

# **DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY**

***Presentation to Walpole Island First Nation Council***

**February 4, 2008**

## ***Detroit River International Crossing Study (DRIC) Environmental Assessment***

### **Community Meeting February 26, 2008**

Walpole Island Community Centre  
5:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

A presentation will be made at 6:30 p.m.

*Members of the Study Team will be available to answer your questions*

*Refreshments will be available*

Artist's Concept Plaza B Alternative



View of Labelle Street looking  
east from EC Row Expressway



Aerial view of Oakwood  
short tunnel deck looking east

For more information on the Study,  
please visit our website:  
[www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)

# The Border Transportation Partnership

Canada



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**



Ontario





# Purpose of the DRIC Study

To provide for the safe, efficient and secure movement of people and goods across the Canadian-U.S. border in the Detroit River area to support the economies of Ontario, Michigan, Canada and the U.S.

To construct a new end-to-end transportation system that will link Highway 401 to the U.S. interstate system with inspection plazas and a new river crossing in between.

In order to meet the purpose, this study must address the following regional transportation and mobility needs:

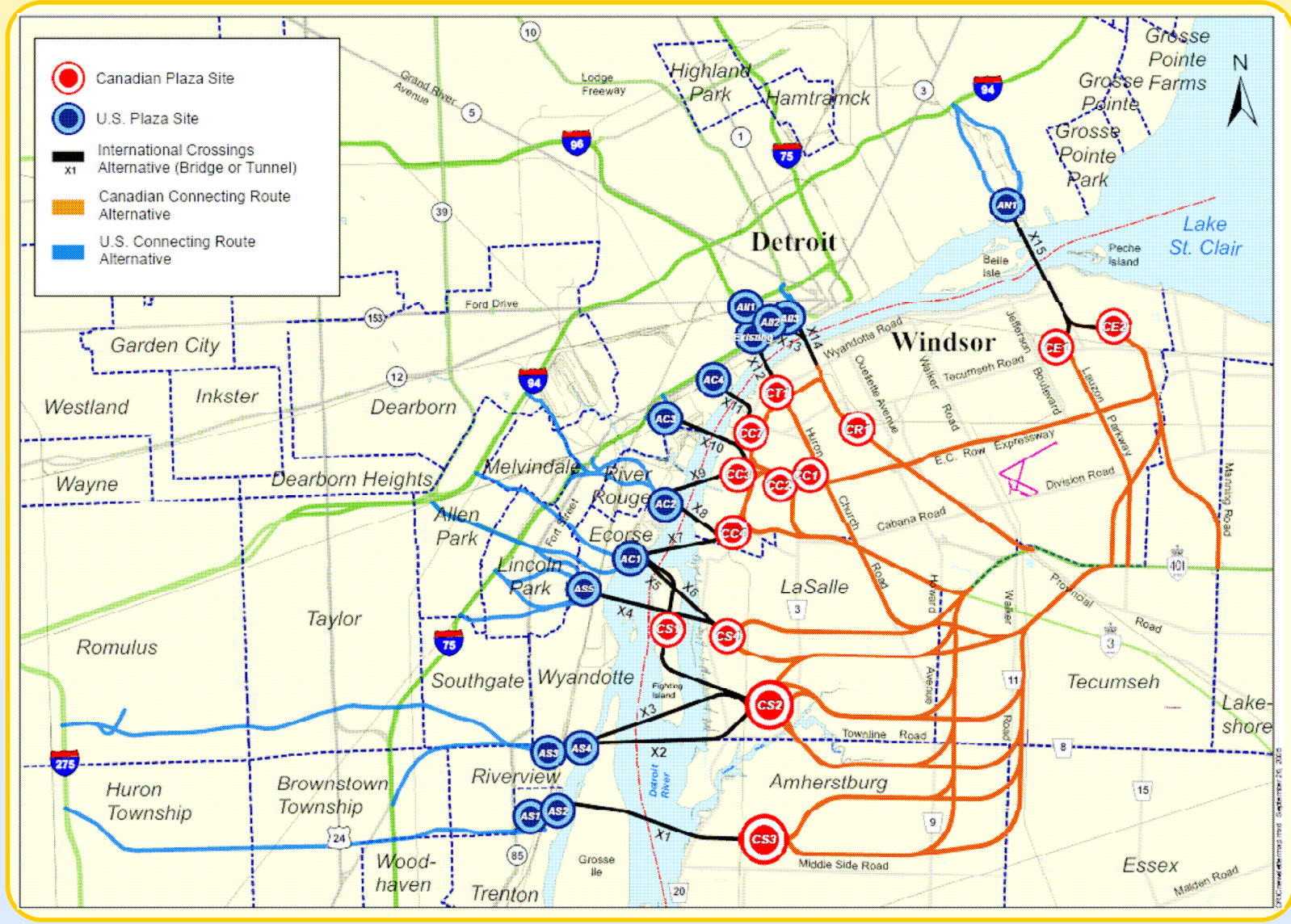
- Provide new border crossing capacity to meet increased long-term travel demand;
- Improve system connectivity to enhance the continuous flow of people and goods;
- Improve operations and processing capabilities at the border; and
- Provide reasonable and secure crossing options (i.e. network redundancy)

The Study Team seeks to implement transportation solutions which minimize community and environmental impacts as much as possible. In particular, the Canadian Study Team is looking to address the local communities' goals to:

- *Improve quality of life*
- *Take trucks off local streets*
- *Improve traffic movement across the border*



# What Alternatives Were Studied?





# Crossing, Plaza & Access Road Alternatives





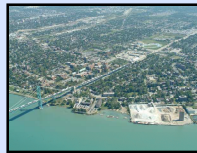
## Detroit River INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY

# Analysis Results – Crossing X12 Ambassador Bridge

- High benefit to regional mobility.
- Limited ability to provide continuous/ongoing river crossing capacity;
- Does not provide a new crossing with new connections.
- High potential for disrupting international traffic



- High impacts to the historic Sandwich community.



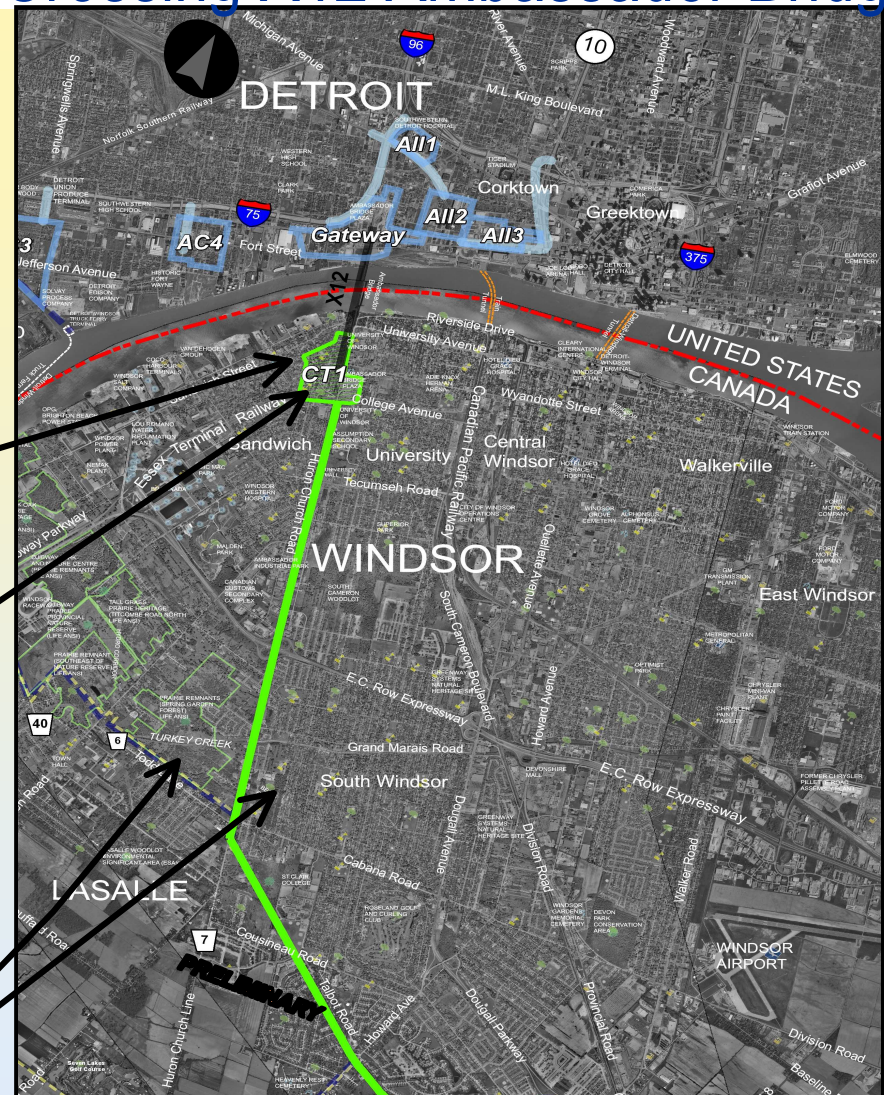
- Limited to no flexibility for future plaza expansion



- Route impacts highway commercial land uses.



- Low impacts to natural features



**Not Recommended to be carried forward** on the Canadian side. On the U.S. side, the Ambassador Bridge is well connected to freeways and is consistent with area land uses. The plaza and gateway connections of this crossing will be carried forward for further study.



# Relationship between DRIC Study and Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project

## DRIC

- Bi-national effort of four government transportation agencies
- Connects freeway networks in Michigan and Ontario
- Planning for bridge, plaza and freeway connection to 2035
- Coordinated Federal/Provincial EA in Canada
- Federal EA triggered by proponentcy and regulatory permits

## Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project

- Private sector initiated by owners of Ambassador Bridge
- Focus on the bridge
- Project developed to address issues related to age of existing bridge
- Federal EA in Canada
- Federal EA triggered by the need for regulatory permits

# Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project

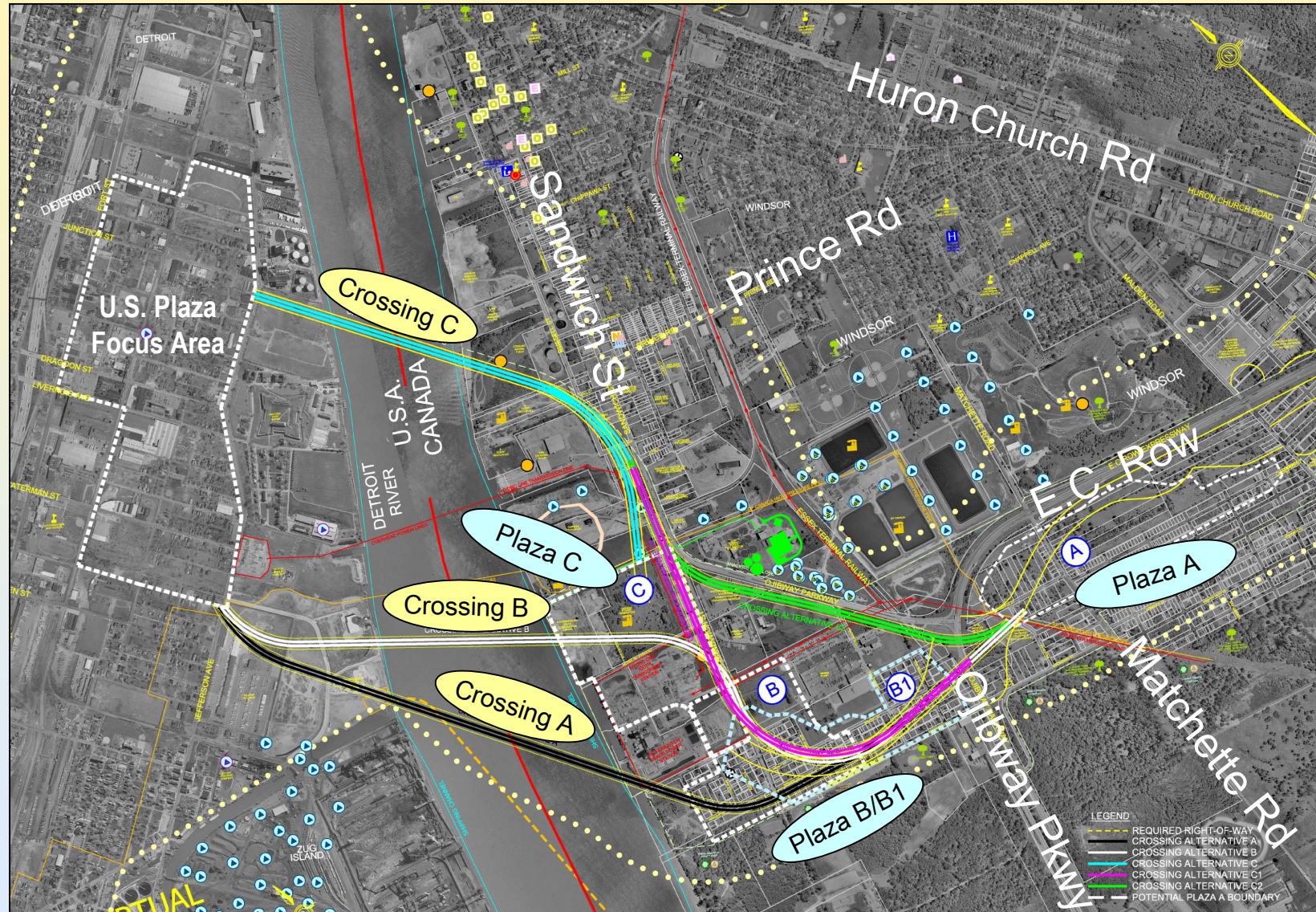


Courtesy of: [www.ambassadorbridge.com](http://www.ambassadorbridge.com)

# Crossing, Plaza & Access Road Alternatives









Canadian Side Image  
X10B – Suspension Bridge



Canadian Side Image  
X11C – Cable Stay Bridge



Canadian Side Image  
X10B – Suspension Bridge



Canadian Side Image  
X11C – Cable Stay Bridge





## View of Labelle Street looking east from EC Row Expressway





Aerial view of Oakwood short tunnel deck looking east





Aerial view of Huron Church Line short tunnel looking east



# WIFN Community Meeting Overview

- Overview of DRIC Study
- Treaties of the Bkejwanong Territory
- Overview of Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and Canadian Environmental Assessment Act processes
- Illustrative and Practical Alternatives Considered to Date
- Seven Evaluation Factors-Access Road Alternatives
- Parkway Alternative Overview
- Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Conducted to Date
- Seven Evaluation Factors-Crossing and Plaza Alternatives
- Community Input to Date
- Next Steps



- June 2005 – Initial Meeting regarding the DRIC Study
- January 2006 – Meeting held to review study progress
- February 2006 – Meeting held to review study progress
- April 2006 – Presentation to WIFN Council
- November 2006 – Meeting held to review study progress
- February 2007 – Meeting held to review study progress
- December 2007 – Meeting held to review study progress
- January 2008 – Meeting held to review study progress

- **Protection of Cultural Resources**
  - Possession of Artifacts
- **Protection of Natural Environment**
  - Piers in river/disturbance of river bottom
  - Air and water quality
  - Species at Risk
- **Introduction of Foreign Species**
- **Protection of Other Interests**
  - Detroit River land claim
  - Legal duty to consult
  - Sharing of information with other First Nations
  - Funding for meaningful participation
  - Economic opportunities
  - Reflect historical presence in naming of bridge

## Other First Nation Contacts

- Met with representatives of Oneida Nation of the Thames, Caldwell First Nation and Munsee Delaware Nation May 2005
- Aamjiwnaang
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point
- Moravian of the Thames
- Chippewas of the Thames

DRIC continues to provide regular updates along with offers to meet with all the First Nations identified above.



- DEIS being drafted/under Agency Review
- Public review period scheduled to start in the next month
- No decisions on crossings; plaza, interchange connections
- Will be/have been engaging tribal authorities as part of their study process

- Refine Parkway option and complete analysis
- Continue to consult with public
- Complete technical and environmental studies
- With our U.S. partners, present a single technically and environmentally preferred alternative
- Submit final study documents



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