

## Straight Talk On...

### What are the Next Steps?

With 40% of Ontario-U.S. trade flowing through the Windsor-Detroit Gateway and 50% of all cross-border truck traffic beginning or ending in either Windsor or Detroit, building an additional border crossing in this area is a national priority for both Canada and the U.S. The DRIC study team has set out to accomplish a challenging task in a short amount of time – deliver and construct an option for a new transportation system from Hwy 401 to an inspection plaza in Canada, across the Detroit River, to an inspection plaza and Interstate freeway system in the U.S. by 2013.

Although 2013 seems like a long time away, it is really quite a short amount of time when you consider just how much needs to be accomplished: an Environmental Assessment (EA) with full community consultation must be completed; reports must be written in both Canada and the U.S. and submitted to respective agencies for approval; detailed engineering designs for the access road, plaza and crossing must be completed; contracts must be awarded—all before construction can begin.

The DRIC study team is on schedule and met a significant project milestone on March 28, 2006, with the announcement of five options for access roads, three inspection plaza locations, and three river crossings for further analysis and community consultation.

Past and future DRIC study project milestones are listed below. Community consultation has been, and will continue to be, an important part of this project and Public Information Open Houses (PIOH) will be held as future milestones are reached.

|  |              |                         |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|
| Study Area Features, Opportunities & Constraints   | April '05    | Initial Public Outreach |
| Initial Set of Crossing Alternatives, Plaza Locations & Connecting Routes in Canada and the U.S. | June '05     | PIOH 1                  |
| Area of Continued Analysis for Practical Alternatives  | December '05 | PIOH 2                  |
| Specific Crossing, Plaza and Access Road Options ( <i>Current Status</i> )                       | March '06    | PIOH 3                  |
| Results of Social, Economic, Environmental and Engineering Assessments                           | December '06 | PIOH 4                  |
| Preferred Crossing Location, Plaza Locations & Connecting Routes in Canada and the U.S.          | Spring '07   | PIOH 5                  |
| Finalize Engineering and Mitigation Measures   | Summer '07   | PIOH 6                  |
| Document Study and Submit for Approvals  | End of '07   | Public Review           |

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and responsible federal agencies, will review the EA report over 2008. It is anticipated that construction will start following approval of the EA report and a new crossing capacity will be in place by 2013.

Updated  
04/03/06