

Michigan Department of Transportation
Notice of Availability
Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final 4(f) Evaluation for the
Detroit River International Crossing Study

The Michigan Department of Transportation has received Federal Highway Administration approval of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Final 4(f) Evaluation prepared for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study.

The FEIS documents the identification of the Preferred Alternative for a new border crossing between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario and consists of a road connection from I-75 to a new U.S. border inspections plaza and a new bridge to Canada. The plaza area of the Preferred Alternative would be bordered by Post, Jefferson and Campbell streets and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between Fort Wayne and I-75. The plaza interchange would be located in the Livernois/Dragoon corridor, with a new bridge connecting to the southwest corner of the plaza just upriver of Zug Island.

The FEIS is available for a 30-day public review period. Comments must be received on or before January 5, 2009. Substantive comments will be responded to in the Record of Decision.

The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study is a bi-national effort to complete the environmental study processes related to a new border crossing. It identifies solutions that support the region, state, provincial and national economies while addressing the civil and national defense and homeland security needs of the busiest trade corridor between the United States and Canada. The DRIC Study covers transportation alternatives that improve the border-crossing facilities, operations, and connections to meet existing and future mobility and security needs. The FEIS evaluates the Preferred Alternative in addition to a No-Build Alternative. The Preferred Alternative includes facilities for collecting tolls, a customs inspection plaza, an interchange connection, and a bridge from the plaza that spans the Detroit River.

Leading this study is the Border Transportation Partnership (The Partnership), comprised of the following agencies: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Transport Canada (TC) and Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO). The Partnership completed the Planning/Needs and Feasibility Study in February 2004, released the DEIS for public review and comment in February 2008 and conducted public hearings in March 2008. The FEIS includes responses to the comments received during that public comment period. Following no less than 30 days from notice of this availability in the December 5, 2008 Federal Register, the FHWA will decide on which alternative to implement by issuing a Record of Decision, the decision document on the U.S. side. All approvals will be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the U.S., the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (OEAA) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). The Canadian environmental clearance process also is nearing completion.

The FEIS is available for public review at:

- MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning, 425 West Ottawa St., Lansing
- MDOT Metro Region Office, 18101 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield
- MDOT Detroit Transportation Service Center, 1400 Howard St., Detroit
- MDOT Taylor Transportation Service Center, 25185 Goddard, Taylor
- Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Detroit
- Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Bowen Branch of the Detroit Public Library, 3648 W. Vernor, Detroit
- Library at Southwestern High School, 6921 W. Fort St., Detroit
- Delray Recreation Center, 420 Leigh St., Detroit
- Allen Park Library 8100 Allen Rd., Allen Park
- Ecorse Library, 4184 W. Jefferson Ave., Ecorse
- Melvindale Library, 18650 Allen Rd., Melvindale
- River Rouge Library, 221 Burke St., River Rouge
- Kemeny Recreation Center, 2260 S. Fort St., Detroit
- Campbell Branch of the Detroit Public Library, 8733 W. Vernor Hwy., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Central District, 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Northwestern District, 19180 Grand River Ave., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Northeastern District, 2328 E. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Western District, 18100 Meyers Rd., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Eastern District, 7737 Kercheval St., Detroit
- Neighborhood City Hall Southwestern District, 7744 W. Vernor St., Detroit

The document also may be viewed and commented on through the Internet at www.partnershipborderstudy.com. Written comments and requests for printed and electronic copies of the FEIS may be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail to: Robert H. Parsons, Public Involvement and Hearings Officer, Bureau of Transportation Planning, Michigan Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909; Phone: 517-373-9534; Fax: 517-373-9255; or e-mail: parsonsb@michigan.gov. Please e-mail, fax or postmark comments on or before January 5, 2009.

MDOT can make the FEIS available in alternative formats such as large print or audiotape, and can make accommodations for translation in Spanish or Arabic. Please call (517) 373-9534 to request accommodations.