

April 11, 2005

Mr. Mohammed Alghurabi, Project Manager
MDOT, Design Division
425 West Ottawa
Lansing, MI 48933

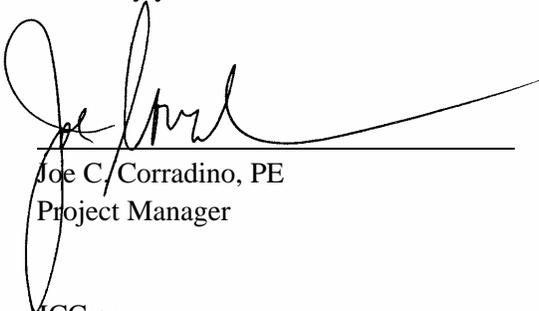
RE: DRIC EPE/EIS Project; Job N. 802330
TCG Project No. 3600 - Invoice No. 3 Progress Report

Dear Mohammed:

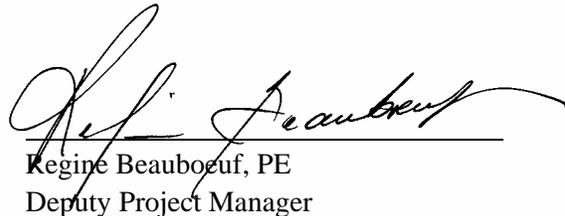
Enclosed is the narrative progress report for the DRIC EPE/EIS Project. It supports Invoice No. 3 for March 2005. The invoice will be submitted under separate cover to Tonya Novach.

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,



Joe C. Corradino, PE
Project Manager



Regine Beauboeuf, PE
Deputy Project Manager

JCC:gw
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Attachment

**PROGRESS REPORT
THE CORRADINO GROUP
DRIC EPE/EIS PHASE
MARCH 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

The following details the work progress for the project by task (Sections A, B, & C). At the end of the task progress discussion are sections that address updates of the schedule, items needed from MDOT, and a listing of substantive verbal contacts with MDOT. Schedule adjustments and verbal contacts are listed on attachments G and H, respectively.

A, B, AND C – PROGRESS BY TASK

TASK 1 (1220) – VERIFY SCOPE/CONDUCT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

A. Work Progress

- Participated in the proponents' meeting on March 22nd and 23rd.
- Participated in the Private Sector Advisory Group meeting on March 23rd.
- Met with MDOT on March 24th to conduct scope verification on threatened and endangered species and wetlands work plans.
- Participated in the Working Group meeting of March 30th including preparation of the agenda.
- Participated in the Local Advisory Council meeting of March 30th, including the preparation of all graphics that would be also used in the public meetings in mid-April.
- Finalized all preparations for the public meetings of April 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th.
- Mailed invitations (20,000+) on March 25th to the April public meetings.
- Submitted to MDOT script of video for April public meetings.
- Cooperated with MDOT to disseminate through the media the announcement of the April round of public meetings.
- Communicated with MDOT on setting an April meeting with the contaminated sites staff to further discuss field work.
- Finalized preparations with the Air Quality Protocol Task Force for an April 11th meeting.
- Met with MDOT to discuss the alternative structures for the border crossing and the construction schedule under various scenarios (design/bid/build or design/build).
- Prepared working paper on various construction approaches (design/bid/build versus design/build) and schedules.
- Met with MDOT to discuss the application of CommentWorks.
- Responded to Hotline calls.

- Responded to e-mail messages.
- Developed translations of the Web page in Arabic and Spanish.

B. Products

- Draft Memorandum of Understanding to advance cooperation with border crossing proponents.
- Notes of the scope verification meeting on threatened and endangered species and wetlands.
- PowerPoint presentation made to the Local Advisory Council to also be used at the public meetings.
- Input to media advisory on April public meetings.
- Paper on various construction approaches and schedules.
- Draft script of the video to be used at the April public meetings.
- Input to bi-weekly status report to MDOT management.

C. Task Evaluation

- The proposed Division of Engineering work presented to the Working Group at its February meeting is still under review.
- MDOT has decided that the Public Sector Advisory Group was essentially convened by the MDOT Director on February 27th and that another meeting will likely be held by the end of the year.
- The Public Agency Group of government technical representatives will be convened for the first time in April (26th or 27th).

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conduct the public meetings on April 11th through 14th.
- Participate in the April 11th Air Quality Task Force meeting.
- Participate in the Partnership Steering Committee meeting on April 13th.
- Participate in the Working Group meeting of April 27th.
- Conduct the Public Agency Group meeting on April 26th or 27th.
- Meet with MDOT to advance the scope verification on the contaminated sites work.
- Continue to monitor and respond to Hotline calls and e-mail delivered to the Web site.
- Decide how to apply the CommentWorks tracking system.

TASK 2 (2120) – PREPARE TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT

A. Work Progress

- Met with the Modeling Task Force on March 16th to further discuss the modeling approach.

- Updated the modeling working paper, based upon input from SEMCOG and FHWA.
- Received SEMCOG's data for modeling purposes, except the supporting code.
- Asked permission from the Ambassador Bridge to count vehicles in order to determine the throughput of the bridge.
- Continued to update the international truck and auto trip tables.
- Continued to review and refine the model network.
- Continued preparation of the background paper on cross-border freight facilities, movements, and commodities for truck, rail, water and air modes.

B. Products

- Updated working paper on modeling approach.
- Notes from the Modeling Group meeting of March 16th.

C. Task Evaluation

- The production of early results on cross-border travel has been delayed by about a month in order to enhance the analysis and to cooperate with review agencies. However, no impacts are expected to the overall project schedule.
- Permission to count on the Ambassador Bridge to determine bridge throughput has been requested but the permission has not yet been granted.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Convene the Modeling Task Force on April 21, 2005.
- Begin updating the U.S. background traffic data from the SEMCOG model and from the MDOT statewide model.
- Continue defining the baseline 2005 traffic volumes for the Ambassador Bridge from data files supplied by MDOT and SEMCOG and from counts on the Ambassador Bridge, if permitted.
- Continue the development of a qualitative background paper on cross-border freight facilities, movements and commodities for truck, rail, water and air modes.

TASK 3 (2130) – PREPARE JOB JUSTIFICATION/PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

A. Work Progress

- Receive from U.S. Fish and Wildlife a letter indicating that it would be a cooperating agency on the DRIC/EIS.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- FHWA is waiting until after the public meetings of April 11th through 14th before engaging the government agencies in the review of the Purpose and Need Statement and the Streamlining Agreement.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Assist FHWA and MDOT in dissemination of the draft Purpose and Need Statement and Streamlining Agreement.

TASK 4 (2140) – DEVELOP/REVIEW ILLUSTRATIVE ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- Began application of QUANTM.
- Refined the GIS database by field inventories for further input to QUANTM.
- Continued to collaborate with the Canadian team to review the level of engineering to be performed on the border crossing structure (tunnel or bridge) by each team.
- Participated in the continued development of the Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation paper.
- Met on March 8th to discuss tunneling issues for border crossing alternatives.
- Met with border crossing operations personnel on March 16th to discuss issues that affect travel demand modeling and plaza sizing.
- Prepared preliminary functional analysis of U.S. plaza.

B. Products

- An updated paper dealing with the Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation, including detailed performance measures.
- An updated paper on tunneling issues.
- Draft paper on plaza requirements.

C. Task Evaluation

- The paper on the Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation has been revised based upon Working Group input. It will now be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval and then subsequent application.

- The tunnel issue will need to be reconciled with the soon-to-be-released position of the Canadian team.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue application of QUANTM to real-world conditions on the U.S. side of the border.
- Produce preliminary QUANTM runs for Working Group review at its April 27th meeting.
- Participate in the second QUANTM training session (April 12th through 15th).
- Submit the design criteria to MDOT for review and approval and then incorporation in QUANTM.
- Determine the tunnel crossing implications based on the geotechnical information developed by the Canadian team.
- Convene a meeting with appropriate Michigan environmental agencies to determine the implications of a sunken tunnel in the Detroit River.
- Define, preliminarily, the plaza functions and size requirements.

TASK 5 (2160) – DEVELOP SCOPING DOCUMENT

A. Work Progress

- Awaited FHWA’s approval to take the next steps to engage various governmental agencies in reviewing the Purpose and Need Statement and the Streamlining Agreement.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- FHWA has indicated that engaging governments in early scoping will occur following the April 11th-14th public meetings.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet, as appropriate, with MDOT/FHWA and other governmental agencies in advancing the Purpose and Need Statement and the Streamlining Agreement.

TASK 6 (2310) – CONDUCT SEE TECHNICAL STUDIES

A. Work Progress

- Continued assembling GIS information and conducting preliminary work in the following areas:

- ✓ Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Participated in March 18th meeting to define performance measures by which to evaluate Illustrative Alternatives.
 - Attended March 24th scope verification meeting with MDOT.
 - Continued conducting information research, literature review.
 - Developed base maps and aerials for use in field assessments.
- ✓ Coastal Zone Management
 - Participated in March 18th meeting to define performance measures by which to evaluate Illustrative Alternatives.
 - Attended March 24th scope verification meeting with MDOT.
 - Continued conducting information research, literature review.
 - Developed base maps and aerials for use in field assessments.
- ✓ Cultural Resources
 - Completed gathering information on recorded archaeological and historic sites in the project area.
 - Started developing historic contexts for the project to establish the framework of historic resources evaluation.
- ✓ Agriculture
 - Continue GIS mapping.
- ✓ Air Quality
 - Prepared for April meeting to reactivate Air Quality Protocol Task Force.
- ✓ Flooding/Water Quality
 - Participated in March 18th meeting to define performance measures by which to evaluate Illustrative Alternatives.
 - Attended March 24th scope verification meeting with MDOT.
 - Continued conducting information research, literature review.
 - Developed base maps and aerials for use in field assessments.
- ✓ Recreational Uses
 - Continued GIS mapping.
- ✓ Community Impact Assessment
 - Continued field work of key facilities.
 - Developed Census data by tract.
 - Began assembling list of those individuals/groups to be interviewed.
- ✓ Title VI Issues

- Analyzed Census data by three study-area subzones and by Census tract.
- Presented preliminary information to Core Team and determined additional review of “comparison area” (Detroit Urbanized Area of SEMCOG region) was needed.
- ✓ Wetland Delineation/Assessment
 - Participated in March 18th meeting to define performance measures by which to evaluate Illustrative Alternatives.
 - Attended March 24th scope verification meeting with MDOT.
 - Continued conducting information research, literature review.
 - Developed base maps and aerials for use in field assessments.

B. Products

- Additional field work to update GIS.
- Complete list of recorded archaeological and historic sites.
- Census data by study sub-area defining key populations.

C. Task Evaluation

- Additional discussion of “comparison area” (Detroit Urbanized Area or SEMCOG Region) is needed to advance work on Title VI and EJ issues.
- Resolved with FHWA/MDOT that U.S. T & E Species Act does not extend to Canada.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conclude field work to refine GIS.
- Advance data development, largely through QUANTM, to begin evaluation of alternatives.
- Arrange for field review with MDOT and SHPO on cultural resource issues.
- Prepare preliminary evaluation for deeply-buried archaeological sites.
- Provide MDOT detailed T & E schedule.
- Coordinate T & E field work with Canadian Team.
- Participate, as appropriate, in early scoping among government agencies.
- Continue field work and literature search.

TASK 7 (2320) – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A. Work Progress

- Continued ORTHO production of the existing photography of the current study area.

- Discussed the extent of new flight and new ORTHOs needed to complete coverage of the project area.

B. Products

- A preliminary memorandum developed internally to be submitted to MDOT with respect to additional work/costs necessary to fly and produce ORTHO photos of the missing coverage of the study area.

C. Task Evaluation

- Existing data will be needed to be purchased from Wayne County and new data generated in order to have seamless ORTHO-photo coverage of the project area, especially in the central corridor.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Complete ORTHO production of the existing photography of the current study area.
- Present plan to MDOT on covering the missing portion of the study area.

TASK 8 (2330) – GEOTECHNICAL DATA

A. Work Progress

- Completed data acquisition.
- Continued cost estimate phase of work.
- Review updated report (prepared by Parsons from NTH’s original work) on the evaluation of tunneling the Detroit River.

B. Products

- Comments on updated tunnel report.

C. Task Evaluation

- The Canadian Team, with the U.S. Team’s geotechnical report available, has developed a similar analysis of tunneling the Detroit River. It is to be delivered in April. Reconciliation of differences will then take place.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Review Canadian Team’s geotechnical report.

- Continue cost estimate phase.

TASK 9 (2340) – PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 10 (2360) – PREPARE DEIS

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 11 (2380) – DEIS AVAILABILITY/PUBLIC HEARING

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 12 (2510) – RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 13 (2525) – ENGINEERING REPORT

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 14 (2530) – PREPARE FEIS

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 15 (2550) – OBTAIN RECORD OF DECISION

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 16 (2810) – CONDUCT INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT

A. Work Progress

- Continued assembling data to assist in the analysis of Illustrative Alternatives.

B. Products

- None, as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Work is proceeding according to schedule.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue preliminary records search.

TASK 17 (2820) – CONDUCT PRELIMINARY SITE INVESTIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated in this task.

TASK 18 (3310) – AERIAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING

A. Work Progress

- Determined the area to be flown and mapped for evaluating Illustrative Alternatives and developing Practical Alternatives.

B. Products

- None required at this time.

C. Task Evaluation

- Identification of areas not covered by the previous flight may lead to a supplemental agreement. This information will be submitted to MDOT in April.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Submit a proposal to MDOT to define whether additional mapping should occur for the central area to complete coverage of the study area.

TASK 19 (3320) – CONTROL SURVEY FOR AERIALS

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 20 (3330) – DESIGN SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 21 (3350) – HYDRAULICS SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 22 (4510) – RIGHT-OF-WAY SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 23 (3370) – STRUCTURE SURVEY

A. Work Progress

- Work has not been initiated on this task.

TASK 24 (3520) – SCOUR ANALYSIS

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 25 (3530) – FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

TASK 26 (3710) – REQUIRED MITIGATION

A. Work Progress

- Work in this task has not been initiated.

D. UPDATE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SCHEDULE (ATTACHED)

The first round of public meetings has been moved to mid-April from late March based upon the different “spring breaks” affecting the constituencies in the project area. This will have no impact on the overall project schedule.

E. ITEMS NEEDED FROM MDOT

- Review by the Partnership Steering Committee and approval of the Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation Methodology.
- Review and action by the Working Group and Steering Committee on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding to further cooperation with the various proponents of the border crossing.
- Review by the Working Group of the division of engineering work of the border crossing facilities.
- Construction plans for the Gateway Project at the Ambassador Bridge.
- Information collected on plaza requirements and plaza locations during the Blue Water Bridge study.
- As-built plans for M-39 from M-85 to US 12 in Wayne County.
- I-75 from Gibraltar Road to Clay Street in Wayne County.
- I-375 in Downtown Detroit.
- US 24 from Van Horn to US 12.
- US 24 connector from US 24 to I-75.
- I-275 from Willow Road to US 12.
- M-85 from King Road to Oakland Boulevard.

F. SUBSTANTIVE VERBAL CONTACTS WITH MDOT (ATTACHED)

- Attended the following meetings on:
 - ✓ March 16th with the Modeling Task Force.
 - ✓ March 17th with the border processing agencies.
 - ✓ March 22nd and 23rd with border crossing proponents.
 - ✓ March 24th for the threatened and endangered species and wetlands scope verifications with MDOT.
 - ✓ March 28th with MDOT on the various border crossing structures and construction techniques.
 - ✓ March 30th with the Partnership Working Group.
 - ✓ March 30th with the Local Advisory Council.
- Daily contact by phone and e-mail with the MDOT Project Manager.

ATTACHMENT

G. SCHEDULE DETAIL

Original Date	Anticipated Date	Explanation
Fourth week of February 2005	Fourth week of February 2005	1 Preliminary Evaluation Criteria
Last week of March 2005	Mid-April 2005 ¹	2 Study Kickoff
Third week of June 2005	Third week of June 2005	3 Illustrative Alternatives Definition
Fourth week of June 2005	Fourth week of June 2005	4 Scoping Document
Fourth week of August 2005	Fourth week of August 2005	5 Scoping
Third week of November 2005	Third week of November 2005	6 Preliminary Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives
Second week of December 2005	Second week of December 2005	7 Preliminary Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation
Fourth week of February 2006	Fourth week of February 2006	8 Evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives/Select Practical Alternatives
Third week of March 2006	Third week of March 2006	9 Practical Alternatives Selection
First week of April 2006	First week of April 2006	10 Context Sensitive Design 1
First week of May 2006	First week of May 2006	11 Community Impact Assessment 1
First week of June 2006	First week of June 2006	12 Context Sensitive Design 2
First week of July 2006	First week of July 2006	13 Community Impact Assessment 2
Fourth week of July 2006	Fourth week of July 2006	14 Engineering Concepts Report
First week of August 2006	First week of August 2006	15 Context Sensitive Design 3
Second week of August 2006	Second week of August 2006	16 Preliminary DEIS
Second week of October 2006	Second week of October 2006	17 Draft DEIS
Fourth week of November 2006	Fourth week of November 2006	18 Public Hearing Script/Video
Second week of December 2006	Second week of December 2006	19 FHWA Approved DEIS
Second week of January 2007	Second week of January 2007	20 DEIS Public Hearing
Second week of April 2007	Second week of April 2007	21 Public Hearing Comment Summary
Fourth week of July 2007	Fourth week of July 2007	22 Recommended Alternative
Fourth week of August 2007	Fourth week of August 2007	23 Final EIS
Fourth week of September 2007	Fourth week of September 2007	24 Final Engineering Report
Fourth week of November 2007	Fourth week of November 2007	25 MOU
Second week of December 2007	Second week of December 2007	26 Recommended Alternative Presentation
Fourth week of December 2007	Fourth week of December 2007	27 Access Justification Report
Fourth week of December 2007	Fourth week of December 2007	28 ROD

¹ Revised based upon the occurrence of various overlapping spring breaks.

ATTACHMENT

H. CONTACT RECORDS

- Daily e-mail and conversations with MDOT.
- Monthly progress report.
- Meetings of:
 - ✓ March 16th with the Modeling Task Force.
 - ✓ March 17th with the border processing agencies.
 - ✓ March 22nd and 23rd with border crossing proponents.
 - ✓ March 24th for the threatened and endangered species and wetlands scope verifications with MDOT.
 - ✓ March 28th with MDOT on the various border crossing structures and construction techniques.
 - ✓ March 30th with the Partnership Working Group.
 - ✓ March 30th with the Local Advisory Council.

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