

February 13, 2006

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

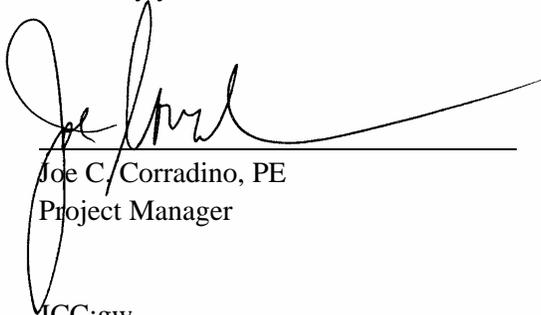
RE: DRIC EPE/EIS Project; Job N. 802330
TCG Project No. 3600 - Invoice No. 13 Progress Report

Dear Mohammed:

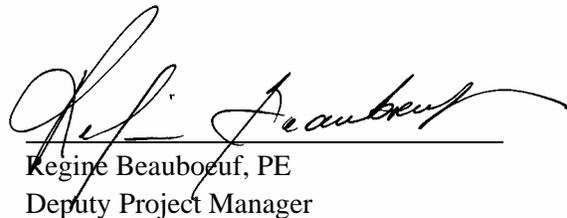
Enclosed is the narrative progress report for the DRIC EPE/EIS Project. It supports Invoice No. 13 for January 2006. The invoice will be submitted under separate cover to Tonya Novach.

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,



Joe C. Corradino, PE
Project Manager



Regine Beauboeuf, PE
Deputy Project Manager

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Attachment

**PROGRESS REPORT
THE CORRADINO GROUP
DRIC EPE/EIS PHASE
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JANUARY 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

- Conducted two workshops:
 - ✓ January 4th to present the preliminary vision statements without and with the new river crossing as well as a preliminary location for the plaza(s).
 - ✓ January 18th to present the revised vision statements and plaza locations.
- Met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency on January 9th to discuss the preliminary plaza location(s) for the new river crossing.
- Conducted a public meeting in Delray on January 17th at the request of an LAC member
- Met with the MDOT Core team on January 18th.
- Conducted meetings with the City of Detroit agencies (Planning Commission staff, Economic Growth Corporation staff, and Planning and Development Department staff) on January 23rd and 24th to discuss the master planning activities.
- Met with the Local Agency Group on January 25th.
- Met with the Local Advisory Council on January 25th.
- Met with the Working Group on January 26th.
- Assisted in the preparing a presentation to be made by MDOT at the Transportation Research Board annual conference held in Washington D.C. in late January.
- Continued to work with the community to gain right-of-entry to properties for detailed DRIC field analysis.
- Prepared for the February 23rd federal agency coordinating meeting.
- Began developing an updated Briefing Book to present to the state legislature in January.
- Prepared notice for opening of the field office.

- Teleconferenced with MDOT's management and Governor Blanchard to discuss the impacts of the then-upcoming (January 23rd) Canadian federal elections.
- Provided input in responding to a letter from the Ambassador Bridge of December 16th to Roger Ward raising questions about the Illustrative Alternatives analysis process.
- Provided input in responding to a letter from the Ambassador Bridge of January 3st to Mohammed Alghurabi demanding MDOT terminate the DRIC Study and containing other allegations.
- Assisted in responding to media inquiries, letters, e-mails, comment forms, and calls to the telephone hotline, as appropriate.
- Helped prepare two status reports and the monthly progress report.

B. Products

- Materials for the January 4th and January 18th workshops.
- Materials for the January 9th discussion with U.S. Customs and Border Protection on plaza locations.
- Materials for a public meeting on January 17th in the Delray area.
- Materials for the January 25th meetings with the Local Agency Group and the Local Advisory Council.
- Materials for the meeting with the Working Group on January 26th.
- Materials for the PowerPoint presentation used at the Transportation Research Board annual conference.
- Draft mailer to announce the opening of the field office.

C. Task Evaluation

- The community workshops continue to strengthen the positive relationship with the Delray and Greater Southwest Detroit area community. The public input on locating the plaza has been valuable and will lay the groundwork for constructing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Cooperation with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency has been strong. Regular engagement will help strengthen the engineering and environmental analysis.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conduct the final workshop in this series of five workshops to develop the plaza location and to establish the preliminary Practical Alternative connections between the plaza and the river crossing and the plaza and I-75.
- Conduct the first workshop on master planning in the Delray area on February 27th.
- Meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency during the week of February 13th to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Meet on February 14th with the MDOT Coordination Team.
- Brief the Detroit Planning Commission on February 16th.
- Meet on February 21st with the state agencies to brief them on the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Assist MDOT as it prepares for a meeting with the PPRB on February 21st.
- Meet on February 22nd with the Working Group.
- Meet on February 22nd with the Local Agency Group and the Local Advisory Council.
- Meet on February 23rd with the federal cooperating agencies.
- Finalize the briefing book for a presentation to the state legislature.
- Open the field office.
- Determine if there will be a joint LAC/CCG meeting on March 22nd.
- Finalize the mailer for the March 29th public meeting.
- Prepare for the Partnership Steering Committee meeting on March 1st.
- Decide on the date of the next PSAG meeting

TASK 2 (2120) – PREPARE TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT**A. Work Progress**

- Began manual traffic counting on a number of arterials throughout the southwest Detroit area.
- Finalized the agreement to conduct aerial surveillance in February, after the Super Bowl, to collect traffic information on freeways.
- Met with MDOT on January 18th to review the comments on the Traffic Analysis Report.
- Began the update of the Traffic Analysis Report.
- Presented a paper on the next steps to be taken in the traffic analysis area (Phases II and III).
- Coordinated with Regal Systems on installing/applying the Border Wizard model.

B. Products

- Memorandum to MDOT on the next steps in the traffic analysis area.

C. Task Evaluation

- The Traffic Analysis Report from Phase I of the DRIC Study is being updated. However, the pressure is on conducting the Phase II/Phase III analyses, taking precedence over finalizing the Phase I TAR.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Analyze and begin to use the manual traffic counts collected on arterials throughout southwest Detroit.
- Collect aerial surveillance of freeway traffic information.
- Continue to update the Traffic Analysis Report of Phase I activities for finalization.
- Continue the Phase II modeling steps of a refined network and calibration with new traffic data.
- Work with Regal Systems to install and begin application of Border Wizard.

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

A. Work Progress

- Teleconferenced with EPA on January 12th to further discuss the developments in terms of PM_{2.5} analyses.

B. Products

- Notes from the January 12th teleconference with U.S. EPA.

C. Task Evaluation

- U.S. EPA has decided it will not press for a health impacts analysis.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet with MDOT and FHWA to discuss the scope to the indirect/cumulative effects analyses.

TASK 4 (2140) – DEVELOP/REVIEW ILLUSTRATIVE ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- This task has been completed.

TASK 5 (2160) – DEVELOP SCOPING DOCUMENT

A. Work Progress

- This task has been completed.

TASK 6 (2310) – CONDUCT SEE TECHNICAL STUDIES

A. Work Progress

- Cooperated with the geotechnical specialists of the consulting team to define the locations for drilling equipment associated with the brine well investigation.
- Continued to cooperate with MDOT to further advance the right-of-entry requests.
- Defined the exact procedure to conduct noise measurements at and around the Ambassador Bridge for use in the noise analyses and public meetings.
- Conducted field investigations for the following purposes: cultural analysis, wetlands analysis, coastal zone management analyses, and threatened and endangered species analyses.
- Researched and reviewed past studies and other data sources with respect to wetlands, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and coastal zone management issues.
- Updated the data included in the Illustrative Alternatives analysis for the 310-acre plaza location in the following areas:
 - ✓ Protect Neighborhood/Community Characteristics
 - ✓ Maintain Consistency with Local Planning
 - ✓ Protect Cultural Resources
 - ✓ Protect the Natural Environment
- Continued the development of land use histories to be used as a guide in the area's cultural analysis investigations.
- Distributed to the LAC the list of organizations to be interviewed in the cultural analysis area.
- Defined the area within which the cultural analysis will be conducted.
- Defined the list of organizations/individuals to be interviewed for the cultural analysis

B. Products

- Updated data in the following analysis areas for the 310-acre plaza location in Delray: Protect Neighborhood/Community Characteristics; Maintain Consistency with Local Planning; Protect Cultural Resources; and, Protect the Natural Environment.
- Definition of the area within which the cultural analysis will be conducted.
- Definition of the list of organizations/individuals to be interviewed for the cultural analysis.

C. Task Evaluation

- Very little response was received from the LAC with respect to the list of those to be interviewed for the cultural analysis. Nonetheless, that work will now begin.
- The indications that a PM2.5 hotspot analysis will not be conducted will be important to the conducting the air quality analysis.
- The right-of-entry issue will be key to the timely completion of fielding investigations to support the analysis of the Practical Alternatives.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue to cooperate with MDOT to advance the right-of-entry issues.
- Conduct the noise measurements at or around the Ambassador Bridge for use in the noise analysis and at public meetings.
- Continue field work and other inventories to conduct the SEE analyses.
- Prepare for a meeting with MDEQ and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the threatened and endangered species analyses in the Detroit River.

TASK 7 (2320) – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A. Work Progress

- None until the Practical Alternatives require.

B. Products

- None.

C. Task Evaluation

- This task will resume once the Practical Alternatives are defined.

D. Upcoming Plans

- None until the Practical Alternatives have been approved by the Steering Committee.

TASK 8 (2330) – GEOTECHNICAL DATA

A. Work Progress

- Participated in a meeting with MTO and MDOT on January 6th to discuss the various differences in brine well investigation methods on the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border.

- Prepared for and participated in a meeting on January 24th with MDOT and at a subsequent meeting with the Ministry of Transport of Ontario on the proposed brine well investigation plan.
- Developed a preliminary boring plan.
- Reviewed the draft policy being considered by MDOT in regards to bridge foundations in proximity to brine wells.
- Assisted in the preliminary definition on properties where drilling equipment will be located.
- Received information from MDEQ that it will require a permit to drill for the brine well investigation.

B. Products

- Input to the discussions with MDOT and MTO on the brine well investigation procedures.
- PowerPoint presentation used at the January 24th meeting with MDOT and MTO.

C. Task Evaluation

- The key to the brine well investigation will be gaining right-of-entry on a timely manner with the property owners on which to locate the drilling equipment.
- An additional concern about the drilling is that the rate of which it will cause “a commotion in the neighborhoods.” Some way to mitigate this problem must be developed so that the issue will not become a “cause celeb” attracting complaints and media attention.
- MDOT will not finalize draft the policy on the location of bridge foundations in proximity to brine wells until additional information is collected through the brine well investigation.
- The need for a permit from MDEQ to conduct the brine well investigation introduces a significant cost and potential delay issue. Each hole that will be drilled will likely cost \$10,000 in terms of a permit application fee.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Prepare the boring plan for the brine well investigation.
- Provide a revised scope, schedule and budget for the boring plan, particularly if it requires additional holes, than the four contemplated in the current budget.
- Apply for and press for the MDEQ permit
- Assist MDOT in gaining right-of-entry.
- Begin marshalling the drilling equipment.
- Submit a revised scope and budget for drilling for PPRB review.

TASK 9 (2340) – PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES

A. Work Progress

- Met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection on January 9th to discuss the preliminary plaza locations for the Practical Alternatives.
- Refined plaza alternatives based upon interaction with the public in workshops.
- Developed potential crossing alignments in the X-10 and X-11 corridors.
- Finalized the navigational envelope for the Detroit River based on existing constraints at the Ambassador Bridge.
- Developed potential bridge pier arrangements at piers located in the river for comparison purposes of the crossing where the piers are not in the river. In all cases piers are located outside the navigational channel.
- Corresponded with the U.S. Coast Guard asking for feedback on the validity and their acceptance of a concept where the piers are located in the river (but outside the navigational channel).
- Continued to cooperate with the utility companies for information on existing infrastructure.
- Prepared a set of preliminary Practical Alternatives for presentation at the February 8th workshop.
- Prepared for a coordination meeting with MDOT's geometric section to discuss the geometrics at the ramps connecting the plaza to I-75.

B. Products

- Preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Correspondence with the U.S. Coast Guard indicating that it will accept as a reasonable option piers in the river but outside the navigational channel, if significant cost savings can be realized.

C. Task Evaluation

- The Coast Guard's agreement that a possible alternative will be to locate piers in the Detroit River outside the navigational channel has the potential for saving tens of millions of dollars.
- Practical Alternatives are taking shape with preliminary interchange and plaza options.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet with U.S. CBP in mid-February to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Meet with MDOT on February 14th to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Meet with state agencies on February 21st to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives

- Prepare for and participate in the meeting with the PPRB to discuss the boring plan and any update in cost associated with it.
- Meet with the Working Group on February 22nd to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Meet with the federal cooperating agencies on February 23rd to discuss the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Prepare for further detailing of the preliminary Practical Alternatives for presentation to the Steering Committee on March 2nd.
- Press for a utility coordination meeting to receive the last of the information still due.
- Request and prepare for a geometric design criteria review meeting with the MDOT technical staff.
- Submit a navigational envelope request to the Corps of Engineers
- Coordinate with the Canadian team on the cross-section for the new crossing of the Practical Alternatives.
- Continue to coordinate with the Canadians on the Context Sensitive Solutions work program.

TASK 10 (2360) – PREPARE DEIS

A. Work Progress

- Began preparing early segments of the DEIS such as the Purpose and Need and the list of alternatives.

B. Products

- None, as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Additional meetings with the Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, and CBP will further define the need for the DEIS.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet with the state cooperating agencies on February 21st.
- Meet with the federal cooperating agencies on February 23rd.
- Continue the preparation of early sections of the DEIS.

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 to cooperate with MDOT on the right-of-entry issues to conduct the initial site assessment for hazardous materials.

B. Products

- None, as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Gaining right-of-entry will be absolutely key to the progress of the study in 2006.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Continue to cooperate on a daily basis with MDOT to gain right-of-entry.

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

- Waited for definition of Practical Alternatives to resume work.

B. Products

- None, as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Further work in this area awaits the definition of the Practical Alternatives.

D. Upcoming Plans

- None.

TASK 19 (3320) – CONTROL SURVEY FOR AERIALS

A. Work Progress

- Waited for definition of Practical Alternatives to resume work.

B. Products

- None, as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- Further work in this area awaits the definition of the Practical Alternatives.

D. Upcoming Plans

- None.

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

- Continued research on brine well locations.
- Draft preliminary report on historical solution mining activities and revised it.
- Attended a meeting on January 24th with MDOT and MTO to discuss the brine well investigation program.
- Began preparing a MDEQ permit application for brine well borings.
- Met with MDEQ on January 31st to discuss the brine well boring plan.

B. Products

- Draft report on the history of solution mining in the focused analysis area.

C. Task Evaluation

- MDEQ has indicated that it will require a permit to drill for the brine well investigation. The permit application fee will likely be \$10,000 per hole based on the final boring plan. This could total somewhere between \$40,000 and \$200,000.
- The key to success in the brine well investigation is gaining right-of-entry to properties on which the drilling rigs will be located.
- The drilling rigs to be located in the Delray area will be very large and will create noise on a 24/7 basis for at least 30 days at a single location.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Prepare the boring plan and submit it to MDOT and MDEQ.
- Prepare an updated scope consistent with the number of boring holes agreed to by MDOT.
- Submit the drilling application to MDEQ. Press for its approval.
- Assist MDOT with the right-of-entry to advance the boring plan.

TASK 26 (3710) – REQUIRED MITIGATION**A. Work Progress**

- Met at two workshops in January (4th and 18th) with the community so that the preliminary definition of plaza locations can be established and early discussions can be undertaken about areas that may require mitigation.

B. Products

- Definition of the plaza location for discussion at the January workshops.

C. Task Evaluation

- Cooperation with the local community has been very constructive and positive. This will be critical in advancing both master planning for the area as well as gaining right-of-entry for various technical analyses.

D. Plans for Next Reporting Period

- Conclude the series of five workshops on February 8th with a discussion of the preliminary Practical Alternatives.
- Start the workshops on master planning on February 27th.

D. UPDATE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SCHEDULE (ATTACHED)

A change order for additional work was secured in November. The work in a number of areas is now underway.

E. ITEMS NEEDED FROM MDOT

- Assistance in dividing the engineering work on the border crossing facilities between the U.S. and Canadian consulting teams.
- Meeting with MDOT and FHWA on the scope of the Indirect and Cumulative Analysis.
- As-built plans for:
 - ✓ I-375 in Downtown Detroit.
 - ✓ Public utility information.
 - ✓ Right-of-entry paperwork on properties needed to advance the analysis of the Practical Alternatives.

F. SUBSTANTIVE VERBAL CONTACTS WITH MDOT (ATTACHED)

- Attended the following meetings on:
 - ✓ January 4th with the public in a workshop.
 - ✓ January 9th with CBP on the preliminary plaza location.
 - ✓ January 18th with the public in a workshop.
 - ✓ January 18th with the MDOT Core Team.
 - ✓ January 23rd with City representatives on master planning.
 - ✓ January 24th with the Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ January 24th with the Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ January 24th with MDOT and MTO on the preliminary boring plan for brine well investigation.

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 contact records, daily e-mails and conversations by phone and in person with the MDOT Project Manager and other MDOT personnel.
- Two status reports.
- Monthly progress report.
- Meetings of:
 - ✓ January 4th with the public in a workshop.
 - ✓ January 9th with CBP on the preliminary plaza location.
 - ✓ January 18th with the public in a workshop.
 - ✓ January 18th with the MDOT Core Team.
 - ✓ January 23rd with City representatives on master planning.
 - ✓ January 24th with the Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ January 24th with the Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ January 24th with MDOT and MTO on the preliminary boring plan for brine well investigation.

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