

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Meeting
Notes
November 17, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Southwestern High School

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

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introduction/Agenda

Mohammed Alghurabi asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. He reviewed the meeting conduct procedures and agenda.

Public Comments

John Nagy noted that there was a display exhibited on a street corner in the Delray neighborhood that had a brochure available. The brochure spoke to the decline of Delray and had an email address and phone number. Mr. Nagy left a voice mail and also e-mailed, but did not receive a reply to either. He stated that if anyone in the neighborhood is contacted and asked to sign anything please seek legal assistance first.

Richard Rosen noted that an article in the Free Press stated that Delray was actually gaining residents. He asked if the U.S. Coast Guard doesn't believe the Ambassador Bridge is adequate for international trade, why haven't they made a presentation to the State Legislature. Mohammed Alghurabi replied that in the summer of 2009 the USCG issued a letter stating that they were halting the Ambassador Bridge environmental review process until additional identified actions were taken by the bridge company. Mr. Rosen then asked if there is any Federal Agency, like Department of Homeland Security, that can make a determination of the adequacy of the Ambassador Bridge. Mohammed Alghurabi noted that both the USCG and DHS signed the DRIC environmental document which demonstrated the purpose and need for the project.

John Bendzick stated that he was in contact with both State legislators and media outlets with regard to the project legislation being acted upon in this Legislature. He asked news outlets to attend the LAC meeting to see what the community thinks of the project.

An unknown attendee asked if the legislative process will have to start over again next year, Mohammed Alghurabi noted that Senator Gilbert spent a substantial amount of time on the DRIC bill and that he was elected to a term in the House. He is hopeful that Rep. Gilbert will take up the bill as it stands in the House.

Notes of LAC/LAG Meeting of October 27, 2010

No comments on the notes of October 27, 2010.

SWCBC Update

Tom Cervenak stated that the housing survey is underway. They have received some surveys back. The CBC is closely monitoring the legislative process. CBC is working with MDOT on the framework of a commercial development survey.

Community Services has received a grant for home repairs that they will be distributing. The grant will cover three residences at \$25,000 each. Interested parties must fill out an application with Community Services and meet certain requirements.

Simone Sagovac noted that although they don't know what will happen in the next legislative session, they are concerned with the community benefits package. CBC will be looking for volunteers to assist in briefing new legislators. CBC had a successful legislative call-in day. If you did not receive a yellow post card regarding the call-in day, please see the CBC to make sure you are on the mailing list.

Meeting the DRIC Reporting Requirements

Mohammed noted that there was no action on the DRIC bill in the Senate. The next steps in the process will be:

- Passage of a new bill in the House and Senate with signature by the Governor.

- Formation of a State Authority for the DRIC which will have a board of directors. The State Authority will form a joint venture with the Canadian Authority.
- Will still require a presidential permit.
- Authority will then hire a Project Management firm, and then solicit a concessionaire to construct the project.

Gateway/M-85 Project Updates

Gateway – From Victor Judnic

Punch list and landscape work continue on all phases of the Gateway project. The federal courts have ruled in favor of MDOT for a second time. The case is back with the Wayne County Circuit Court where we expect to have a hearing within two weeks. The trucking company lawsuit to force MDOT to open up new freeway ramps has a hearing scheduled for November 29th in federal court.

M-85 – From Matt Chenoweth

MDOT continues to work to fund additional police coverage.

Other LAC/LAG Business

John Nagy commented on the operations of Systematics, the composting company located on Jefferson Ave. He talked to MDEQ regarding the volume of material they are taking in, and asked MDEQ if they have been monitoring this. MDEQ stated that they had not been on site since July. Systematics has filed for a variance to allow them to hold more material. There will be a hearing soon. They are also in court fighting the City of Detroit fines.

Additional Public Comments

Q. Richard Rosen – asked if the LAC meetings will continue once the project receives approval?

R. Mohammed Alghurabi responded that there is a commitment in writing in the “green sheet” to continue community dialogue.

Next LAC/LAG Meeting

There will be no December meeting. The next LAC/LAG meeting will be on January 26, 2011, at Southwestern High School. With that, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.