



MDOT **PRESS RELEASE**

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MDOT seeks comments on the scope of the Detroit River International Crossing Study from local advisory council and federal, state, and local officials

August 1, 2005-- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has started preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a new or expanded Detroit River crossing, plaza, and associated roadway connections in the Detroit-Windsor metropolitan areas of Wayne County, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada. As part of the early coordination and scoping process for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study, MDOT will conduct a scoping meeting on Aug. 31, 2005, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Ambassador Room of Cobo Hall, One Washington Boulevard, Detroit.

The DRIC study is a binational effort to identify solutions that support the regional, state, provincial, and national economies while addressing civil and national defense, and homeland security needs of the busiest trade corridor between Canada and the United States. The Border Transportation Partnership provides high-level sponsorship for this study, and includes the Federal Highway Administration, MDOT, Transport Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

The meeting will provide the opportunity for federal, state and local agencies to review and comment on the scoping document that is being prepared to help guide the study process. The DRIC Local Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of community groups and local elected officials, also will participate in the meeting. The public is welcome to hear the agency concerns. Comments received from the agencies and the public throughout the scoping process will lead to a thorough environmental analysis, including all reasonable alternatives and

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mitigation measures. In addition to the public meetings already held, the public is encouraged to comment on the scoping process by submitting their comments via mail to DRIC Study, Bureau of Transportation Planning, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909; or by fax to (517) 373-9255; or the project Web site at www.partnershipborderstudy.com.

MDOT is seeking comments on this study relating to specific areas of concern, acceptable methodologies for impact assessment, and mitigation/permitting requirements that may be necessary for project implementation. For additional information or to view the Scoping Document and Work Plan, please visit the project Web site.

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