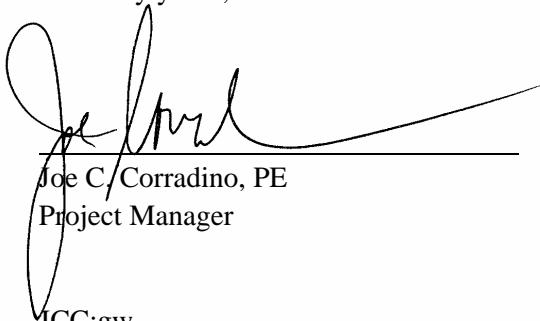
RE: DRIC EPE/EIS Project; Job N. 802330
TCG Project No. 3600 - Invoice No. 21 Progress Report

Dear Mohammed:

Enclosed is the narrative progress report for the DRIC EPE/EIS Project. It supports Invoice No. 21 for September 2006. The invoice will be submitted under separate cover to Kim Farlin.

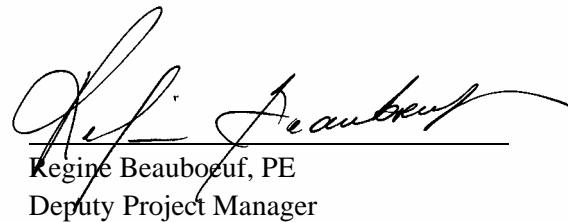
Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,



Joe C. Corradino, PE
Project Manager

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Attachment



Regine Beauboeuf, PE
Deputy Project Manager

**PROGRESS REPORT
THE CORRADINO GROUP
DRIC EPE/EIS PHASE
SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2006**

The following details the work progress for the project by task (Sections A, B, & C). At the end of the task progress discussion are sections that address updates of the schedule, items needed from MDOT, and a listing of substantive verbal contacts with MDOT. Schedule adjustments and verbal contacts are listed on attachments G and H, respectively.

A, B, AND C – PROGRESS BY TASK

✓ **TASK 1 (1220) – VERIFY SCOPE/CONDUCT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

A. Work Progress

- Prepared for and participated in the following meetings:
 - ✓ September 12th with the federal and state agencies coordination meeting.
 - ✓ September 12th with the Detroit Public Schools facilities planning staff.
 - ✓ September 13th with the U.S. Coast Guard.
 - ✓ September 19th with the Core Team.
 - ✓ September 25th the virtual tour with the State Historic Preservation Office.
 - ✓ September 27th with the Local Agency Group/Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ September 28th with the Working Group.
- Prepared for the following meetings:
 - ✓ October 5th with the Steering Committee.
 - ✓ October 12th with MDOT to preview the materials for the November 2nd CSS workshop.
 - ✓ October 17th with the Core Team.
 - ✓ October 25th with the Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ October 26th with the Working Group.
 - ✓ November 2nd with the communities in the Context Sensitive Solutions workshop.
- Prepared draft script and PowerPoint presentation to be incorporated into a video presentation to be used on public access TV as an invitation to the November 2nd/U.S. CSS workshop and November 15th/Canadian CSS workshop.
 - ✓ Began writing the program and building the software for the interactive computer sessions planned with the attendees of the CSS workshops.

- ✓ Began preparing workbooks for users who prefer to use the computer as a tool to help them express their aesthetic preferences.
- ✓ Began categorizing and developing palettes of color, lighting, texture, railing, and materials that serve to express the visions enunciated by the community. These palettes will be overlaid on 3D pictures of the bridge, a local road, and the buffer area around the plaza during the computer interactive sessions to allow the public to see the overall effect of the application of their vision on “look and fit” of the crossing system.
- ✓ Began preparing banners to be placed in the room during the workshop.
- Mailer for invitation to the November 2nd/U.S. and November 15th/Canadian CSS workshops.
- Conducted additional social/cultural interviews in the process of gaining input from over 100 agencies/individuals in the social/cultural analysis area.

B. Products

- Materials, notes and/or PowerPoint presentations for the meetings held in September.
- Draft video script and slides for the CSS workshop invitation to be aired on public access television.
- Draft mailer to be sent to 10,000+ addresses as the invitation to the November CSS workshops.

C. Task Evaluation

- The project has slowed as a result of the complexities of starting the deep bore drilling program. That, in turn, has postponed a decision on a Preferred Alternative until the latter part of 2007. There is some risk to the public engagement process as a number of the most involved community representatives are becoming anxious for a decision to be made. Nonetheless, the number of participants at the recent LAC/LAG meeting was high and included many who were new to the process, as well as those representing City of Detroit agencies and elected officials.
- It has been decided that there is not enough time and there will be a “mixing of messages” to attempt to incorporate the second social/cultural public meeting into the latter part of the November CSS workshop. Therefore, a social/cultural public meeting is likely to be held in the latter part of January.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Prepare for and participate in the following meetings:
 - ✓ October 5th with the Steering Committee.
 - ✓ October 12th with MDOT to preview the materials for the November 2nd CSS workshop.
 - ✓ October 17th with the Core Team.
 - ✓ October 25th with the Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ October 26th with the Working Group.
 - ✓ November 2nd with the communities in the Context Sensitive Solutions workshop.
- Distribute and begin airing on public access TV the video invitation to the November CSS workshops.
- Mail the invitations (10,000) to the November CSS workshops.

TASK 2 (2120) – PREPARE TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT

A. Work Progress

- Proposed to MDOT a method to develop speed data for use in the microsimulation model calibration.
- Continued to test and document the testing of the nested logit model.
- Continued coding traffic information into the simulation model.
- Finished coding grades received from MDOT into the simulation model.
- Began developing the projected future traffic volumes to test the geometry of the proposed interchange options associated with various crossing alternatives.
- Balanced existing traffic data for use in simulation model.
- Tested free flow speed and travel time data in the simulation model.
- Corrected the Gateway Project 2004 traffic volumes. Began conversion to 2006 volumes.
- Developed AM/PM peak hour volumes to be used in a preliminary evaluation of the Practical Alternatives in anticipation of the Value Planning to be held the week of December 11, 2006.
- Began the capacity analysis using the HCM to determine level of service at the ramps, merge/weave lanes and other sensitive areas to allow for evaluation of the Practical Alternatives.

B. Products

- Paper on developing speed data for the microsimulation model.
- Updated Gateway Project 2004 traffic volumes.

C. Task Evaluation

- Input is still needed from MDOT on the method of collecting speed data to calibrate the microsimulation model.
- The nested logit model is performing in such a manner as the assignments to the new crossing of the Detroit River and the Ambassador Bridge are closer in balance than they were in using the minimum-path assignment model. This issue has caused concern on the part of the Canadian modeling group (IBI). Nonetheless, the U.S. team continues to work with the nested logit model so that its potential use as a complementary assignment procedure to the minimum-assignment approach can be incorporated into the upcoming work.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Develop, based on input from MDOT, the appropriate speed data for calibrating the microsimulation model.
- Finish re-distributing volumes for the Gateway area.
- Finish coding volumes into the microsimulation.
- Finish calibrating the existing conditions into the microsimulation model.
- Complete level-of-service analysis of Practical Alternatives for the Value Planning workshop.
- Submit volumes and level-of-service analysis to the staff at Parsons, Benesch, and Corradino for their evaluation of the effectiveness of the Practical Alternatives.
- Complete testing of the nested logit model and prepare a memo-type report so that MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the Canadian team can engage in a final deliberation on how to best use it.

TASK 3 (2130) – PREPARE JOB JUSTIFICATION/PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

A. Work Progress

- Prepared for and participated in the combined federal/state agencies coordination meeting on September 12th.
- Advanced the definition of a transboundary impacts scoping meeting, which is now set for December 5th.
- Advanced the Air Quality Protocol.

B. Products

- Materials for the conduct of the September 12th federal/state agencies meeting.

C. Task Evaluation

- The Air Quality Protocol still needs to receive comments from EPA and MDEQ to finalize it.
- The combined federal/state agencies meeting on September 12th, rather than individual federal and state agencies meetings to review the DRIC Study process, was considered a success and will be the forum for going forward. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Prepare for the scoping meeting of U.S. and Canadian agencies on the transboundary impacts scheduled for December 5th.
- Prepare for the December 5th meeting of the combined federal and state agencies.
- Finalize the Air Quality Protocol.

TASK 4 (2140) – DEVELOP/REVIEW ILLUSTRATIVE ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- This task has been completed.

TASK 5 (2160) – DEVELOP SCOPING DOCUMENT

A. Work Progress

- This task has been completed.

TASK 6 (2310) – CONDUCT SEE TECHNICAL STUDIES

A. Work Progress

- Responded to questions by MDEQ with respect to the draft Air Quality Analysis Protocol.
- Prepared for, conducted and participated in the September 12th meeting among federal and state agencies to review the progress of the DRIC Study. This meeting also included a tour of the focused analysis area on the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border.
- Completed and analyzed mussel survey data including GPS sample plots, transects and video.
- Met with MNFI mussel experts. Transported mussel samples.
- Began the documentation of the Detroit River underwater research for threatened and endangered species.

- Presented to MDOT an approach for archaeological testing.
- Met on September 25th with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist to conduct a virtual tour of other bridge environments and to discuss the Area of Potential Effects.
- Prepared a draft report and submitted it to MDOT on cultural resources.

B. Products

- Materials for the September 25th virtual tour of various bridge areas.
- Memorandum defining the approach to archaeological field testing.
- Draft report submitted to MDOT on the archaeological and cultural resources in the focused analysis area.
- Approved Area of Potential Effects.

C. Task Evaluation

- MDOT review and approval of the archaeological field testing procedures is needed.
- MDOT is concerned about underwater archaeological testing. Such work would not only be associated with the placement of piers in the river but also the anchoring of barges to construct the crossing. Such underwater analysis investigations were removed from the consultant's proposal and, therefore, are not part of the current work scope.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Cooperate with MDOT to receive approval of the proposed approach to the archaeological field testing.
- Review the shallow drilling results to determine the potential presence of any significant archaeological characteristics.
- Attempt to finalize the Air Quality Analysis Protocol and define specifically the CO, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ hot spots that will be analyzed as part of the application of that protocol.
- Move forward recordation of historical properties in the Delray-West portion of the project area.
- Finalize mussel survey report.

TASK 7 (2320) – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A. Work Progress

- This task is complete.

TASK 8 (2330) – GEOTECHNICAL DATA

A. Work Progress

- Provided the City of Detroit additional information as requested in an attempt to gain permission to drill on its property.
- Continued to advance the right-of-entry issues for undertaking the field work.
- Relocated Hole #13 and Hole #15.

B. Products

- Relocated bore holes #13 and #15.

C. Task Evaluation

- Norfolk Southern was quite resistive of allowing drilling on its property off of Morell Street. As a result, Hole #13 has been shifted about one block to the east onto property owned by John James of OJ Trucking. He is positive to locating the borehole on his property.
- The relocation of Hole #13 eliminates the need to relocate the occupants of 11 residences on Morrell Street.
- Cooperation with the City remains steady but slow in finalizing all requirements that they have established for allowing drilling to go forward on 11 parcels of property that the City owns.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet the requirements of the City of Detroit to gain permission to drill on 11 parcels.
- Continue to advance towards execution of the agreement by those structure owners within 300 feet of each of the boreholes.
- Meet with MDEQ to determine if hearings are necessary when repeated refusal is evidenced in terms of gaining permission to drill within the vicinity of an inhabitable structure.
- Conduct additional H₂S safety training, as appropriate.
- Prepare information for Amendment No. 3 to be forwarded to MDOT to initiate the drilling.

TASK 9 (2340) – PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- Met on September 13th with the U.S. Coast Guard in advance of finalizing the navigation studies.
- Met with Detroit Public Lighting Department on September 6th.
- Met with DWSD on September 20th.

- Prepared preliminary mitigation concepts to be used to cost impacts on utilities in the project area. These concepts are prepared for each major utility company with infrastructure present in the area.
- Conducted an internal coordination meeting to advance the Value Planning workshop.
- Determined with MDOT that the Value Planning workshop would be postponed until the week of December 11 from the week of November 6.
- Continued refining the Practical Alternatives with preliminary 2035 peak hour volumes.
- Continued refining the Practical Alternatives with a view towards system and local linkages.
- Refined Option No. 6 consistent with input from MDOT.
- Completed Draft Design Criteria and Type-Study Report outline.
- Progressed Type-Study Report.
- Scheduled a meeting with MDOT to review progress made to date on structure type study and the report outline.
- Completed the Draft Shallow Drilling Report of 45 holes.

B. Products

- Notes on utility company meetings.
- Utility layouts.
- Draft Shallow Drilling Report on 45 holes.

C. Task Evaluation

- Work is proceeding to ready the Practical Alternatives for Value Planning in December. The level of detail to be presented will be commensurate with MDOT's expectations.
- Plaza design is pending comments from U.S. CBP.
- Additional coordination has been attempted by the Coast Guard on the navigation study based on information supplied the Coast Guard at the September 14th meeting.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue refining the Practical Alternatives with the analysis of peak hour volumes for the year 2035.
- Continue refining the Practical Alternatives complete with system and local interchanges. Refinement will continue on ramps geometry, number of lanes, characteristics of weave/merge lanes and the need for Collector-Distributor along the access ramps.

- Determine and refine preliminary mitigation concepts and resulting costs for the relocation of utilities.
- Continue coordination activities with the utility owners in the area.
- Continue with the Bridge Type studies.
- Complete Navigation Study following meeting with Canadian Coast Guard, the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Complete first draft of the Type Study report.

TASK 10 (2360) – PREPARE DEIS

A. Work Progress

- Met with federal and state agencies on September 12th and agreed that the reader-friendly format would be applied to the DRIC EIS document.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Advancing the DEIS has been focused upon as a method to control the DRIC schedule. But, the decision process of the policymakers, using the data that are part of the DEIS, will have a greater effect on the critical path process. The latter must be focused upon.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Move the analysis process forward with the view towards beginning to write the DEIS in late January/early February 2007 based on the August 2006 schedule.

TASK 11 (2380) – DEIS AVAILABILITY/PUBLIC HEARING

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 12 (2510) – RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 13 (2525) – ENGINEERING REPORT

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 14 (2530) – PREPARE FEIS

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 15 (2550) – OBTAIN RECORD OF DECISION

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 16 (2810) – CONDUCT INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT

A. Work Progress

- Conducted field reconnaissance visits and interviews with owners or representatives of several parcels, including Peerless Metals, M&J Transport, Norman Adelsburg, Gary Wine, and L. Thomas Leasing Co.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Continued to obtain hazmat information for parcels with completed right-of-entry agreements.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conduct site reconnaissance of additional properties that have approved right-of-entry agreements.
- Collect and review environmental site data for the technical reports.

TASK 17 (2820) – CONDUCT PRELIMINARY SITE INVESTIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated in this task.

TASK 18 (3310) – TASK 19 (3320) AERIAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING/CONTROL SURVEY FOR AERIALS

A. Work Progress

- Continued dialog with MDOT regarding V8 and Caice CAD issues.
- Prepared Caice files,

B. Products

- None this period.

C. Task Evaluation

- This task is 97 percent complete.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue dialog with MDOT regarding V8 and Caice CAD issues.
- Begin gathering data for MDOT-required reports.

TASK 19 (3320) – PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONTROL SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Prepared Photogrammetric Control Survey report.

B. Products

- None this period.

C. Task Evaluation

- This task is 95 percent complete.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue work on report.

TASK 20 (3330) – DESIGN SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Additional preparation of structure under-clearance survey.

B. Products

- None this period.

C. Task Evaluation

- This task is 10 percent complete.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Execute seven structure surveys for I-75 bridge under-clearances in priority areas.

TASK 21 (3350) – HYDRAULICS SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 22 (4510) – RIGHT-OF-WAY SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 23 (3370) – STRUCTURE SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 24 (3520) – SCOUR ANALYSIS

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Work in this task will be initiated once the scope is determined following the structure type study should bridge options with piers in the river be found to be viable.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Await results of the structure studies to determine the scope of work of the scour analysis task.

TASK 25 (3530) – FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Provided the City of Detroit additional information as requested in an attempt to gain permission to drill on its property.
- Continued to advance the right-of-entry issues for undertaking the field work.
- Relocated Hole #13 and Hole #15.

B. Products

- Relocated bore holes #13 and #15.

C. Task Evaluation

- Norfolk Southern was quite resistive of allowing drilling on its property off of Morell Street. As a result, Hole #13 has been shifted about one block to the east onto property owned by John James of OJ Trucking. He is positive to locating the borehole on his property.
- The relocation of Hole #13 eliminates the need to relocate the occupants of 11 residences on Morrell Street.
- Cooperation with the City remains steady but slow in finalizing all requirements that they have established for allowing drilling to go forward on 11 parcels of property that the City owns.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet the requirements of the City of Detroit to gain permission to drill on 11 parcels.
- Continue to advance towards execution of the agreement by those structure owners within 300 feet of each of the boreholes.
- Meet with MDEQ to determine if hearings are necessary when repeated refusal is evidenced in terms of gaining permission to drill within the vicinity of an inhabitable structure.
- Conduct additional H₂S safety training, as appropriate.
- Prepare information for Amendment No. 3 to be forwarded to MDOT to initiate the drilling.

TASK 26 (3710) – REQUIRED MITIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Continued collaboration among disciplines within the technical team and at MDOT, as well as with the community, to continue assessing the potential mitigation measures.
- Met with MDOT to help determine a process whereby the acceptability of mitigation can be established.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- The document being prepared by MDOT to determine the acceptability of mitigation measures to address negative effects of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts is moving forward.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue collaboration among members of the technical team and with the community to define mitigation measures.
- Participate in the November 2nd/U.S. and November 15th/Canadian CSS workshops.

D. UPDATE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SCHEDULE (ATTACHED)

The schedule was last updated in August 2006. Further adjustments await final determination of the start of the deep bore drilling program.

E. ITEMS NEEDED FROM MDOT

- Additional as-built information previously requested.
- Court action involving the PVS company to gain access to the site for drilling.
- Right-of-entry paperwork on properties needed to advance field work for the Practical Alternatives.
- Review and comment on the consultant proposal to conduct archaeological testing.
- Review of the method proposed by the consultant to collect travel data to calibrate the microsimulation model.

F. SUBSTANTIVE VERBAL CONTACTS WITH MDOT (ATTACHED)

- At the following meetings:
 - ✓ September 12th with the federal and state agencies coordination meeting.
 - ✓ September 12th with the Detroit Public Schools facilities planning staff.
 - ✓ September 13th with the U.S. Coast Guard.
 - ✓ September 19th with the Core Team.
 - ✓ September 25th the virtual tour with the State Historic Preservation Office.
 - ✓ September 27th with the Local Agency Group/Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ September 28th with the Working Group.
- Daily e-mail and telephone conversations with the Project Manager at the consultant and MDOT levels.

ATTACHMENT

G. SCHEDULE DETAIL

Original Date	Anticipated Date	Explanation
Fourth week of February 2005	Fourth week of February 2005	1 Preliminary Evaluation Criteria
Last week of March 2005	Mid-April 2005 ¹	2 Study Kickoff
Third week of June 2005	Third week of June 2005	3 Illustrative Alternatives Definition
Fourth week of June 2005	Fourth week of June 2005	4 Scoping Document
Fourth week of August 2005	Fourth week of August 2005	5 Scoping
Third week of November 2005	Third week of November 2005	6 Preliminary Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives
Second week of December 2005	Second week of December 2005	7 Preliminary Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation
Fourth week of February 2006	Fourth week of February 2006	8 Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives/Select Practical Alternatives
Third week of March 2006	Third week of March 2006	9 Practical Alternatives Selection
First week of April 2006	First week of April 2006	10 Context Sensitive Design 1
First week of May 2006	First week of May 2006	11 Community Impact Assessment 1
First week of June 2006	First week of June 2006	12 Community Planning
First week of August 2006 ¹	First week of November 2006	13 Context Sensitive Design 3
Additional Task ¹	Second week of February 2007	14 Context Sensitive Design 4
Additional Task ¹	Second week of April 2007	15 Context Sensitive Design 5
Additional Task ¹	Second week of June 2007	16 Context Sensitive Design 6
Fourth week of July 2006 ¹	Last week of July 2007	17 Engineering Concepts Report
Second week of August 2006 ¹	First week of April 2007	18 Preliminary DEIS
Fourth week of November 2006 ¹	First week of July 2007	19 Public Hearing Script/Video
Second week of October 2006 ¹	Mid-August 2007	20 Draft DEIS
Second week of December 2006 ¹	Mid-August 2007	21 FHWA Approved DEIS
Second week of January 2007 ¹	Mid-September 2007	22 DEIS Public Hearing
Second week of April 2007 ¹	Mid-October 2007	23 Public Hearing Comment Summary
Fourth week of July 2007 ¹	First week of December 2007	24 Recommended Alternative
Additional Task ¹	First week of December 2007	25 Public Meeting
Additional Task ¹	First week of February 2008	26 Public Meeting
Second week of December 2007 ¹	Last week of April 2008	27 Recommended Alternative Presentation
Fourth week of August 2007 ¹	Last week of June 2008	28 Final EIS
Fourth week of September 2007 ¹	Last week of June 2008	29 Final Engineering Report
Fourth week of November 2007 ¹	Last week of June 2008	30 MOU
Fourth week of December 2007 ¹	Last week of June 2008	31 Access Justification Report
Fourth week of December 2007 ¹	Last week of July 2008	32 ROD

¹ Revised in September 2006.

ATTACHMENT

H. CONTACT RECORDS

- Daily contact records, daily e-mails and conversations by phone and in person with the MDOT Project Manager and other MDOT/FHWA personnel.
- Three status reports.
- Monthly progress report.
- Notes of meetings of:
 - ✓ September 12th with the federal and state agencies coordination meeting.
 - ✓ September 12th with the Detroit Public Schools facilities planning staff.
 - ✓ September 13th with the U.S. Coast Guard.
 - ✓ September 19th with the Core Team.
 - ✓ September 25th the virtual tour with the State Historic Preservation Office.
 - ✓ September 27th with the Local Agency Group/Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ September 28th with the Working Group.

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