



January 28, 2009
Our Ref.: 33015835

Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario
N8M 1Y6

Attention: Dan Lebedyk, Conservation Biologist

Re: Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment Study

Dear Mr. Lebedyk:

Thank you for your comments submitted in response to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report made available for review between Wednesday, November 12, 2008 and Friday, December 12, 2008.

Your acknowledgement of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study team's extensive consideration of the natural environment has been noted and is appreciated.

The Environmental Assessment Report (the EA Report), which reflects comments received from all stakeholders during the review period noted above was filed with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on December 31, 2008. This report has also been circulated to external stakeholders including relevant agencies, municipalities, and First Nations, and has been made available for public review at a number of locations within the study area (refer to enclosed *Notice of Submission of Ontario Environmental Assessment*). Anyone wishing to provide comments on the EA Report must submit their comments in writing and/or by fax to the Ministry of the Environment by **Friday February 27, 2009**. All comments must be submitted to:

Catherine McLennon, Special Project Officer
Ministry of the Environment
EA Project Coordination Section
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5
Tel: 416-314-7222/1-800-461-6290
Fax: 416-314-8452

During future design stages, the Partnership will continue to consult with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), as well as other stakeholders on various aspects of The DRIC Study.

URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, ON Canada L3T 7N9
Tel: 905.882.4401
Fax: 905.882.4399
www.urs.ca



Your contact information remains on our contact list and you will receive study updates and be notified in advance of future events related to this project. If you have any further comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Again, thank you for your participation and comments.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Thompson'.

Murray Thompson, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager

cc. Catherine McLennon, MOE
Dave Wake, MTO
Roger Ward, MTO
Joel Foster, MTO

Encl.

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY

The Canada-United States-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership has completed the provincial Environmental Assessment for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. As required under section 6.2(1) of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and according to the Terms of Reference approved by the Ontario Minister of the Environment on September 17, 2004, the study team submitted its Environmental Assessment to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment on December 31, 2008 for review and approval.

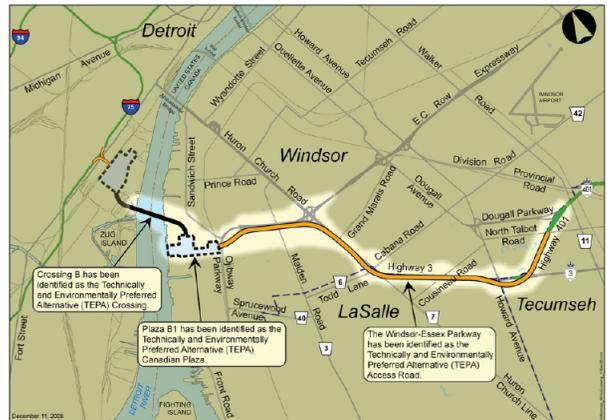
Windsor-Detroit is the busiest commercial land border crossing in North America. Reliable roadway connections and border crossings are essential for the secure and efficient movement of people and goods in this strategic international corridor. Improvements are needed to provide alternatives in cases of major incidents, maintenance operations, congestion or other disruptions at any of the existing border crossings.

Through extensive technical studies and public consultation, the DRIC study team has identified The Windsor-Essex Parkway, along with a new customs plaza and international bridge in the Brighton Beach industrial area of west Windsor as the Recommended Plan. The DRIC study is a bi-national planning study being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in Canada, and coordinated with the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act in the United States. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), in coordination with Transport Canada, has led the Environmental Assessment study in Canada, and retained URS Canada Inc. to assist in this undertaking.

The improvements recommended in this study include:

- A new six-lane freeway linking Highway 401 to a new inspection plaza and border crossing;
- 11 tunnels covering 1.8 km of the new freeway;
- A green corridor that provides more than 300 acres of parkland and 20 km of new recreational trails;
- A new four-lane service road;
- A new Canadian inspection plaza; and
- A new six lane bridge crossing the Detroit River.

As required under the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment from Friday, January 9, 2009 to Friday, February 27, 2009.



The Environmental Assessment will be available for review during normal business hours at the following locations and can be downloaded from the study website at <http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com>

**Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group**
949 McDougall Avenue, Suite 200
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 973-7367

**Office of the Clerk
Town of LaSalle**
5950 Malden Road
LaSalle, Ontario
Tel: (519) 969-7770

**Windsor Public Library
Central Branch**
850 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

LaSalle Public Library
5940 Malden Road
LaSalle, Ontario
Tel: (519) 969-8992

**Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch**
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario
Tel: 1-800-461-6290

**Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Windsor Area Office**
4510 Rhodes Drive, Unit 620
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 948-1464

**Office of the Clerk
Town of Tecumseh**
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario
Tel: (519) 735-2184

**Windsor Public Library
Sandwich Branch**
3312 Sandwich Street
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

Tecumseh Public Library
13675 St. Gregory's Road
Tecumseh, Ontario
Tel: (519) 735-3670

Ontario Ministry of the Environment West Region Office
733 Exeter Road
London, Ontario
Tel: 1-800-265-7672

**Office of the Clerk
City of Windsor**
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6211

**Office of the Clerk
County of Essex**
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario
Tel: (519) 776-6441

**Windsor Public Library
Nikola Budimir Branch**
1310 Grand Marais West
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, Ontario
Tel: (905) 882-4401

Anyone wishing to provide comments on the environmental assessment must submit their comments in writing and/or by fax to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment by Friday, February 27, 2009. All comments must be submitted to:

Catherine McLennon, Special Project Officer
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
EA Project Coordination Section
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5
Tel: (416) 314-7222 or 1-800-461-6290
Fax: 416-314-8452

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent for its consideration. If you have any questions or need further information about this project, please contact:

<p>Mr. Roger Ward Senior Project Manager Ministry of Transportation Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group 949 McDougall Avenue, Suite 200 Windsor, Ontario N9A 1L9 Tel: (519) 973-7367 / Fax: (519) 973-7327 e-mail: detroit.river@ontario.ca</p>	<p>Mr. Murray Thompson, P.Eng. Consultant Project Manager Detroit River International Crossing Windsor Project Office 1010 University Avenue West, Suite 104 Windsor, Ontario N9A 5S4 Tel: (519) 969-9696 / Fax: (519) 969-5012 Toll Free: 1-800-900-2649 e-mail: info@partnershipborderstudy.com</p>
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For more information visit www.partnershipborderstudy.com or www.weparkway.ca

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

