



Canada-United States-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership

Draft Detroit River International Crossing – Canadian Work Plans

**Social, Archaeological, Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage,
Acoustics and Vibration, and Air Quality**

**February/March 2006
Version 2**

BACKGROUND

The Canada - U.S. – Ontario - Michigan Border Transportation Partnership (The Partnership) is composed of the Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada representing the federal levels of government, and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the Michigan Department of Transportation representing the provincial/state level. The purpose of the Partnership is to improve the movement of people, goods, and services across the United States and Canadian border within the region of Southeast Michigan and Southwestern Ontario.

The partnership is moving forward with technical and environmental work leading to the selection of a new or expanded border crossing, to address cross-border transportation demands for a 30-year planning period.

The Ontario, Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is leading the Canadian work program in coordination with Transport Canada. The Michigan, Department of Transportation (MDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is leading the U.S. work program.

This international transportation improvement project will require approvals from governments on both sides of the border. The Partnership has developed a coordinated process that will enable the joint selection of a recommended river crossing location that meets the requirements of *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (OEA), *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA).

WORK PLANS

A work plan has been prepared for each of the following disciplines: Social Impact; Economic Impact; Archaeological; Cultural Heritage; Natural Heritage; Acoustics and Vibration; Air Quality; Waste and Waste Management; and Technical Considerations.

Each Work Plan has been prepared to structure the filling of identified data gaps. They provide:

- a schedule and order of events for the subject under investigation by phase;
- a rationale for further data collection methodologies;
- data sources;
- methods of assessment, criteria, indicators and measures; and,
- details on the integration of each work plan with the work plans of other disciplines.

The Work Plans have been developed based on current knowledge of existing conditions within the Preliminary Analysis Area (PAA) and therefore, should be considered to be living documents which will be subject to agency and public review. The partnership is aware that the assessment and evaluation of alternatives at all phases will require applying the requirements of three pieces of legislation, the OEA, CEAA, and NEPA. Therefore, in preparing the Work Plans, the partnership has sought to integrate the most rigorous requirements from each piece of legislation.

This document contains the most recent drafts of the Social Impact, Archaeological, Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Acoustics and Vibration, and Air Quality work plans.