



January 28, 2009  
Our Ref.: 33015835

Essex Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police  
1219 10<sup>th</sup> Concession Road  
P.O. Box 910  
Essex, Ontario N8M 2Y2

Attention: Provincial Constable Steve Johnston, Strategic Planning Officer

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

Dear Mr. Johnston:

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.

The design of the proposed roundabout at the intersection of realigned Highway 3, the Howard Avenue diversion and the proposed freeway on and off-ramps east of Howard Avenue is based on FHWA Roundabout Design Standards and a best practices review of other state and provincial road authorities. The study team has thoroughly researched, reviewed and considered the operational requirements for two lane roundabouts and are confident that it will operate safely, with appropriate driver education. A requirement of the successful proponent for implementing the Windsor-Essex Parkway will include a design team with expertise in the design roundabouts in North America.

Regarding the initial public reaction to introducing a roundabout into a community that previously has had no experience with a roundabout, our understanding is that several Ontario jurisdictions have recently introduced roundabouts, and the experience has been very good. A 2001 study (by Persaud et al) of 24 intersections in the United States reported that converting intersections from traffic signals or stop signs to roundabouts reduced injury collisions by 80 % and all collisions by 40 %. Similarly, another study (by Eisenman et al) reported a 75 % decrease in injury collisions and a 37 % decrease in total collisions at 35 intersections that were converted from traffic signals to roundabouts. Furthermore, studies of intersections in Europe and Australia that were converted to roundabouts have reported 41-61 % reductions in injury collisions and 45-75 % reductions in severe injury collisions.

Projected traffic volumes approaching the proposed roundabout are documented in the report entitled *Level 3 Traffic Operations Analysis - Technically and Environmentally Preferred Alternative (December 2008)* which is available on the study website at [www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com). Analysis of the roundabout using these traffic volumes indicate that the roundabout is expected to operate at Level of Service 'B' in the year 2035 PM peak hour. Posted speeds on the roadways approaching the proposed roundabout will be explored further during future design phases in consultation with municipalities and emergency services representatives.

Regarding your inquiry about the possibility of the OPP monitoring CCTV camera feeds for The Windsor-Essex Parkway, the OPP could receive the camera feeds via the Internet over a secure site. The study team will be confirming additional design details in 2009 including the intended procedure to share the images.

URS Canada Inc.  
75 Commerce Valley Drive East  
Markham, ON Canada L3T 7N9  
Tel: 905.882.4401  
Fax: 905.882.4399  
[www.urs.ca](http://www.urs.ca)



The Ontario Environmental Assessment Report was filed with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on December 31, 2008 (refer to enclosed *Notice of Submission of Ontario Environmental Assessment*). The federal EA Screening Report will be submitted to federal authorities for review/approval under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) early in 2009. Anyone wishing to provide comments on the Ontario Environmental Assessment 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 on various aspects of the DRIC Study. Stakeholders identified on our contact lists (including OPP) will be advised of upcoming events. Opportunities for public engagement will also be advertised in the local media.

Your contact information has been placed on our contact list and you will receive study updates and be notified in advance of public meetings. If there are any errors in your contact information, or if you would prefer to have your name removed from the contact list, please contact the undersigned.

If you have any further comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact the study team through the project website at [www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com), or by calling the Project Toll Free number at 1-800-900-2649.

Again, thank you for your participation and comments.

Yours very truly,

Murray Thompson, P.Eng.  
Consultant Project Manager

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

Encl.

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**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.

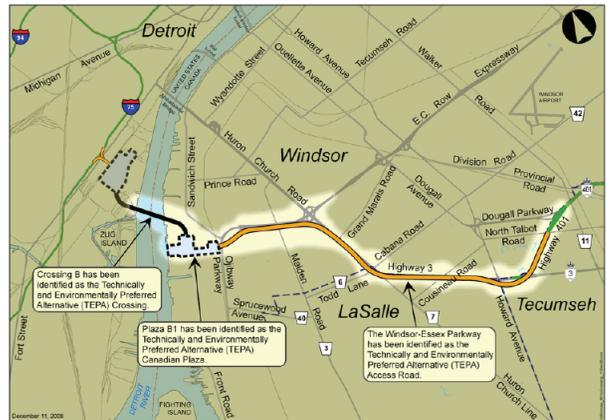
Windsor-Detroit is the busiest commercial land border crossing in North America. Reliable roadway connections and border crossings are essential for the secure and efficient movement of people and goods in this strategic international corridor. Improvements are needed to provide alternatives in cases 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><b>Mr. Roger Ward</b> <b>Senior Project Manager</b> 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: <a href="mailto:detroit.river@ontario.ca">detroit.river@ontario.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Mr. Murray Thompson, P.Eng.</b> <b>Consultant Project Manager</b> 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: <a href="mailto:info@partnershipborderstudy.com">info@partnershipborderstudy.com</a></p>
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For more information visit [www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com) or [www.weparkway.ca](http://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.

