

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
**Joint Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Meeting**  
**Notes**  
**July 29, 2009**  
**Doubletree Hotel**

**Purpose:** To review the progress of the Detroit River International Crossing Project.

**Attendance:** See attached.

**Discussion:**

**Introductions**

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting by asking for introductions.

**Meeting Conduct Procedures**

Mohammed Alghurabi explained the procedures for the evening's meeting noting that the public would have time, both at the beginning and the end of the meeting, to ask question and make comments. The LAC/LAG members will conduct their business uninterrupted in the core of the meeting.

**Agenda Review**

Mohammed Alghurabi reviewed the agenda. He asked if there were any additions or deletions. There were none.

**Public Comments**

Richard Rosen complained that the seating at the Doubletree Hotel was too far removed from the screen and there was no water available for the attendees. Mohammed Alghurabi pointed out where the bottles of water were placed and noted that the next time the seating arrangement would be improved.

**June 24th Meeting Notes**

Mrs. Leonard indicated that the T in front of reasonable should be removed on page seven.

## **Delray Truck Traffic Report**

Jim Hartman presented the PowerPoint presentation of the “Refreshed Traffic Analysis in Delray.” Mohammed Alghurabi stated that the CBC had reviewed the presentation earlier in the day and had noted that congestion is not the issue as it relates to truck traffic in Delray. The main issue is to improve the quality of life by appropriately channeling truck traffic away from the revitalized residential community. Mohammed Alghurabi noted that the MDOT continues to partner with the City to review the data and will have ongoing discussions of this matter as the project proceeds.

John Nagy noted that the economy is now suffering but it will rebound. When that happens, and with the development of Springwells Industrial Park, there will be even more traffic in the area. He further stressed that the closure of Livernois and Dragoon and the improvement at Springwells will bring yet more trucks into Delray. He concluded that this will destroy any chance the community has for sustainable redevelopment. Mohammed Alghurabi reiterated that the traffic analysis has been submitted to the City for their review. The matter will continue to be discussed with the City as the project moves forward.

Tom Cervenak indicated that polluted materials are being transported through residential areas. He requested that further study be made of the materials in the trucks. Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that this and other items will continue to be discussed with the City as the project moves forward.

Tiffany Draper was concerned that the data were collected in 2008 when the Gateway project would affect this traffic. She asked if further examination of traffic by going back further in time would produce a different result.

Hugh McNichol said that the traffic data were first looked at in 2006 before the Gateway project construction began. Furthermore, the traffic for the future year has been increased by 20 percent over the current period, which is a significant growth compared to what has been happening over the last ten years regardless of construction along I-75. SEMCOG’s data indicate traffic on I-75 has been going down. Nonetheless, every traffic analysis has indicated that a building a new

dedicated truck route is not warranted. Finally, the truck traffic is on city streets and that is why the City of Detroit must be engaged in any continuing discussions regarding designating an existing street as a truck route.

Mrs. Leonard asked what the letters of A, B and C referenced in the traffic analysis mean. Jim Hartman explained that level of service reflects the degree of congestion, with A being very little and F being gridlock. Mrs. Leonard asked if there was any consideration about the weight of vehicles. Jim Hartman responded the weight of vehicles affects the analysis based on grades of the streets. In Delray, the streets are flat and weights have no impact in the analysis. Hugh McNichol indicated that the weight of vehicles was considered in the design of the streets.

Wesley King indicated that he would like to speak on behalf of the City. Mohammed Alghurabi noted that John Baran speaks for Team II.

#### **Mitigation/Enhancement Follow-up**

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that Representative Rashida Tlaib is committed to ensuring that the community is fully versed in what mitigation and enhancement measures are being planned and how they will be implemented. Based on her suggestion, meetings in August and September will involve “breakout sessions” for further exchange of information on the DRIC mitigation/enhancement matters.

#### **Status of Team II and Local Agency Group**

John Baran explained Team II is a clearing house for almost two dozen issues in which the DRIC project affects the City of Detroit. He stressed that the LAC and Team II are not the only forums at which DRIC issues can be discussed by the community. They can be brought to the Planning Commission and City Council, as appropriate.

John Baran explained that there are still some issues that need to be addressed and they will continue to be worked out between the City and MDOT. Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that Representative Tlaib is interested in having others involved in that process as well.

Lisa Goldstein explained that the CBC has asked to be included in the Team II meetings to voice community concerns. She noted that CBC wants to make sure that when the City departments talk they understand the community's voice in that matter.

John Baran noted that he did not want to sound as if he was being overly procedural; however, Team II's focus is on engagement of City staff on technical issues. His responsibility is to make sure City agencies are speaking to each other as well as inform people about the Team II process.

### **CBC on Delray Redevelopment**

Tom Cervenak stated that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority is engaging a consultant to prepare a Delray redevelopment plan which should be done in August or September. He also noted that about \$600,000 has been awarded by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority in HOME funding to begin the housing redevelopment program for Delray. If successful, another \$1.35 million of HOME money will be added. This will be matched by relocation money provided by MDOT for those to be moved for the DRIC project.

### **Update of Legislation**

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that a hearing on private-public partnership legislation had been postponed until September. He stated that he would advise the LAC when that meeting is rescheduled.

### **Other LAC/LAG Business**

Scott Brines issued a challenge to those in attendance asking for leadership in revitalizing the community. He noted the people of Delray understand that there is pollution from industry in the area. However, he stressed this is an historic community which has been intruded upon by those industries. Help in making the community sustainable is needed.

Delores Leonard asked about Southwestern High School. Priscilla Morris from the Detroit Public Schools indicated that the information that Mrs. Leonard has forwarded to DPS is being reviewed. There is no additional response at this time.

Mrs. Leonard noted that she was well aware that Representative Tlaib was looking into gaining money, perhaps through various federal stimulus packages, to provide an improved filtration system at the school.

### **Additional Public Comments**

Q: Richard Rosen asked if a designated truck route were established, would MDOT contribute money towards it.

R: Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that it was premature to respond to that question.

Q: Richard Rosen indicated that once the Detroit River bridge is built, if there is then an understanding that a dedicated truck route is needed, will money be available ?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi responded again that it is premature to address that matter. Continuing collaboration with the City of Detroit will help clarify this issue.

Q: Richard Rosen noted that a newspaper article indicated that the Canadian government had acquired properties for the project. He asked if that is a clear indication that the Canadians are committed to the DRIC.

R: Mohammed Alghurabi declined to speak for the Canadians. He indicated that the newspaper article clearly presents the facts that the Canadians are moving forward with the project on their side of the border.

Q: Steve Walker asked about the various classifications of truck sizes as presented in the earlier traffic analysis presentation.

R: Jim Hartman responded that the trucks were classified by truck type so that the heavy truck traffic, about which the neighborhood was most concerned, was clearly differentiated and analyzed.

Q: Steve Walker asked how the trucks were counted.

R: Jim Hartman indicated that they were counted by individuals out in the field during peak hours of the morning and afternoon throughout the month of December. He stressed that

these were counts conducted by people and not by what are known as or automatic traffic counting devices.

Q: Steve Walker asked if traffic is going down, why would someone forecast that it would go up.

R: Mohammed Alghurabi responded that was done to have a conservative analysis of the worst case.

Q: Steve Walker asked how the number of trucks that come into and out of the area is known.

R: It was noted that the counts were of actual traffic on the streets as vehicles moved through the Delray area. Hugh McNichol indicated that less than one percent of the international traffic on the bridge was considered “local.”

Q: Steve Walker asked if there were studies from other bridges built at international crossings?

R: Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that there are.

Q: Tom Cervenak asked if the peak hour between 4 and 5 p.m. was the correct hour for traffic in an industrial area.

R: Jim Hartman indicated that analysis of the data shows that it peaks between 4 and 5 p.m.

Q: Phyllis Hernandez of Casino Towing asked the status of the legislation for the project and if there is a timeline for acquisition of property needed for the project.

R: Mohammed Alghurabi responded that the Michigan Legislature is still considering how to fund the project. If funding were made available today it would take 12 to 8 months to acquire property for the project . But, as there is no funding for property acquisition, there is no activity underway at the present time.

Q: Phyllis Hernandez asked for notice of at least six months before she would have to relocate.

R: Paul Sanders said that the process of relocation usually takes nine months for an initial meeting with the property owners/businesses. A specific person will be designated to work directly and continuously with the subject property owner/business.

Next LAC/LAG Meeting

Summer Location – Dearborn Double Tree Inn  
7:00 PM August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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**Attendance**

Name	Address	City	St	Zip	Organization
<b>LAC MEMBERS</b>					
John Baran	65 Cadillac Sq.	Detroit	MI	48226	City of Detroit Planning & Development Dept.
John Bendzick	2211 Academy	Dearborn	MI	48124	Dewitt Products Co./ City of Dearborn
Corki Benson	404 Vinewood	Wyandotte	MI	48192	City of Wyandotte
Scott Brines	820 S. West End St.	Detroit	MI	48209	SDEV/CBC
Tom Cervenak	412 W. Grand Blvd.	Detroit	MI	48216	Delray Community House
Cindy Dingell	600 Randolph	Detroit	MI	48126	Wayne County Executive Ficano
Arthur Divers	18501 Marlowe Ave.	Detroit	MI	48235	State Rep. George Cushingberry
Tiffany Draper	535 Griswold	Detroit	MI	48226	SEMCOG
Marlene Dudzinski	P.O. Box 30014	Lansing	MI	48901	State Representative Ed Clemente
Lisa Goldstein	1450 McKinstry	Detroit	MI	48209	SDEV
Joseph Gutierrez	6205 W. Fort St.	Detroit	MI	48209	First Latin American Baptist Church
Robert Hohlfelder	13333 Pennsylvania Rd., Apt. 1004	Riverview	MI	48193	City of Riverview Z.B.A
Earline Jones	2 Woodward Ave, Suite 1300	Detroit	MI	48226	Detroit City Council - Martha Reeves
Delores Leonard	2192 Bassett	Detroit	MI	48217	Sierra Club
Mary Loubriel	8121 South St.	Detroit	MI	48209	Delray Community Council
Jane Mackey	2615 W. Jefferson	Trenton	MI	48183	Cong. John Conyers Jr.
Priscilla Morris	1425 E. Warren	Detroit	MI	48207	
John Nagy	7859 Bacon	Detroit	MI	48209	Delray Community Council
Simone Sagovac	1506 Hubbard	Detroit	MI	48209	SDEV
<b>OBSERVERS</b>					
Stephen Archer	9301 W. Fort St.	Detroit	MI	48209	
Robert J. Benson	404 Vinewood	Wyandotte	MI	48192	CCG
Ray Bezaire					
Clyde Bostick	5872 W. Fort St.	Detroit	MI	48209	Shoe Fair Stores
Charles Cini	1454 Ferdinand St.	Detroit	MI	48209	Bagley Housing
Grace Mary Cini	1454 Ferdinand St.	Detroit	MI	48209	Bagley Housing
James Conway	6325 W. Jefferson	Detroit	MI	48209	Historic Fort Wayne
Robert Cross	209 S. Military	Detroit	MI	48209	
Mary Ann Cuderman	3118 Sandwich St.	Windsor	ON	N9C 1A6	West Windsor Truck Watch
Hubert Faitel	7884 Medina	Detroit	MI	48209	Fairlane Drilling Inc.
Verdella Faitel	7884 Medina	Detroit	MI	48209	Fairlane Drilling Inc.
Pamela Goode	456 Frazier	River Rouge	MI	48218	
Joe Griffith	6665 South Street	Detroit	MI	48209	
Phyllis Hernandez	6734 W. Jefferson	Detroit	MI	48209	Casino Towing
Rebel Justice	6665 South Street	Detroit	MI	48209	

Wesley King		Detroit	MI		DDOT
Richard Rosen	32073 Concord, Apt 4 B	Madison Heights	MI	48071	
Esther Rost	5872 W. Fort	Detroit	MI	48209	Shoe Fair Stores
Gay Salsberry	1255 Rademacher	Detroit	MI	48209	Bridging Communities
Matt Simon	719 Griswold, Suite 620	Detroit	MI	48226	HNTB
Kim Skeltis	900 Tower Dr.	Troy	MI	48070	Stratacomm
Charlene Straughter	9233 N. Martindale	Detroit	MI	48204	
Steve Walker	5622 Springwells	Detroit	MI	48210	Southwest Detroit Improvement Association

**MDOT**

Mohammed Alghurabi	425 W. Ottawa	Lansing	MI	48933	MDOT
Gerri Ayers	425 W. Ottawa	Lansing	MI	48933	MDOT
Hugh McNichol	425 W. Ottawa	Lansing	MI	48933	MDOT
Lori Noblet	425 W. Ottawa	Lansing	MI	48933	MDOT
Paul Sander	18101 W. Nine Mile	Southfield	MI	48075	MDOT
Andy Ziegler		Lansing	MI	48933	MDOT Metro Region

**CONSULTANT**

Jim Hartman	20300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 410	Southfield	MI	48076	The Corradino Group, Inc.
Bruce Campbell		Southfield	MI		Parsons
Harvey Santana	20300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 410	Southfield	MI		The Corradino Group, Inc.
Juanita Tucker	20300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 410	Southfield	MI	48076	The Corradino Group, Inc.