

DRAFT

# The Detroit River International Crossing

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**



April 19, 2006

# Meetings Summary

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
**Public Meetings**  
**April 19, 2006**  
**10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**  
**SUMMARY**

Mailed Invitations:	2,000 (approx.)
Mailers Returned:	15
Invitations Distributed:	900 (approx.)
<u>Public Access Television Stations</u> <u>Airing DRIC Video</u> City of River Rouge City of Southgate City of Riverview City of Trenton City of Ecorse City of Detroit City of Grosse Ile City of Lincoln Park City of Melvindale City of Allen Park City of Wyandotte	
Attendees (non-project staff):	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Delray Recreation Center – Detroit, MI 43 Attendees (signed in)  April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Southwestern High School – Detroit, MI 84 Attendees (signed in)
Number of Speakers:	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m.: 9 April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m.: 11
Number of Written Questions/ Comment Forms:	April 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m.: 0 April 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m.: 0

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
Public Meeting  
Delray Recreation Center  
April 19, 2006  
10 a.m. to noon**

# Meeting Notes

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
April 19, 2006 - 10:00 AM to Noon  
Public Meeting on Context Sensitive Solutions  
Delray Community Center**

**Introductions**

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He then reviewed the agenda, which would cover in depth: 1) a summary of the eight previous public workshops and the resulting community master plan concepts; 2) an explanation of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), including examples of CSS; and, 3) a session where feedback from those in attendance will be sought on some CSS elements. Joe Corradino added that this meeting will begin blending master planning with the border crossing system – bridge, plaza and interchange. He noted upcoming meetings on May 23 and June 22 would again focus on master planning. On June 8, 2006, a bus tour of the Maumee River and Blue Water bridges will be conducted. The latter will provide concrete examples of how CSS is applied in other locations and how communities relate to a major bridge.

**Context Sensitive Solutions - Overview**

Bob Hostler explained the concept of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). He noted there would be an increasing focus of integrating the Delray area master planning effort with a potential bridge and plaza into the community, while keeping in view the fact that a new bridge would represent a national/international symbol.

**Context Sensitive Solutions – Community Planning**

Jeff Mason provided a brief synopsis of the eight previous workshops related on Delray area master planning. He summarized by showing allocation of potential land use with a new bridge noting the plaza would draw from land that would otherwise be dedicated to industrial uses. He showed example sketches of the land uses the citizens indicated they prefer. He noted conceptual land use plans are being developed for each of the plaza options. Preliminary results were displayed in the meeting room for the first three of these.

**Question:** What are those crosses I see on the pavement?

**Response:** Those are “targets” used to orient photography taken from the air for the DRIC Project.

**Comment:** You are concentrating on Delray south of the railroad. You are ignoring Fort Street and its businesses and the area north of I-75 where there are many homes. There is a Renaissance Zone there.

**Response:** The Fort Street area is not being ignored. We have been and will continue to work with the Fort Street business community to minimize impacts and shape the project. Under some scenarios, I-75 would be shifted south to minimize impacts to the north.

**Question:** How are you going to resolve the presence of the railroad, the high-tension lines and other major infrastructure?

**Response:** The plans being studied take all these elements into account. For example, we are exploring the possibility of removing/relocating the railroad. There are security issues with its presence by or under the plaza.

#### **Context Sensitive Solutions – Key Elements**

Craig Richardson explained how CSS concepts would be perceived. For example, what does a visitor see? How would a visitor perceive the local community? What community themes can be explored in the project's development? He stressed there are opportunities to emphasize local themes that be mutually beneficial to the traveler and the resident and give a sense of place and pride. The job of the DRIC Study Team will be to develop these themes with the community and help them take form.

Bruce Campbell said the bridge, if built, would be a lasting symbol. To start to build a dialogue on the bridge he reviewed relevant terminology.

**Question:** The Ambassador Bridge crosses Fort Street. Will the new one?

**Response:** No. It will cross Jefferson, but will touch down in the plaza before Fort Street. The interchange bridges will go over Fort Street.

**Question:** Where is the money coming from for the study?

**Response:** The money is 80 percent federal and 20 percent state of gasoline tax monies.

Bradley Touchstone showed a series of slides to highlight the major bridge types, using examples of great bridges from around the world. Based on span length, two bridge types are candidates in the DRIC Study: suspension and cable-stayed. Slides were then used to illustrate the scale of the bridge being planned and its uniqueness.

**Comment:** You are glossing over impacts and trying to divert our attention by showing all these pictures.

**Response:** There have been many meetings related to project impacts and there will be more. Today's meeting was announced as being devoted to the consideration of CSS and its integration into the ongoing master planning for the Delray area.

**Comments:** Several people spoke saying they were glad to have the opportunity to participate and give input.

**Question:** What is the schedule; when will a decision be made? What do I do with my house in the meantime?

**Response:** The schedule calls for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to be issued by the end of 2006. Early in 2007 there would be a hearing on the project at which the public will be encouraged to comment on the DEIS. During the summer of 2007 there will be a decision on a preferred alternative. That alternative might be to do nothing. The best advice in the meantime is to continue your life and business in a normal way, as if nothing has changed.

**Comment:** I am on the east side of Delray and this is the first I have heard about this.

**Response:** We have been doing our best to notify residents. We have even hand delivered flyers door-to-door. Please make sure you signed up to get on the mailing list.

Bradley Touchstone and Bob Parsons then led the audience through a dynamic voting process related to bridge color, lighting, height, and pylon/tower configuration. During this process, slides were shown to give examples of the range of choices. It was emphasized the voting was to stimulate discussion, not to endorse a new bridge. The information gathered will allow the team to get a feel for the opinions of the public. The results of the preference were then displayed, as follows.



The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Use of Color on the Bridge:



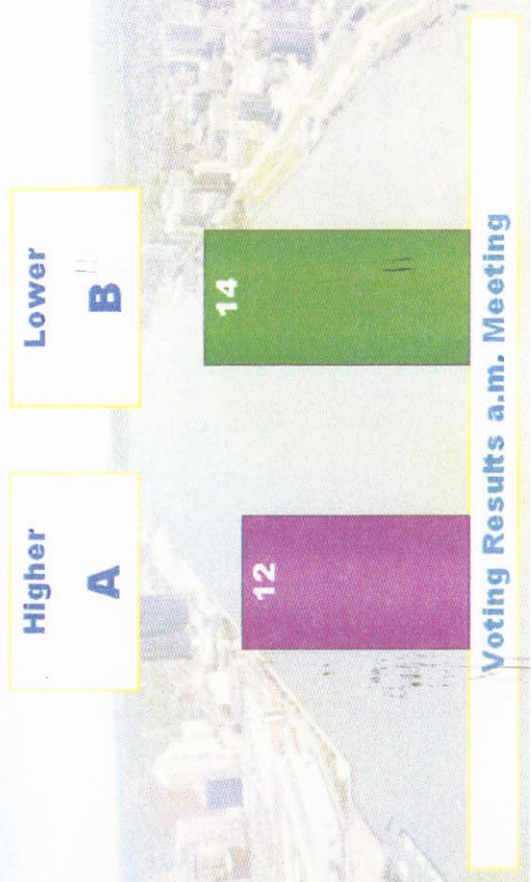
The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Use of Color Lighting on the Bridge:



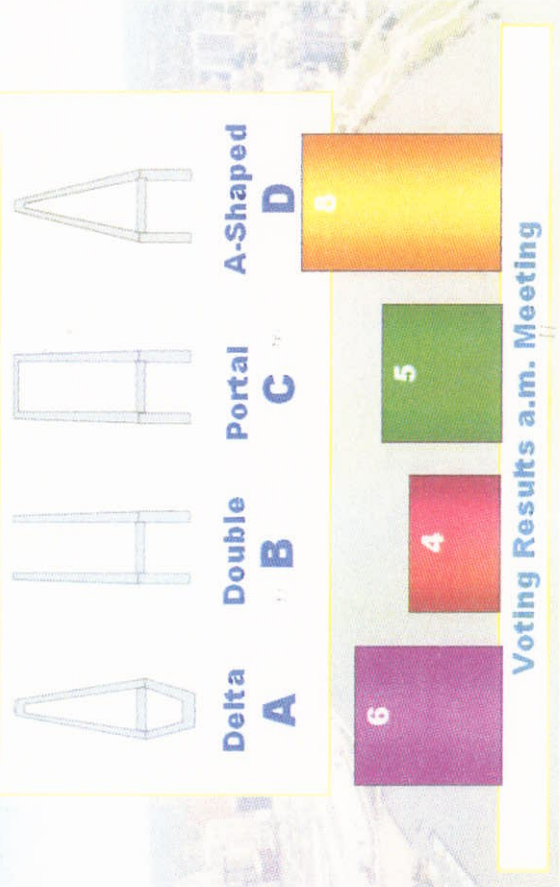
The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Height of the Pylon / Tower:



The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Pylon / Tower Configuration:



**Question:** Who initiated the study?

**Response:** A partnership consisting of the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, Transport Canada (federal) and the Ontario Ministry of Transport.

**Comment:** The project and this context sensitive solution effort should take on a "green" aspect, with consideration of solar, aesthetic, and environmentally friendly designs.

**Wrap-up**

Joe Corradino once again reviewed the upcoming timetable of meetings. On May 9 and 10 there would be meetings on the subject of social/cultural issues. One meeting will be at LA SED and a second likely at Southwestern High School. In July there would be another meeting on social/cultural issues. In June, there would be a bus tour of bridges/communities in Toledo and Port Huron.

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## Attendees

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
Public Meeting – Delray Recreation Center  
April 19, 2006 10:00 AM – Noon**

**Attendees**

- |     |                        |  |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 1.  | Larry Arreguin         | SE Michigan's Governor's office        |
| 2.  | Reverend Jeffery Baker | Delray Resident                        |
| 3.  | Bernie Balomuski       | Detroit Resident                       |
| 4.  | Therese Bellamey       | Detroit Tube Products                  |
| 5.  | Peter Berna            | Delray Resident                        |
| 6.  | Brita Brookes          | Historic Fort Wayne                    |
| 7.  | Doug Caruso            | Canadian Resident                      |
| 8.  | Lonzo Colbert          | Delray Resident                        |
| 9.  | James Conway           | Historic Fort Wayne                    |
| 10. | Amanda D'Angelo        | State Senator Basham's office          |
| 11. | Alice Daniels          | Delray Resident                        |
| 12. | Sylvia Elizalde        | Delray Resident                        |
| 13. | Stephanie Gadwell      | Delray Resident                        |
| 14. | B. Garian              | Wyandotte Resident                     |
| 15. | Frank Griffith         | Delray Resident                        |
| 16. | Chris Gulock           | Detroit Planning Commission            |
| 17. | Charles Hixson         | Delray Resident                        |
| 18. | Alberta Hubbard        | Redford Resident/Delray property owner |
| 19. | Edice James            | Delray Resident                        |
| 20. | Betty Jarret           | Delray Resident                        |
| 21. | Jennifer Jones         | Delray Resident                        |
| 22. | Irene Kor              | Delray Resident                        |
| 23. | Len Kozachuk           | URS Canada                             |
| 24. | Delores Leonard        | Sierra Club                            |
| 25. | Virginia Lopez         | Delray Resident                        |
| 26. | Richard Marckwardt     | Dearborn Resident                      |
| 27. | Annie Martin           | Delray Resident                        |
| 28. | Meriamc McGuire        | State Senator Lamar Lemmons office     |
| 29. | Charles Misakiah       | Delray Resident                        |
| 30. | Caddie Nagy            | Delray United Action Council           |
| 31. | Dena Nagy              | Delray United Action Council           |
| 32. | Mary Nagy              | Delray United Action Council           |
| 33. | CJ Roberts             | River Rouge Resident                   |
| 34. | Guy Rocca              | Detroit Resident                       |
| 35. | John Rys               | Delray Resident                        |
| 36. | Thomas Rys             | Delray Resident                        |
| 37. | Lutricia Rookard       | Delray Resident                        |
| 38. | Gary Sands             | Detroit Resident                       |
| 39. | Mary T. Szawala        | Detroit Resident                       |
| 40. | Steve Toth             | Delray Resident                        |
| 41. | Ilona Varga            | Wayne County Commissioner, District 5  |
| 42. | Arthur Villegas        | Delray Resident                        |
| 43. | Emma Williams          | Delray Resident                        |

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
Public Meeting  
Southwestern High School  
April 19, 2006  
7:00 to 9 p.m.**

# Meeting Notes

**Detroit River International Crossing Study**  
**April 19, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Public Meeting on Context Sensitive Solutions**  
**Southwestern High School**

**Introductions**

Mohammed Alghurabi opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He then reviewed the agenda, which would cover in depth: 1) a summary of the eight previous public workshops and the resulting community master plan concepts; 2) an explanation of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), including examples of CSS; and, 3) a session where feedback from those in attendance will be sought on some CSS elements. Joe Corradino added that this meeting will begin blending master planning with the border crossing system – bridge, plaza and interchange. He noted upcoming meetings on May 23 and June 22 would again focus on master planning. On June 8, 2006, a bus tour of the Maumee River and Blue Water bridges will be conducted. The latter will provide concrete examples of how CSS is applied in other locations and how communities relate to a major bridge.

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**Context Sensitive Solutions – Community Planning**

Jeff Mason provided a brief synopsis of the eight previous workshops related on Delray area master planning. He summarized by showing allocation of potential land use with a new bridge noting the plaza would draw from land that would otherwise be dedicated to industrial uses. He showed example sketches of the land uses the citizens indicated they prefer. He noted conceptual land use plans are being developed for each of the plaza options. Preliminary results were displayed in the meeting room for the first three of these.

**Question:** Could the freeway ramp from I-75 be built over the railroads into the plaza?

**Response:** It is the project team's understanding that railcars under the plaza is a major safety risk and the railroad would have to be relocated or abandoned from that situation. On the other hand, it is not yet defined whether the railroad can be at a specific distance away from the plaza. That decision will be as a result of discussions with the Department of Homeland Security.

**Question:** Who would purchase the land for redevelopment in the master plans that are being prepared, whether the bridge is built or not?

**Response:** The master planning that is being done is led by MDOT and involves various agencies of the City of Detroit. Only the City of Detroit has the legal authority to approve the master plans. To that extent, if there were not a new crossing, investments in the area by MDOT would be limited or non-existent. If there were a new crossing, MDOT's investment would be much more significant. The latter could include benefits for the community of Delray which will host the new crossing system.

**Question:** The land use graphics on display around the room do not reflect the greenspace around the plaza displayed earlier. Is there still a buffer involved in the plaza plans?

**Response:** Yes, a buffer is associated with all proposed plazas. The graphics around the walls are preliminary thinking about land uses. On those graphics, the plaza shape includes the buffer.

**Question:** Who will own the new crossing?

**Response:** Ownership is being studied in detail on a parallel path to the work that is being discussed tonight. A decision on ownership will be made in 2007 and be integrated with the decisions made in the environmental and engineering analyses.

**Question:** Who will be the shareholders in the new crossing?

**Response:** If public ownership were to be the end result of ongoing studies, the state and federal governments on both sides of the border would be involved in the ownership of the new crossing because they would be involved in its financing.



### Context Sensitive Solutions – Key Elements

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Bruce Campbell said the bridge, if built, would be a lasting symbol. To start to build a dialogue on the bridge he reviewed relevant terminology.

**Question:** What is the longest span in North America for either a cable or suspension-type bridge?

**Response:** Cable-stay bridges typically have spans that are up to 3,000 feet long, and the longest in North America today is 1,750 feet. As far as suspension-type bridges, the main spans can be in excess of two miles.

Bradley Touchstone showed a series of slides to highlight the major bridge types, using examples of great bridges from around the world. Based on span length, two bridge types are candidates in the DRIC Study: suspension and cable-stayed. Slides were then used to illustrate the scale of the bridge being planned and its uniqueness.

**Question:** Is MDOT leaning towards a cable-stay bridge based upon the information that is being presented tonight?

**Response:** No. The team is considering both cable-stay and suspension bridges and will do so through the end of the study.

**Question:** Which is cheaper, a cable-stay or suspension bridge?

**Response:** The answer to that question is a direct function of the specific design, including various foundation and geotechnical issues. It should also be noted that the life-cycle cost of a structure must be considered over the 100 years that it is likely to be in service. So, capital cost is one issue that must be considered in deciding what will be built; life-cycle cost, including maintenance, is also a key factor.

**Question:** What type of bridge is the Ambassador Bridge?

**Response:** It is a suspension bridge.

**Question:** What about the sway of the bridge due to wind factors?

**Response:** Detailed wind studies will be undertaken in developing the design of the two bridge types to cross the river.

**Question:** Will the new bridge crossing accommodate all vehicles?

**Response:** Yes.

Bradley Touchstone and Bob Parsons then led the audience through a dynamic voting process related to bridge color, lighting, height, and pylon/tower configuration. During this process, slides were shown to give examples of the range of choices. It was emphasized the voting was to stimulate discussion, not to endorse a new bridge. The information gathered will allow the team to get a feel for the opinions of the public. The results of the preference indicators were then displayed, as follows.

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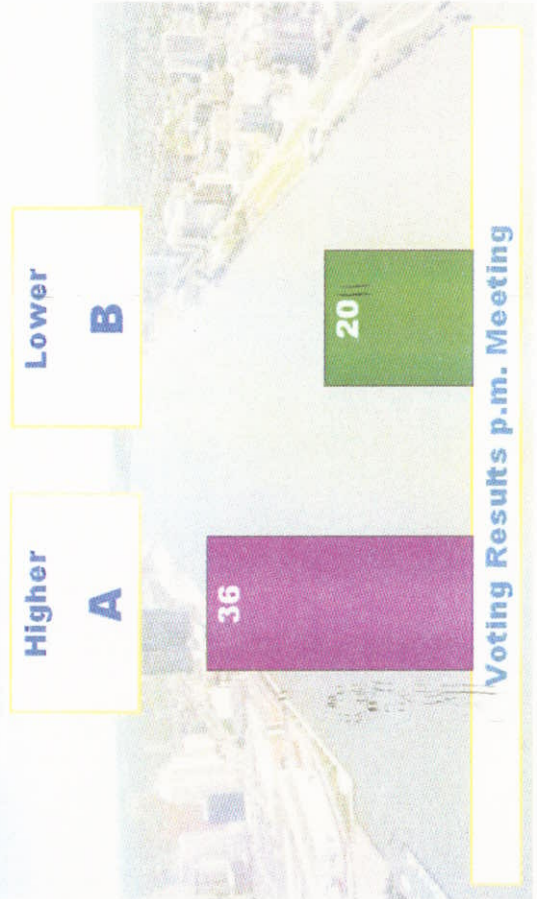
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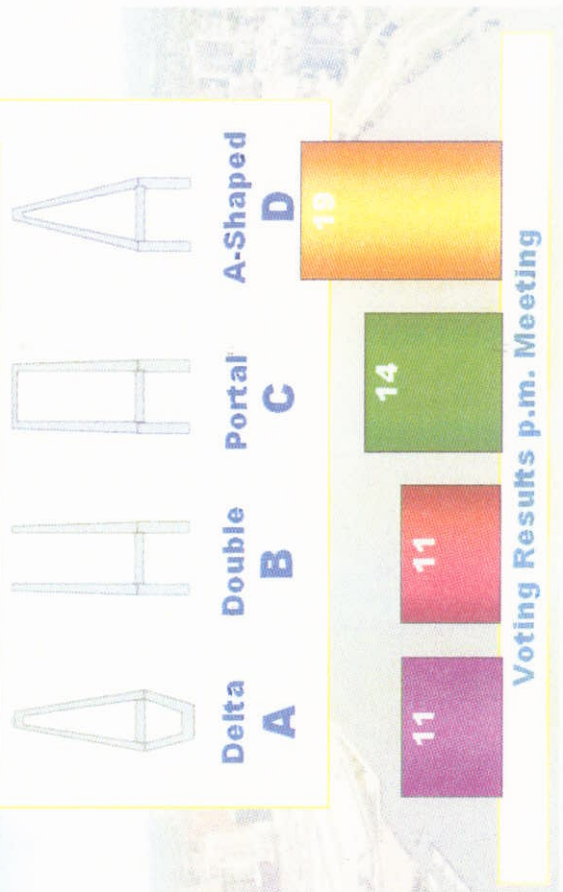
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Height of the Pylon / Tower:



The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Pylon / Tower Configuration:



The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Use of Color on the Bridge:



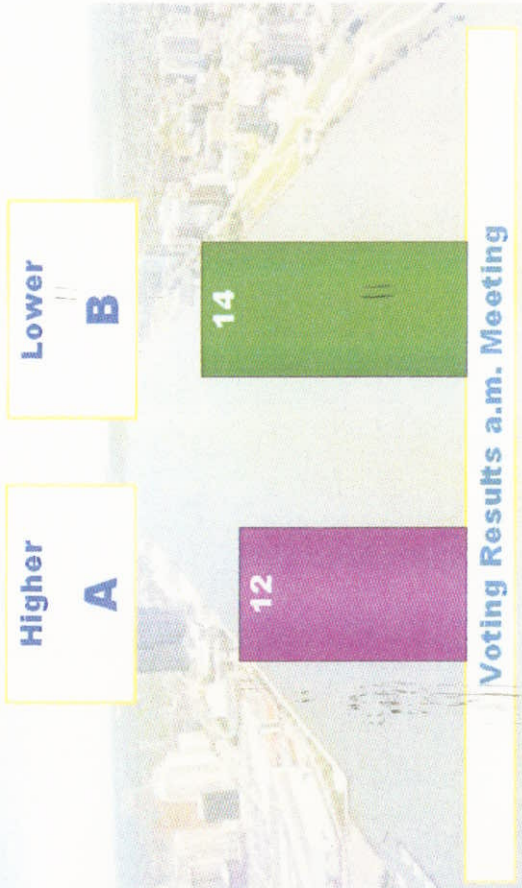
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Use of Color Lighting on the Bridge:



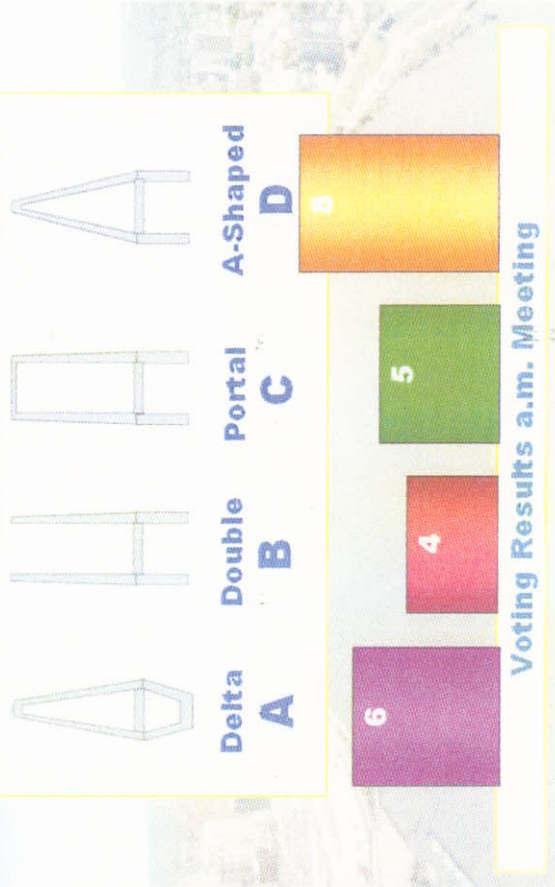
The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Height of the Pylon / Tower:



The Detroit River International Crossing Study

Pylon / Tower Configuration:



At the conclusion of the preference session, Mohammed Alghurabi thanked everyone again for their attendance. In closing he noted that a meeting would be held on Monday evening, April 24<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Mrs. Dolores Leonard and the Sierra Club. The meeting would be attended by MDOT Director Steudle and will be held at the Southwestern High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. John Nagy then spoke to the transparency and openness of the DRIC Study process to date. He emphasized he was not speaking in favor of a bridge, but in favor of the study process as an opportunity for people to stay involved and provide input.

**Question:** Why are you looking at the look and feel of the bridge before any decision to build the bridge has been made?

**Response:** The study process must consider all input as it decides whether a bridge should be built. The look and feel of the bridge is an important part of the overall design process and the community's involvement, as has occurred tonight, is part of that process.

**Question:** I am from the House of God Church and have received a letter from a California firm looking to purchase my property.

**Response:** MDOT is not buying any property for the proposed new border crossing and we have no relationship with those from whom you received the letter. Please keep in mind that when such offers come to you, you are welcome to call MDOT or your local representatives on the Local Advisory Council, such as John Nagy and Mrs. Leonard, to seek assistance in how to respond.

John Nagy then indicated that many had received such letters. It is his belief that the California firm is going through the tax rolls and making unsolicited offers to purchase property. John Nagy concluded his remarks by inviting others to help with the development of a playground that will be built at the Delray Recreation Center.

## Attendees

**Detroit River International Crossing Study  
Public Meeting – Southwestern High School  
April 19, 2006 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Attendees**

- |     |                            |  |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 1.  | Shirley Apex Signs         | Delray Resident                        |
| 2.  | Adolfo Arguelles           | Delray Resident                        |
| 3.  | Fanny Barber               | Original United Citizens of SW Detroit |
| 4.  | Glennie Barber             | Detroit Resident                       |
| 5.  | Mary Barela                | Detroit City Council staff member      |
| 6.  | John M. Bendrick           | Delray Resident                        |
| 7.  | Alison Benjamin            | Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision |
| 8.  | Emma Jean Beson            | Delray Resident                        |
| 9.  | Clyde Bostick              | Delray Resident                        |
| 10. | Nathaniel Brent            | Delray Resident                        |
| 11. | Alexander Burke            | Delray Resident                        |
| 12. | Sherlie Burt               | Delray Resident                        |
| 13. | Earl Cain                  | Delray Resident                        |
| 14. | Salina M. Carrion          | Delray Resident                        |
| 15. | Sam Castronovo             | Lansing, MI                            |
| 16. | Eddie Cockrel              | Delray Resident                        |
| 17. | Robert Cross               | Delray Resident                        |
| 18. | Mary Ann Cuderman          | Bridgwatch Canada                      |
| 19. | Yuri Diaz                  | Delray Resident                        |
| 20. | Ernestine Dubrinsky        | Delray Resident                        |
| 21. | Darios Dynkowski           | Troy, MI                               |
| 22. | Sheila Easley              | Detroit Resident                       |
| 23. | Sylvia Elizalde            | Delray Resident                        |
| 24. | George Green               | Delray Resident                        |
| 25. | Frank Griffith             | Delray Resident                        |
| 26. | Steven Griffiths           | Delray Resident                        |
| 27. | Samantha Guajardo          | Delray Resident                        |
| 28. | Awilda Garibaldi Gutierrez | Delray Resident                        |
| 29. | Virginia Heath             | Delray Resident                        |
| 30. | Robert Heilman             | Delray Resident                        |
| 31. | Mario Hernandez            | Delray Resident                        |
| 32. | Cheryl Hudson              | Delray Resident                        |
| 33. | Leah Hudson                | Delray Resident                        |
| 34. | Betty Jewel                | Delray Resident                        |
| 35. | Elizabeth Johnson          | Detroit City Council Staff member      |
| 36. | Terry Kennedy              | Bridgwatch Canada                      |
| 37. | Jane Knudsen               | Delray Resident                        |
| 38. | Cadace Lynek               | Delray Resident                        |
| 39. | Jeanette Lott              | House of God Church                    |
| 40. | John Lott, Sr.             | House of God Church                    |

41. Mary Loubriel,	Delray United Action Council
42. Patrick Loubriel	Delray United Action Council
43. Cheryl Maddox	Delray Resident
44. Gail Ann Martin	
45. Otis Mathis	Detroit Resident
46. Dan Maxwell	Delray Resident
47. Dave Montoya	Delray Resident
48. Dayna Montoya	Delray Resident
49. WJ Muir	Rochester Hills resident
50. Rev. Johnny Mumford	House of God Church
51. John M. Nagy	Delray United Action Council
52. Caddie Nagy	Delray United Action Council
53. Jesse Nagy	Delray United Action Council
54. Dena Nagy	Delray United Action Council
55. Jorge Olvarado	Delray Resident
56. Maria Olvarado	Delray Resident
57. Mark Petco	Canadian Resident
58. Beatriz Rodriguez	Delray Resident
59. Cynthia Rynarwell	Delray Resident
60. Paul Sander	Southfield, MI
61. Olga Savic	Rep. Tobocman's office
62. Arthur Smith	Delray Resident
63. Cynthia Smith	Delray Resident
64. Darlene Smith	Delray Resident
65. Denise P. Smith	Detroit Mayor's office
66. Johnny Smith	Delray Resident
67. Josephine Smith	Detroit Resident
68. Thelma Stanton	Delray Resident
69. Frank Stewart	Delray Resident
70. Sharon Stewart	Delray Resident
71. Sylvia Stonestreet	Delray Resident
72. Shirley Stratton	Delray Resident
73. Wanda Tate	House of God Church
74. Ruth D. Taylor	Delray Resident
75. Sandra Haggard Taylor	Brownstown, MI
76. JoAnn Tompos	Delray Resident
77. Irma Torres	Delray Resident
78. Bill Troy	Delray Residents
79. Bill Tung	Delray Resident
80. Ilona Varga	Wayne County Commissioner, District 5
81. Steve Walker	Detroit Resident
82. Debra Williams	Delray Resident
83. Marie D. Zanotti	Delray Resident
84. Louis T. Zanotti	Delray Resident