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# *News Release Communiqué*

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For Release  
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## **THE DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY TEAM ANNOUNCES PREFERRED ACCESS ROAD**

WINDSOR—The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study team, led by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in partnership with Transport Canada (TC), today presented The Windsor-Essex Parkway – the technically and environmentally preferred alternative for the access road extending Highway 401 to a new inspection plaza and river crossing in West Windsor.

With an estimated price tag of \$1.6 billion (2011 dollars), The Windsor-Essex Parkway will be the most expensive highway ever built in Ontario. It is unprecedented in its community enhancement features for any highway, anywhere in this province and will be designed using Ontario's high safety standards and practices.

The Windsor-Essex Parkway responds to the urgent need to address border congestion, promote investment, retain existing jobs and bring new jobs to the region. An estimated 12,000 project-related jobs will be created as a result of this investment, with the majority being right here in the Windsor-Essex region.

The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides for the safe and improved movement of border-bound traffic and meets specific community goals. Over the last three years, the DRIC study team has held nearly 300 consultation events involving thousands of Tecumseh, LaSalle, Windsor and Essex County residents, community groups, experts, local elected officials and other government agencies. Extensive consultation, combined with detailed technical studies and analysis, led to the development of The Windsor-Essex Parkway.

Structured with the community in mind, The Windsor-Essex Parkway's six-lane below-grade roadway will take trucks off local streets. Eleven strategically located tunnels totalling 1.8 km will safely connect communities and more than 240 acres of parkland and more than 20 km of new recreational trails will improve the quality of life for Windsor and Essex families. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to travel from E.C. Row to Howard Avenue and never cross paths with a vehicle.

The Governments of Canada, the U.S., Ontario and Michigan are committed to an efficient and secure Windsor-Detroit Trade Corridor. The development of additional border capacity is a national priority in both countries to support trade between Canada and the U.S.

Read more about the Windsor-Essex Parkway at [www.weparkway.ca](http://www.weparkway.ca)

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**Image of The Windsor-Essex Parkway**

