

Resolution supporting the new Detroit River International Crossing – STAFF REPORT

TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

June 9, 2010

This resolution supports the construction of an additional six-lane bridge over the Detroit River between the United States and Canada, known as the Detroit River International Crossing. The new crossing is vital to the economies of Ohio, the Midwest, and the United States considering the following:

- Canada is the largest foreign trade partner for the United States, the largest foreign trade partner for 35 states, and the second-largest foreign trade partner for ten states
- Canada is Ohio's top export market
- Ohio's bilateral trade with Canada for the year 2008 was \$35.8 billion
- An estimated 267,500 jobs in Ohio are supported by United States-Canada trade

This project will have an immeasurable economic impact on the State of Ohio and will lay the foundation for future productivity, growth, and economic stability of local economies within Ohio. Therefore, due to the significance of this project to the economic viability of our region, staff recommends this resolution be adopted supporting the new bridge and any legislation that will allow for its construction and creation of a public-private partnership to finance the project.

**A RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
NEW DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments and non-governmental partners in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS), and has carried out comprehensive metropolitan and regional planning since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor through the Ohio Department of Transportation in cooperation with local elected officials and is authorized to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process (Process) for the Toledo area that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports community development and social goals; and

WHEREAS, the MPO has been designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to direct, coordinate, and administer the Process in the Toledo area as mandated by the Congress in Titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.; and

WHEREAS, plans are underway to build an additional international border crossing system over the Detroit River, known as the Detroit River International Crossing, consisting of a six-lane bridge with three lanes bound for the United States and three lanes bound for Canada, connected to new United States and Canadian inspection plazas; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit River International Crossing will have an enormous economic impact on the U.S. economy, creating 10,000 construction jobs and more than 30,000 indirect jobs during the construction period in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Canada is the largest foreign trade partner for the United States, the largest foreign trade partner for 35 states, and the second-largest foreign trade partner for ten states; and

WHEREAS, Canada is Ohio's top export market; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's bilateral trade with Canada for the year 2008 was \$35.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 267,500 jobs in Ohio are supported by United States-Canada trade; and

WHEREAS, Canadians made more than 605,300 visits to Ohio during 2008, spending more than \$138 million; and

WHEREAS, approximately 54% of United States-Canada trade moves by truck and about half (approximately 45.5%) of the trucks use the Detroit and Port Huron border crossings; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and Transport Canada are pursuing a public-private partnership to finance and deliver the Detroit River International Crossing; and

WHEREAS, the partnership will be in the form of a long-term concession agreement that will seek to maximize private sector participation and financing by allowing for public ownership of the bridge and private financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the bridge while protecting the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan needs legislative authority to enter into the public-private partnership and to enter into an agreement with Canada to build the Detroit River International Crossing; and

WHEREAS, a modern border crossing that can support the ever-increasing amount of trade and travel between the United States and Canada is essential to the economies of Ohio, the Midwest, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was recommended for approval by the Transportation Council on June 1, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

RESOLVED, that TMACOG fully supports in principle the new Detroit River International Crossing project and any legislation that will allow for its construction and creation of a public-private partnership to finance and deliver the new border crossing; and be it further

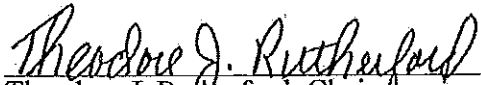
RESOLVED, that TMACOG encourages initiatives that bring investments in communities hosting the Detroit River International Crossing project and the entire multistate region, including job creation, environmental improvement, increased trade, and other benefits that improve the quality of life of residents; and be it further

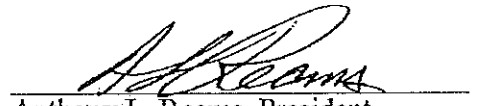
RESOLVED, that TMACOG recognizes that the Detroit River International Crossing will have an immeasurable economic impact on the State of Ohio and will lay the foundation for future productivity, growth, and economic stability of local economies within Ohio, and be it further

RESOLVED, duly authenticated copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the Michigan Senate, the Minority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Governor of Michigan, and the Consul General of Canada in Detroit, Michigan.

Adopted by the Executive Committee, June 9, 2010

Yea 14, Nay 0, Abstain 0

  
Theodore J. Rutherford, Chair  
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of  
Governments (TMACOG)

  
Anthony L. Reams, President  
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of  
Governments (TMACOG)