

# Senate Committee Hearing

*August 15, 2008*

---

*Detroit River International Crossing  
(DRIC) Study*



## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# *Presentation Outline*

---

### ❑ Introductory Comments

- *Ronald K. DeCook – MDOT, Director of Governmental Affairs*

### ❑ Additional Comments

- *James J. Steele – FHWA, Michigan Division Administrator*
- *Ron DeCook – MDOT, Director of Government Affairs*
- *Mohammed Alghurabi – DRIC Project Manager*

Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

*James Steele, Administrator*

*FHWA Michigan Division*

*August 15, 2008*

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

- In the fall of 2000, representatives of the Canadian Federal Government (Transport Canada) and the U.S. Federal Government (Federal Highway Administration) along with representatives of Michigan DOT and Ontario Ministry of Transportation met in Windsor, Ontario, to review current traffic and future traffic needs in the Detroit-Windsor corridor.

## *DRIC Background*

---

- Outcome from that meeting:
  - Traffic projections showed that in the 2015-2020 period, the existing crossing would become congested.
  - We agreed that we needed to study the issue.
  - August 2001 – An international planning study was initiated. Funded, jointly by Canada and the U.S.
  - Study concluded there was a need for 10 lanes in the corridor.
  - In 2004, the DRIC environmental process began.



---

# ***DRIC is a Bi-National Undertaking***

*Led by the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada. We are assisted by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.*



## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# U.S. Government Involvement

---

- In March 2007, senior representatives of the U.S. State Department, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Commerce, General Services Administration, Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Customs and Border Protection Agency met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the DRIC project.

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

- They affirmed that the U.S. Government will work in a coordinated way to ensure:
  - Safety and security of transportation users, the public, transportation infrastructure, and crossing operations
  - Facilitation of legitimate movement of trade and people
  - Protection of the national economy
  - Maximized value and economic benefits over the life of the crossing
  - Adequate, reliable, and sustainable capacity for the life of the crossing
  - A crossing system and chosen governance structures acceptable to the United States, Canada, Michigan, and Ontario

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

- During the meeting, participants discussed and concurred with the following points:
  - U.S. Department of Transportation will take the leadership role in advancing planning and implementation of the important transportation project
  - The Department of State is the lead agency for the DRIC Presidential Permitting process
  - The Agencies will work together to support the goals related to their respective responsibilities
  - Cooperating Agencies will have the opportunity to review and comment on issues related to the development of a DRIC governance structure to ensure compatibility with their roles and responsibility pertaining to the crossing.
  - USDOT, in its capacity as group lead, will communicate with Transport Canada and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# MDOT Role

---

- USDOT/FHWA, building on its historic partnership with MDOT through the Federal-Aid Highway Program has asked Michigan DOT to be its agent in the study and project development.

Together FHWA and MDOT, in concert with Transport Canada and Ontario Ministry of Transport, have undertaken the study known as the Detroit River International Crossing or DRIC.

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

The Federal Highway Administration is the lead agency for the development of the DRIC Environmental Impact Statement. The following are cooperating agencies.

---

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. General Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of State



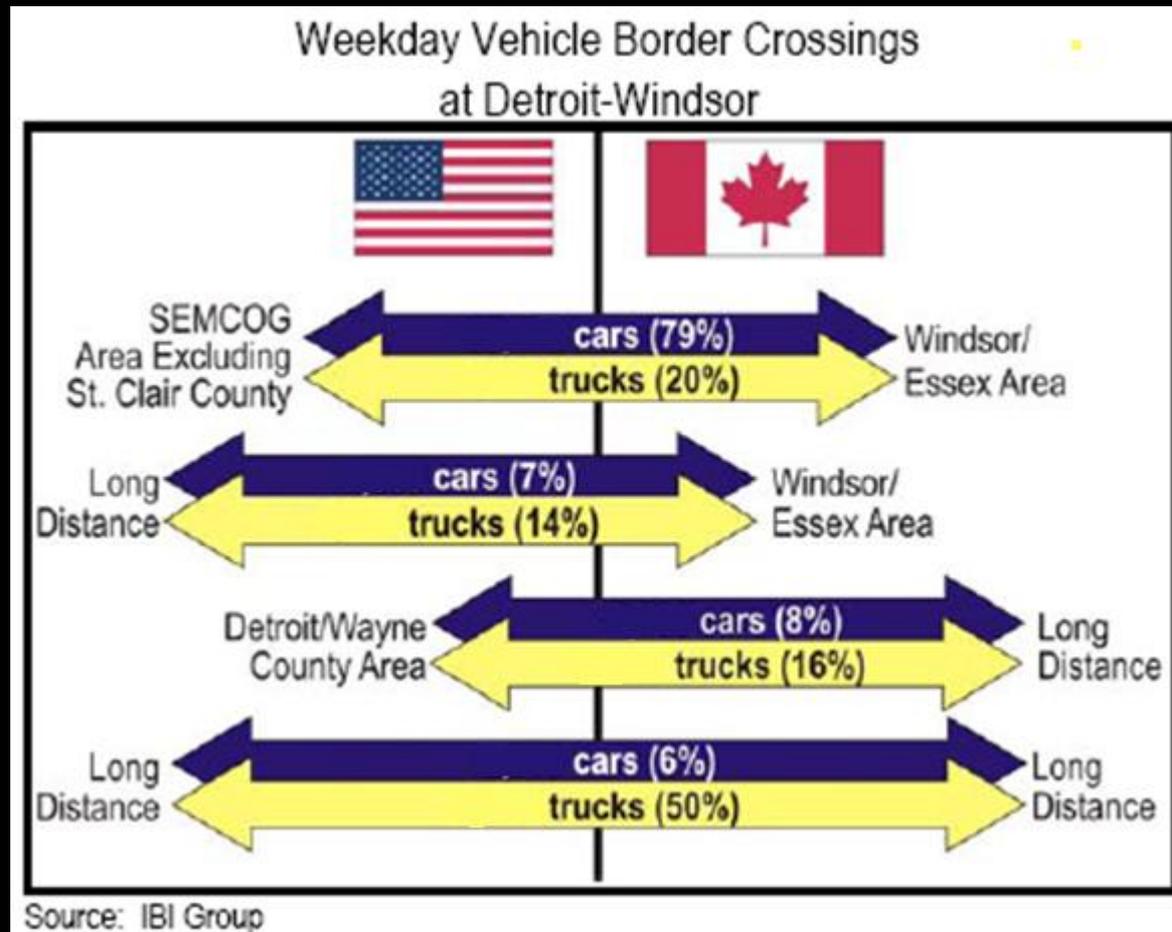
## Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

- A lot has been said about the local aspects of the project. However, approximately 80% of the traffic is destined to point outside of Michigan as shown on the next two slides.

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# Composition of Border Traffic



# Detroit River International Crossing Study

## International Trade Shipped by Truck Using the Detroit Border Crossing



## *Purpose of DRIC Project*

---

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

# Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

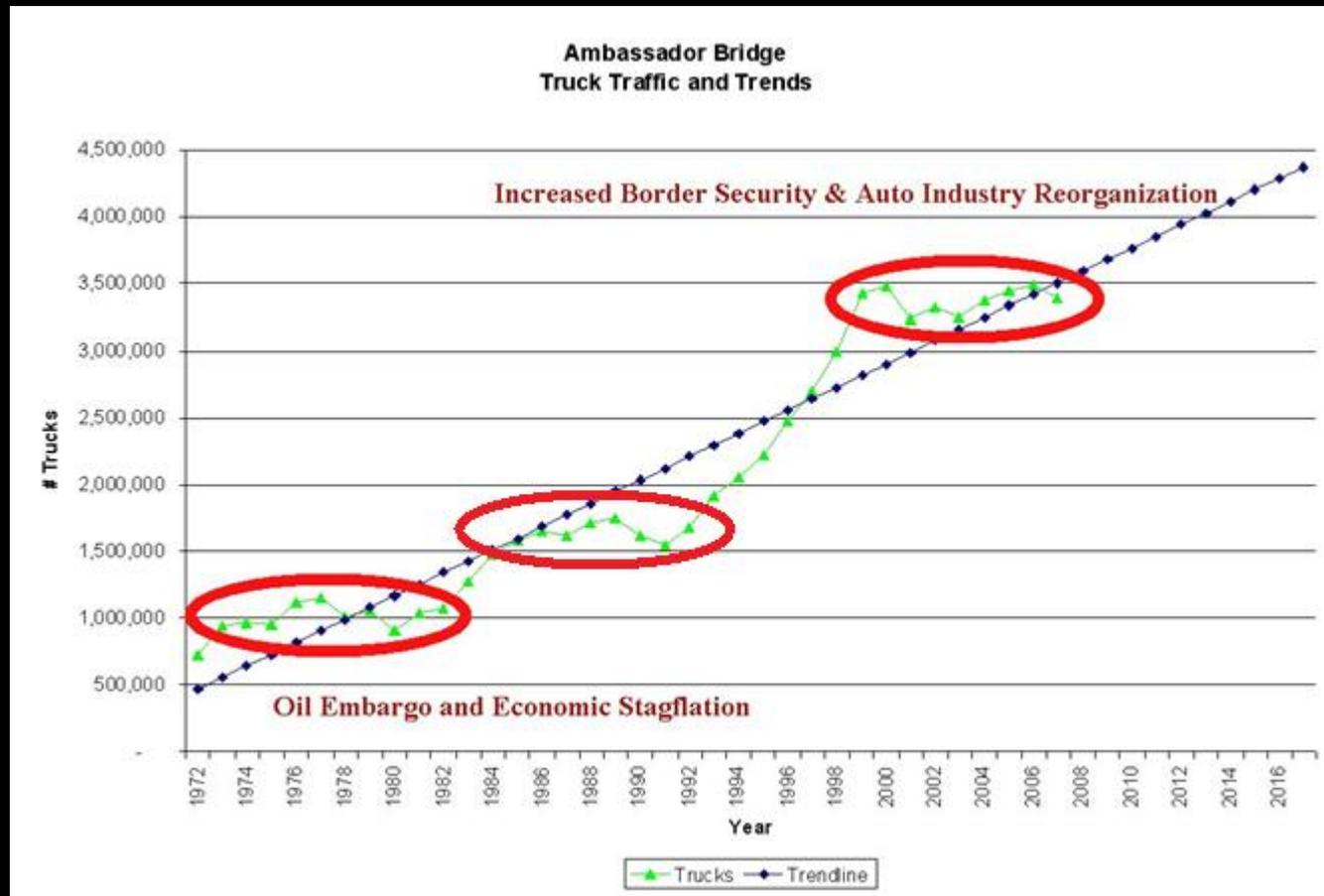
*Ron DeCook*

*Director, Governmental Affairs*

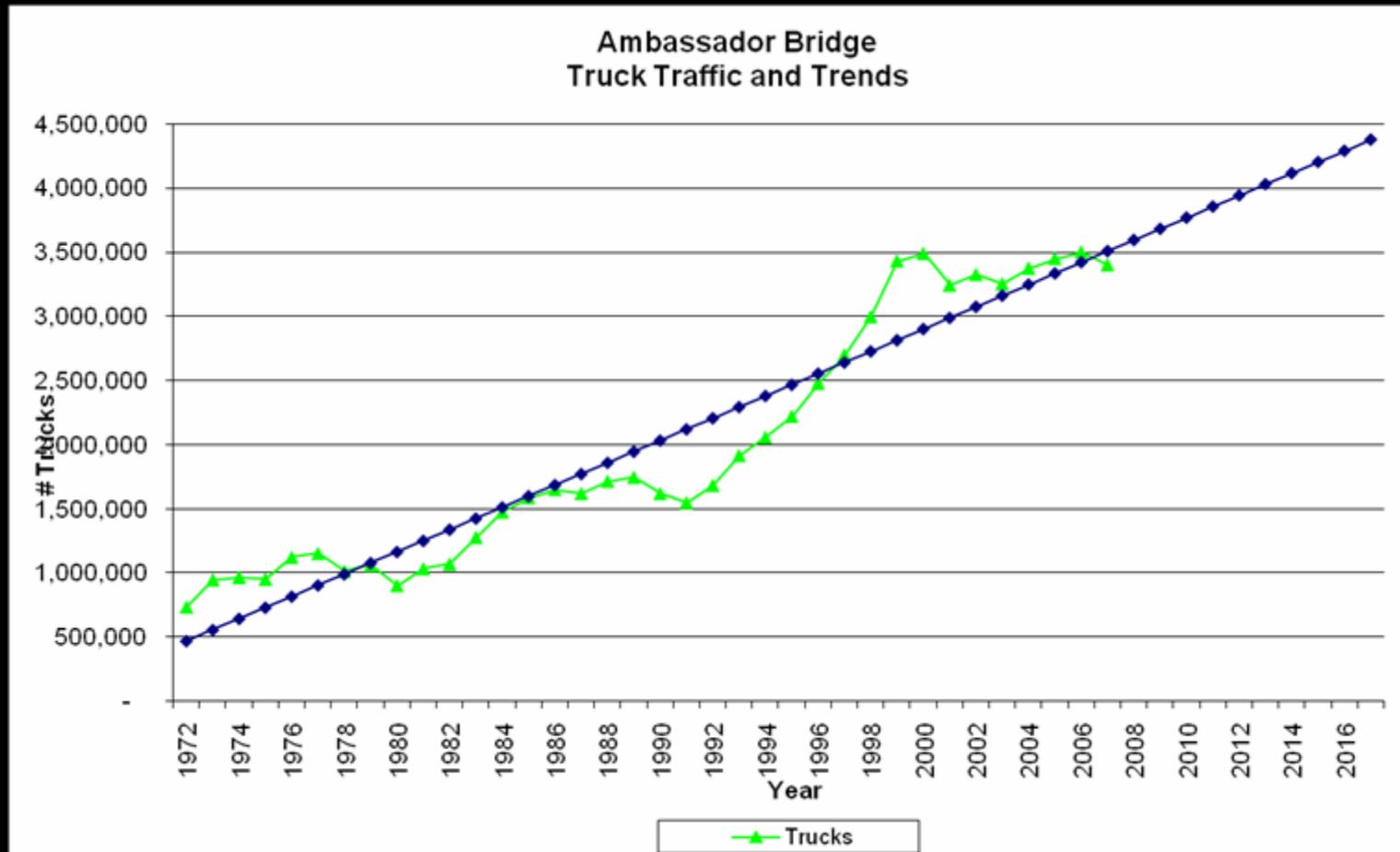
*MDOT*

# Detroit River International Crossing Study

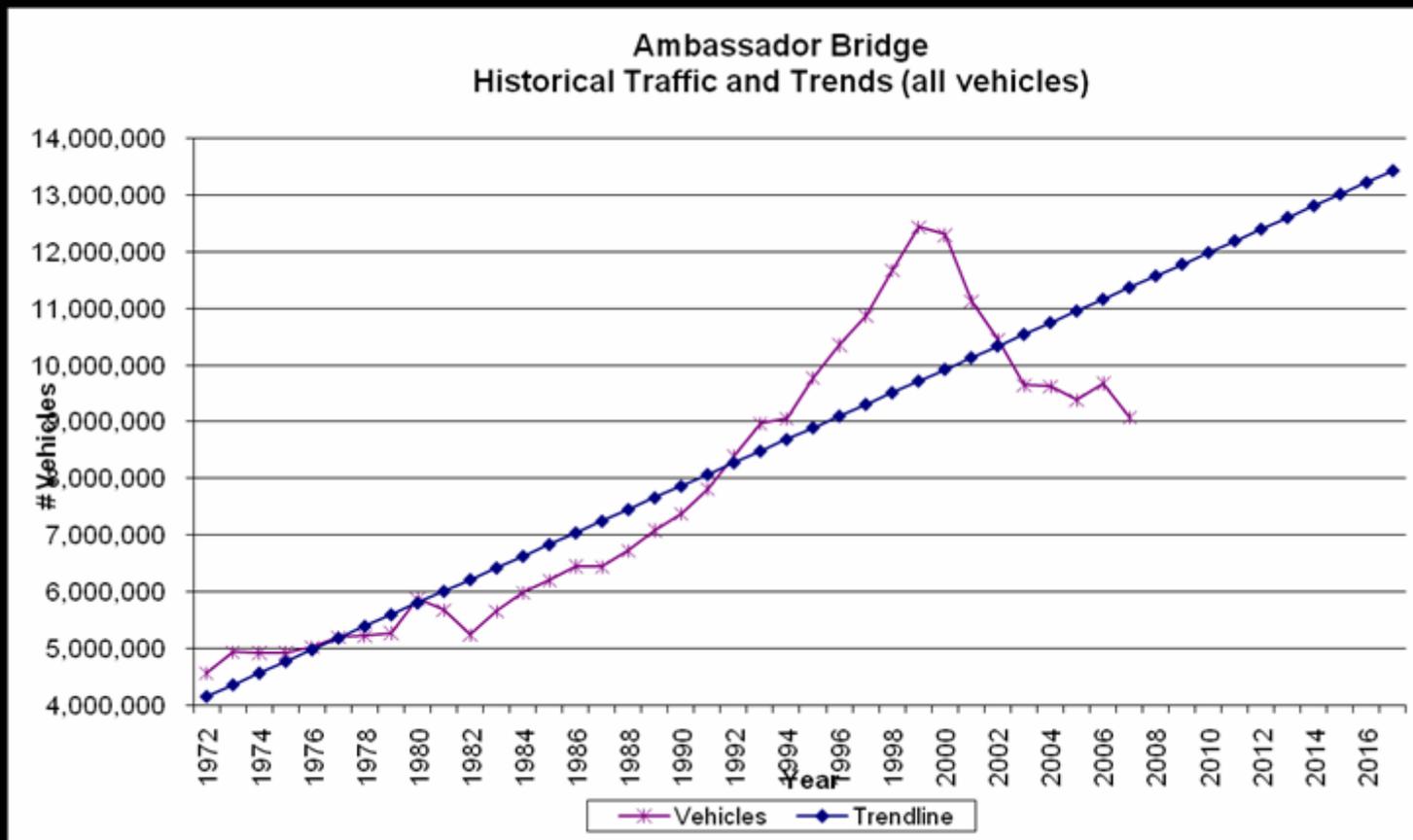
## Traffic Trends



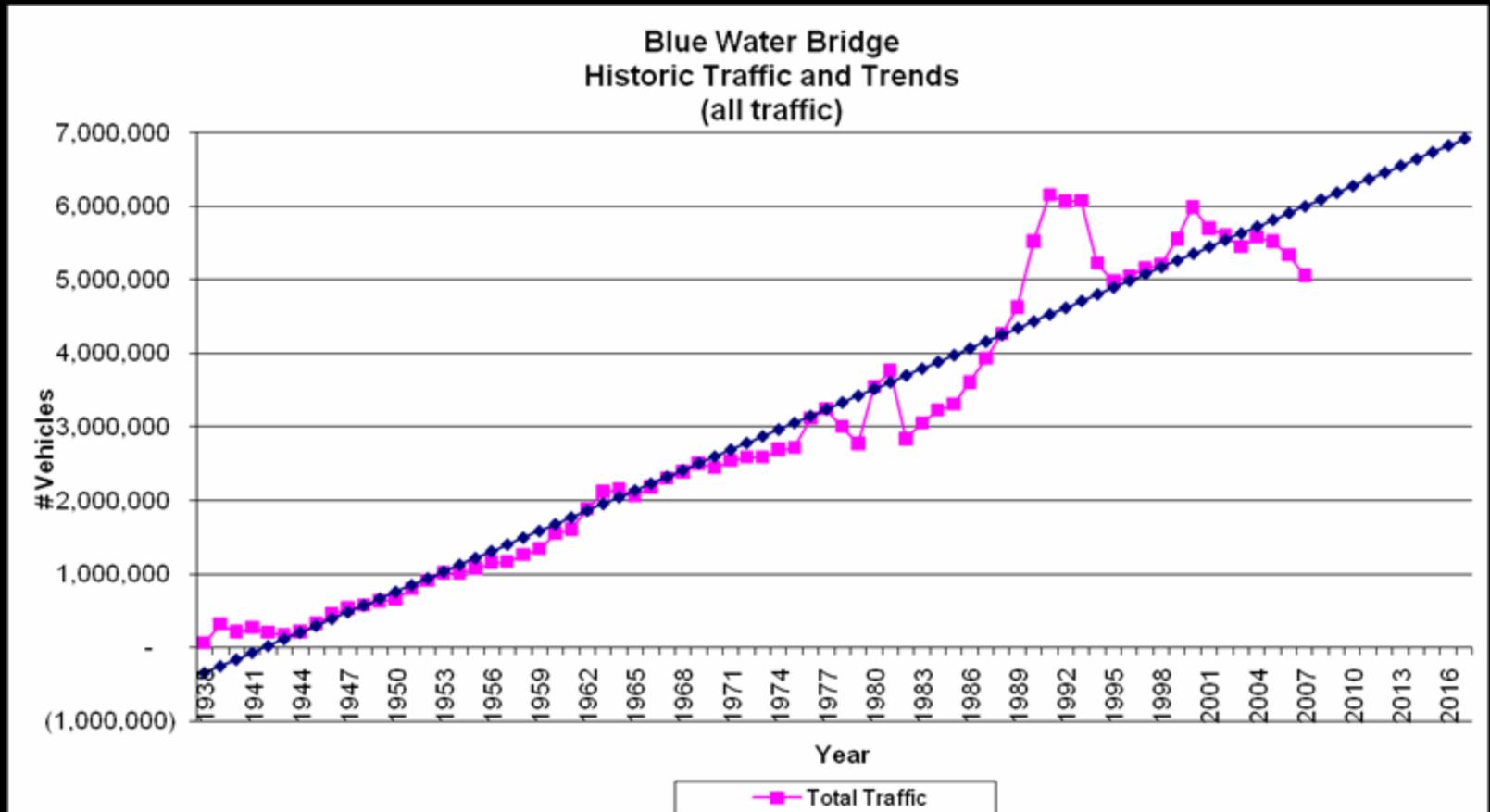
# Detroit River International Crossing Study



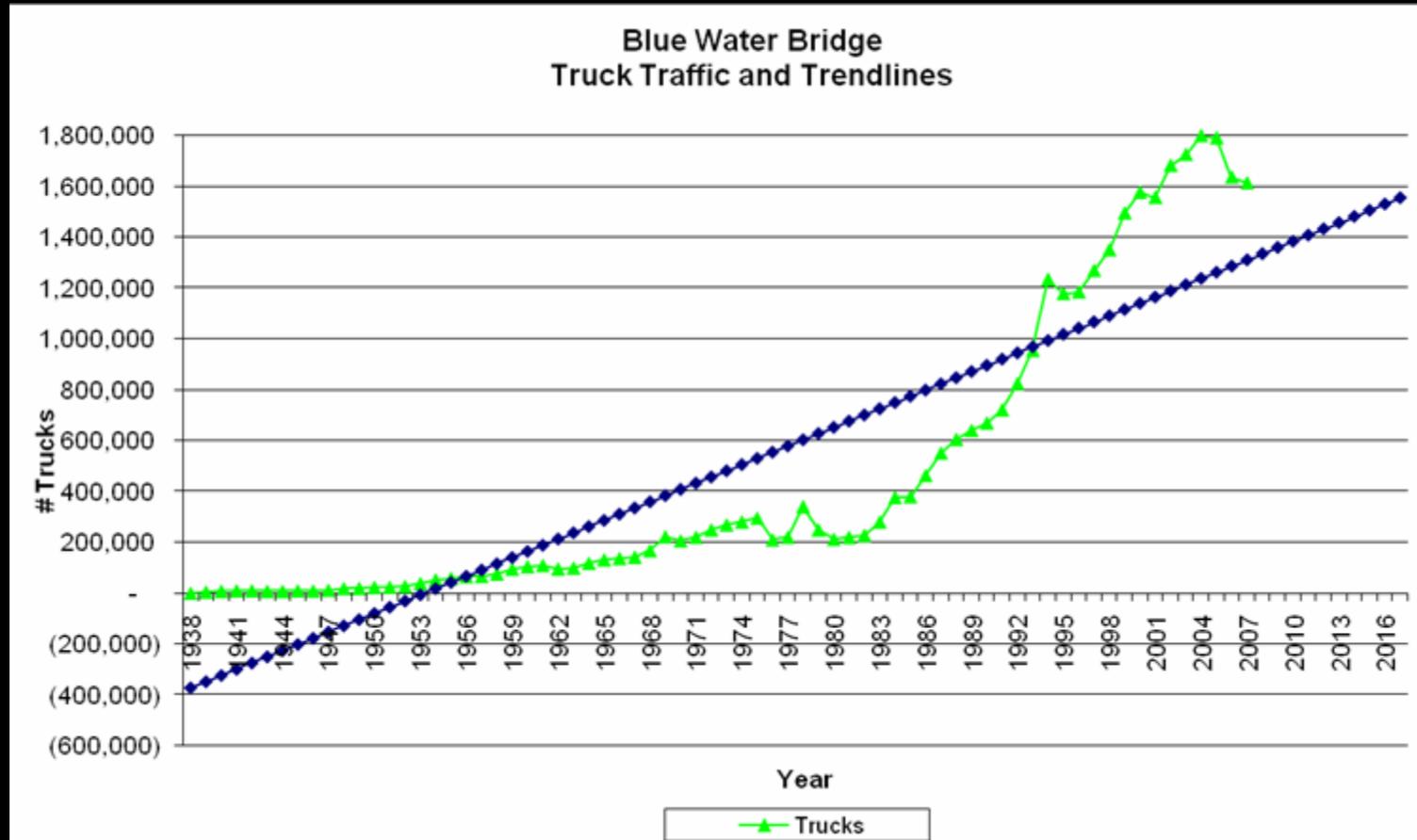
# Detroit River International Crossing Study



# Detroit River International Crossing Study



# Detroit River International Crossing Study



# Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

*Mohammed Alghurabi*  
*DRIC Project Manager*

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# *DRIC Status*

---

- Draft EIS – circulated February 29, 2008
- Original comment period ended April 29, 2008
- Received comments from 60 commenters
- FHWA extended the comment period 30 days, to May 29, 2008
- Received comments from 38 commenters

## *DRIC Status*

---

- Currently MDOT, FHWA and consultants reviewing comments and developing responses.
  - In some cases, looking at alternatives to see if adjustments can be made to minimize impacts.
  
- Canadians announced their selected crossing location and plaza site on June 18, 2008.
  - In agreement with U.S. technical analysis and evaluation.

## *DRIC Status*

---

- U.S. will announce the preferred alternative in the FEIS, to be circulated in late 2008.

30 days after the FEIS is circulated, a Record of Decision (ROD) may be issued which details the selected alternative.

- ROD is expected in early 2009

## Detroit River International Crossing Study

# *Study Cost*

---

- **80% of project cost come from various federal funds; 20% from State Trunkline Funds**
- **Total cost of the DRIC environmental study - \$33.3 M**
  - *Federal share - \$26.6 M*
  - *State share - \$6.7 M*
- **Cost-to-date - \$28.1 M**
  - *Federal funds \$22.5 M*
  - *State funds \$5.6 M*

# Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

*Questions/Comments?*

# Detroit River International Crossing Study

---

*Thank You*