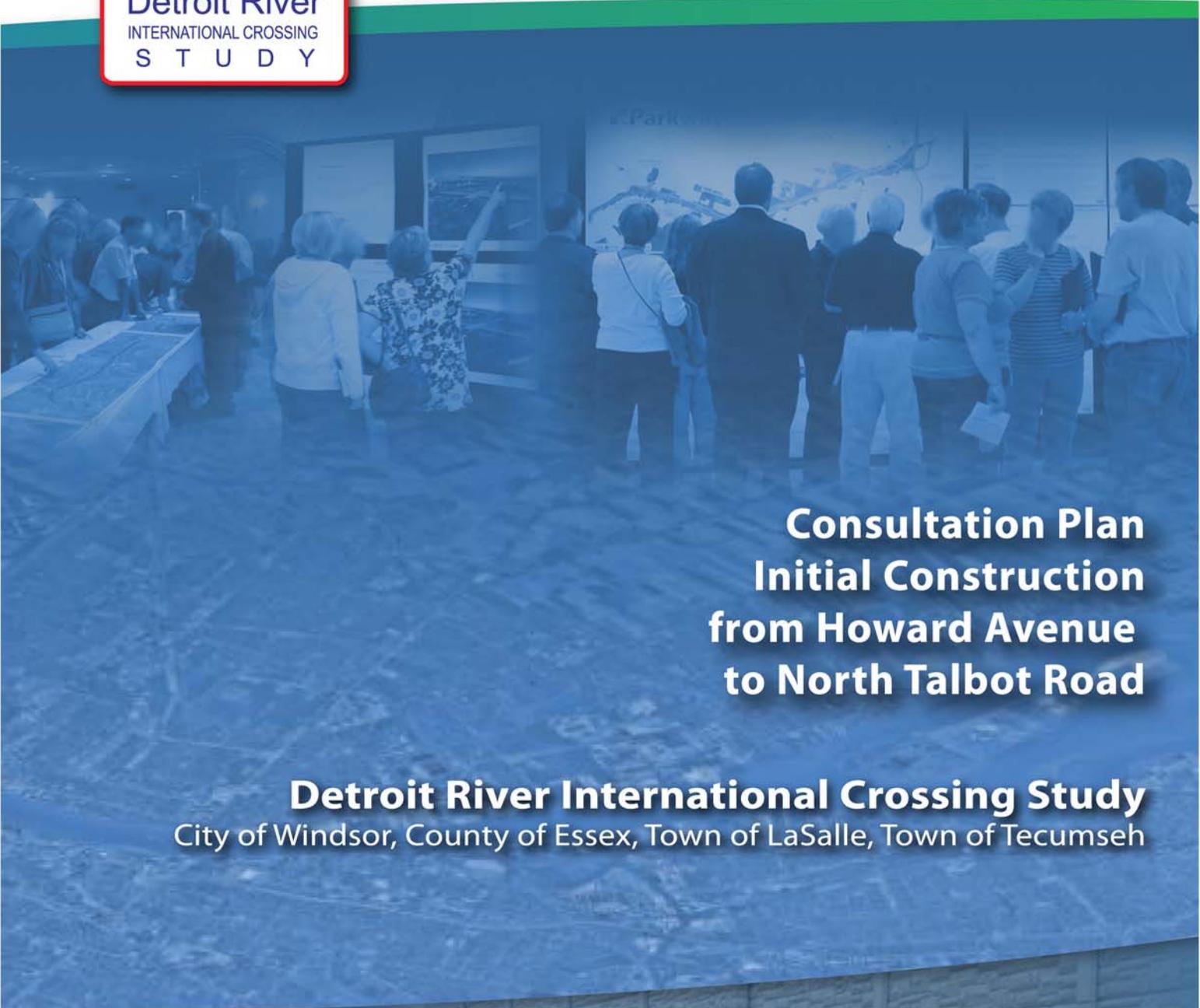


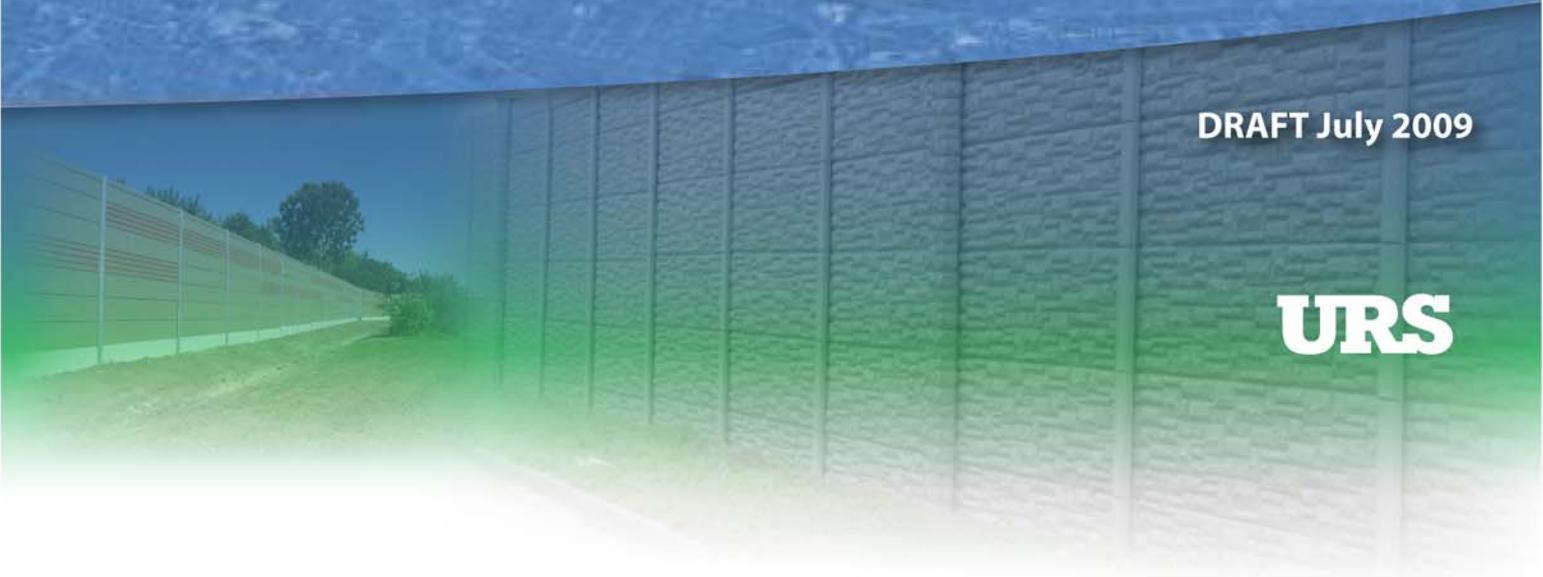
**Detroit River**  
INTERNATIONAL CROSSING  
S T U D Y



**Consultation Plan  
Initial Construction  
from Howard Avenue  
to North Talbot Road**

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
City of Windsor, County of Essex, Town of LaSalle, Town of Tecumseh

DRAFT July 2009



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## 1.0 Introduction and Purpose of the Consultation Plan

### 1.1 Background

The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study is a bi-national transportation improvement study that is being undertaken by a partnership of the federal, state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States.

The Partnership includes the transportation authorities from two federal governments and two provincial/state governments. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is an arm of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Transport Canada (TC) is the corresponding federal agency in Canada. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are the provincial and state agencies that have roadway jurisdiction in Ontario and Michigan.

The purpose of the Detroit River International Crossing study is to improve the movement of people and goods across the Canada-US border which will support the economies of Ontario, Michigan, Canada and the United States. The Partnership initiated a formal environmental assessment process for a new or expanded Detroit River International Crossing. An integrated environmental assessment process was developed to meet the requirements of the respective legislation of each jurisdiction, including the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)*, the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (OEAA)*, and the *U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*.

In Canada, the study process was led by MTO. In the U.S., the study was led by the MDOT. The Canadian and U.S. teams coordinated their work, to minimize duplication and to ensure that a single end-to-end solution would be developed.

### 1.2 Initial Construction Details

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), in coordination with Transport Canada, is leading the *Environmental Assessment* study and its implementation in Canada and has retained URS Canada Inc. to assist in the undertaking. The Windsor-Essex Parkway was identified as the recommended solution to the new access road that will connect Highway 401 to a new inspection plaza and crossing of the Detroit River. As a component of The Windsor-Essex Parkway, the Ministry of Transportation is proceeding with the design of two bridges (No.13 and No.14) as well as noise mitigation along the easterly end of the study area from Howard Avenue to North Talbot Road. The detail design for the remaining components of the DRIC study will be addressed in future design stages.

Proceeding with construction of the two bridges and noise mitigation, is conditional on receipt of the required Ontario and Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act* approvals and any approvals required under the Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*.

### 1.3 Purpose Of This Consultation Plan

Consultation provides opportunities for two-way communication with interested stakeholders. Consultation activities also enable the identification of project issues early on in the decision-making process and ensure they are given appropriate consideration. Consultation is also important in communicating the design and implementation of the two bridges (No.13 and No.14) as well as noise mitigation along the easterly end of the study

area from Howard Avenue to North Talbot Road.

The purpose of this Consultation Plan is to outline the consultation program to be carried out when conducting design work for the initial construction and design of two bridges and noise mitigation. In particular, this document outlines the consultation approach for the initial construction including:

- Notifying agencies, municipalities, the public, First Nations, property owners and other stakeholders of the design and construction works;
- Identifying the consultation methods that will be used to consult interested and affected stakeholders; and
- Identify how stakeholder input will be received and taken into account.

As outlined in the *Detroit River International Crossing Environmental Assessment Report* (December 2008), the Ministry of Transportation is committed to the development of consultation plans that will assist future design phases of the project.

The consultation commitments outlined in the *Detroit River International Crossing Environmental Assessment Report* (December 2008) that are relevant to this initial construction include:

- Noise barrier mitigation design;
- Landscape plan elements for The Windsor-Essex Parkway (easterly component only for this initial construction project)
- Construction staging and associated mitigation elements;
- Commitment to further work with public and external agency stakeholders in addressing environmental impacts; and
- First Nations consultation

Additional consultation plan(s) will be prepared for the design works leading to the implementation of the DRIC project including The Windsor-Essex Parkway, Plaza and Crossing. Future consultation plans prepared for the DRIC project will be made available for public input at the outset of the future design phases.

This consultation plan is being made available for stakeholder review and comment. Please refer to Section 3.0 for details regarding how to provide input on the consultation plan for this initial construction.

## 2.0 Consultation Plan for Initial Construction

The public has a major role and responsibility in determining the success of a public consultation program. The extent to which the public participates, the issues they raise and how such issues are resolved all influence the effectiveness of the consultation process.

The following consultation activities are designed to provide opportunities for effective two-way communication with interested stakeholders.

### 2.1 Public Consultation Methods

One of the key components of public consultation is Public Information Open Houses (PIOHs). They provide one of the most useful and beneficial techniques of exchanging information with the public. Public Information Open Houses (PIOHs) provide:

- A means of describing and/or explaining the project
- A means of communicating project impacts, mitigation and schedule of construction, if known
- A means of gathering additional study area information;
- A forum for reviewing project conclusions to date and for providing comments to the Project Team;
- An opportunity to address individual needs for information;
- Follow-up on matters of specific interest to the individual; and
- An opportunity to learn about potential effects on individual properties.

#### 2.1.1 PIOH

The community continues to have an important role to play in the design of The Windsor-Essex Parkway project. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) will be held for the initial construction as part of The Windsor-Essex Parkway implementation.

The PIOH will be arranged in summer 2009 to gain public input to the proposed noise mitigation and bridge works. Members of the public will be notified of the PIOH through the following methods as appropriate:

- News advertisements
- Letters to individuals on the Project Team's mailing list
- Registered letters to potentially affected property owners
- Postings on the Project Website

At the PIOH there will be an opportunity to fill out a comment sheet and to also speak with knowledgeable Project Team members. The stakeholder input received at the PIOH will be considered by the Project Team in determining the design details of the proposed noise wall in the Southwood Lakes community (between Howard Avenue and North Talbot Road).

### 2.1.2 Follow-Up Activities

The Public Information Open House may be augmented by follow-up activities such as workshops and informal/kitchen table meetings with interest groups and residents. The focus of follow-up activities is to provide the opportunity to bring stakeholders together to develop an understanding of the potential impacts of the design and construction activities to be considered and to address specific project issues and concerns as they arise. The format of these activities will be flexible to reflect the type of Project Team - stakeholder interaction required to address a particular issue(s).

A workshop will be held following the Public Information Open House to address the design and aesthetic treatments of the residential side of the proposed noise wall located adjacent to the Southwood Lakes community. Adjacent property owners will also be notified of the opportunity to participate in the workshop.

## 2.2 Public Notification Procedures

Public notification is an essential element in the consultation process and will be provided as follows:

- A "Notice of Detail Design Commencement and Public Information Open House" (newspaper advertisement) will announce the commencement of the detail design of two bridges (No.13 and No.14) and noise mitigation along the easterly end of the study area (from Howard Avenue to North Talbot Road), as well as the details of the scheduled Public Information Open House;
- A "Notice of Design and Construction Report Submission" (newspaper advertisement) will announce the completion of this detail design assignment and locations for review of the Design and Construction Report;
- Notices of follow-up activities will be published and / or distributed as appropriate.

Notices will be placed in the following newspapers as appropriate:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Windsor Star              | ▪ Harrow News        |
| ▪ Kingsville Reporter       | ▪ Essex Voice        |
| ▪ Leamington Post & Shopper | ▪ Essex Free Press   |
| ▪ Le Rempart (French)       | ▪ Amherstburg Echo   |
| ▪ LaSalle Post              | ▪ LaSalle Silhouette |

In addition, brochures and/or letters will be directly sent to those on the Project Team's mailing list, and attendees of the PIOH.

The project Website ([www.weparkway.ca](http://www.weparkway.ca)) or ([www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)) will also relay project information and notices of project activities. The Website will be updated throughout the study and will include an opportunity for comments or questions to be directly provided to the project team.

## 2.3 External & First Nations Consultation

External agencies provide valuable support by identifying compliance issues (laws, regulations, policies and programs) and other areas of concern within their jurisdiction. These groups can offer valuable input and professional expertise and are often knowledgeable regarding local issues and can assist in the identification of local interest groups that should be consulted. Consultation (meetings and/or discussions) will be undertaken as necessary with Provincial Ministries / Agencies, Federal Agencies, Municipalities and First Nation Groups.

Given the scope of this initial construction, it is expected that external agency consultation will primarily involve meetings / discussion with MNR and focus on permitting requirements and approvals under the Ontario Endangered Species Act.

The Project Team will continue to engage Walpole Island First Nation to address any issues or concerns that may arise as the project progresses.

External agency and First Nations notification is an essential element in the consultation process and notification letters will be provided to these external stakeholders as follows:

- A "Notice of Detail Design Commencement and Public Information Open House" (newspaper advertisement) will announce the commencement of the detail design of two bridges (No.13 and No.14) and noise mitigation along the easterly end of the study area (from Howard Avenue to North Talbot Road), as well as the details of the scheduled Public Information Open House; and
- A "Notice of Design and Construction Report Submission" (newspaper advertisement) will announce the completion of this detail design assignment and locations for review of the Design and Construction Report.

## 2.4 Review of Detail Design Documentation

A Design and Construction Report (DCR) will be prepared and made available for public and external agency review. The DCR will document how the commitments and mitigation outlined in the Ontario *Environmental Assessment* and the Canadian *Environmental Assessment* have been addressed. Notices advising of the availability of the Design and Construction Report for review will be published in local newspapers.

## 3.0 Contacting the DRIC Project Team & Providing Comments

### 3.1 How to Contact the Project Team and Provide Comments

Interested individuals can contact the Canadian Project Team as noted below.

For more information on the study please visit us electronically from the study website ([www.weparkway.ca](http://www.weparkway.ca)) or ([www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)).

To provide comments on this Draft Consultation Plan please submit your comments to either of the addresses noted below by July 31, 2009.

**Ministry of Transportation  
Windsor Border Initiatives  
Implementation Group**  
949 McDougall Street, Suite 200, Windsor  
[detroit.river@ontario.ca](mailto:detroit.river@ontario.ca)

**URS Canada Inc.  
DRIC Project Office**  
1010 University Avenue, Suite 104, Windsor  
[info@partnershipborderstudy.com](mailto:info@partnershipborderstudy.com)

Information collected at these Open Houses and Workshops will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments become part of the public record.