

May 13, 2005

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

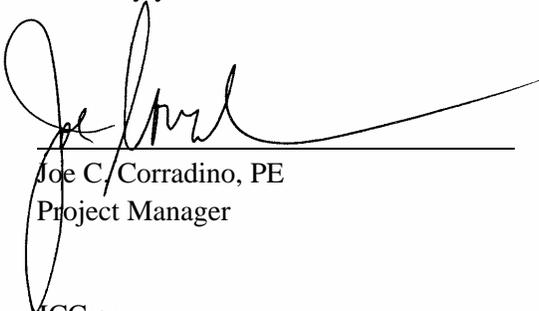
RE: DRIC EPE/EIS Project; Job N. 802330
TCG Project No. 3600 - Invoice No. 4 Progress Report

Dear Mohammed:

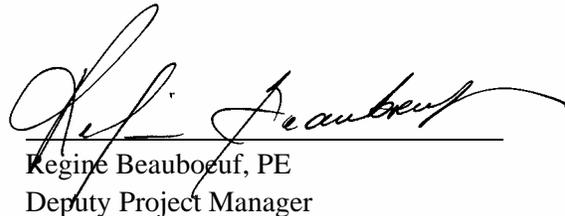
Enclosed is the narrative progress report for the DRIC EPE/EIS Project. It supports Invoice No. 4 for April 2005. The invoice will be submitted under separate cover to Tonya Novach.

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,



Joe C. Corradino, PE
Project Manager



Regine Beauboef, PE
Deputy Project Manager

JCC:gw
I:\projects\3600\wpl\progrpt\PR4.doc
Attachment

**PROGRESS REPORT
THE CORRADINO GROUP
DRIC EPE/EIS PHASE
APRIL 1 THROUGH APRIL 30, 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

- Attended the April 5th and April 6th Canadian public information open houses in Windsor and LaSalle, respectively.
- Conducted the U.S. public meetings on April 11th through 14th.
- Postponed indefinitely the April 11th air quality task force meeting.
- Participated in the Working Group meeting in advance of the Steering Committee meeting on April 12th.
- Participated in the Partnership Steering Committee meeting on April 13th.
- Met in Washington with Department of Homeland Security representative Doug Doan on April 19th.
- Attended a speech given by Premier McGuinty in Washington on April 19th.
- Met with Customs and Border Protection representatives on April 21st.
- Participated in the Working Group meeting of April 27th.
- Conducted the U.S. Public Agency Group meeting on April 27th.
- Participated in the April 27th Local Advisory Council meeting.
- Met with the Detroit International Bridge Company representatives on April 28th.
- Continued to monitor and respond to hot line calls and e-mail delivered to the MDOT Web site.
- Coordinated with the Canadian team to determine the applicability of CommentWorks tracking system.
- Monitored the developments of the April 15th meeting of the 25 Percent Challenge Task Force.

B. Products

- Materials for handout and presentation graphics to conduct the April 11th to 14th U.S. public meetings.
- Draft notes of the comments made at the public meetings of April 11th through April 14th.
- Draft letter of “thanks” to attendees of the April 11th through April 14th public meetings.
- Agenda and support materials for the April 12th Working Group Meeting.
- Agenda and support materials for the April 13th Steering Committee meeting.
- Responses in writing to e-mail comments in April (15 in number).
- Responses to comments to the telephone hot line in April (20 in number).
- Agenda and support materials for the April 27th Working Group meeting.
- Agenda and support materials for the April 27th Local Agency Group meeting.
- Agenda and support materials for the April 27th Local Advisory Council meeting.

C. Task Evaluation

- At the LAC meeting of April 27th, a request was made to consider using Robert’s Rules of Order and electing a chairperson from LAC members to conduct future LAC meetings. These issues must be addressed by MDOT before the next LAC meeting.
- Several members of the Local Advisory Council are interested in obtaining the names of all LAC members for direct communication with them. This matter was addressed with a show of hands at a lightly-attended meeting of LAC members on April 27th. It will now be necessary to canvass all LAC members to determine if they choose to allow their names and addresses (e-mail and U.S. mail) to be released to other LAC members.
- At the LAC meeting of April 27th, there was criticism of the lack of detail in the notes taken for the March LAC meeting and there was even more criticism of the notes taken of the April 11th public meeting in Wyandotte. These April 11th public meeting notes were found by the consultant to be faulty in that a piece of the dictation was lost, eliminating the comments of four speakers. This matter has been addressed and the revised/complete notes are now on the project Web site.
- It is noteworthy that almost all of the observers at the April 27th LAC meeting were from Riverview.
- The Air Quality Task Force meeting that was postponed from April 11th may not be needed as the individual analysis procedures are reviewed and go forward.

- The lack of participation by high-ranked members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency organization is a matter of significant concern. This may be rectified by a meeting on May 12th in Indianapolis.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conduct on May 12th in Indianapolis a meeting of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.
- Conduct on May 18th an informal scoping of U.S. agencies at the federal and state levels.
- Meet with the Partnership Working Group on May 26th and the Partnership Steering Committee on May 27th to address the definition of Illustrative Alternatives and prepare for public roll-out of the information at meetings in June.
- Prepare to attend the public meetings on the Illustrative Alternatives on the Canadian side of the border during the week of June 20th.
- Prepare to conduct the public meetings on the Illustrative Alternatives during the week of June 27th on the U.S. side.

TASK 2 (2120) – PREPARE TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT

A. Work Progress

- Met with the Modeling Task Force on May 20th to discuss the updated modeling results.
- Update the Modeling working paper based upon input received earlier from the Model Task Force members.
- Continued to request from the Ambassador Bridge the right to count vehicles in order to determine the throughput of the bridge. Meet with the Bridge representatives as early as possible.
- Continued to review and refine the modeling traffic network.
- Continued preparation of a background paper on cross-border rates, facilities, movements and commodities for truck, rail, water and air modes.

B. Products

- Updated and refined the networks to be used once the cross-border traffic modeling update is concluded.
- Working paper on the advances in the modeling between the March 16th and April 21st Task Force meetings.
- Comments on the documents and approaches to the modeling from Ali Mekky of the Ministry of Transport in Ontario.

C. Task Evaluation

- The work on the cross-border traffic by mode by year has made extensive strides to reconsider the conclusions of the Planning/Needs and Feasibility Study. It is likely that that work will conclude in May, then allowing network analyses to be undertaken on both sides of the river.
- Criticisms by Ali Mekky of the modeling to date need to be addressed such that his concerns are totally addressed.
- A decision needs to be made on the point in time at which land-use changes being contemplated by SEMCOG will affect the input data to the overall modeling process. This is important because preliminary indications are that the new population and employment data are trending to a much lower/much less aggressive population and employment forecast than previously contemplated (by almost two-thirds).
- The Detroit International Bridge Company pledged cooperation in review of its traffic data with the assumption that both sides would share its modeling data. The Partnership intends to engage DIBC in this regard.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Convene the Modeling Task Force on May 20th to finalize the cross-border forecasting.
- Continue updating the background paper on cross-border freight facilities movements and commodities for truck, rail, water and air modes.
- Continue to define the 2005 traffic volumes for the Ambassador Bridge including working with the Ambassador Bridge on May 19th as a result of the pledge of cooperation for the study.

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

A. Work Progress

- Assisted FHWA and MDOT in preparing for the May 18th agency meeting.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- The meeting conducted on May 18th will allow adequate time for the draft scoping document to be assembled and distributed in advance of an August target for the formal scoping meeting.

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

- Met with the Working Group and the Steering Committee to discuss the approach to plazas and tunnels.
- Received preliminary response from the Working Group and the Steering Committee on those locations where the tunnel and/or bridge concepts are viable and those locations where they are not.
- Received input to the draft evaluation approach for Illustrative Alternatives from the Steering Committee. Issues of regional, national and international economic and transportation (freight flow) importance are essential to the Steering Committee’s final adoption of a Preferred Alternative.
- Updated the working paper on evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives consistent with the Steering Committee guidance.
- Participated in second round of QUANTM training (April 12-15).
- Began, in cooperation with the Canadian team, the definition of Illustrative Alternatives. The approach to using QUANTM and the definition of “avoid” areas is different on each side of the river.
- Provided to MDOT a list of design criteria for final review at a May 3rd meeting.
- Contacted the Corps of Engineers and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to receive informal guidance on the ability to place a “submerged” tunnel in the Detroit River. Response from that has allowed the special consultant (Wetland and Coastal Resources) to provide an opinion that a submerged tunnel anywhere in the Detroit River area is not a feasible and prudent alternative consistent with the FHWA definition of these terms.
- Updated the draft Plaza Requirements paper.
- Participated in a meeting on plaza issues in April 21st meeting with Customs and Border Security Agencies.

- Began developing conceptual connections of Illustrative route alignments to freeways and plaza.

B. Products

- Updated draft Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation paper.
- Updated paper on tunneling issues.
- Updated paper on plaza requirements.
- Conceptual connections to freeways and plazas.

C. Task Evaluation

- The QUANTM analysis between the U.S. and Canadian teams by establishing “avoid” areas indicates a significantly different approach. This issue was aired with the Working Group on April 27th. It was determined that each side would use its own approach with the expectation that the coordination between both teams would lead to similar conclusions, regardless of the different approaches. It was stressed by MDOT during the meeting that the Canadian team would conduct its analysis only on the Canadian side of the river and the U.S. team would likewise stay on the U.S. side of the river. Coordination between these two groups would then reconcile the way (bridge/tunnel) and locations to cross the border.
- An April 21st meeting with Customs and Border Protection Agency representatives indicates that the core Customs area required of those functions on the Canadian side of the border would be 25 acres to 30 acres. Based on that input, and others, the plaza experts on the Canadian and U.S. teams have defined an 80- to 100-acre plaza to be located and analyzed in the Illustrative Alternatives phase.
- The meeting with Customs and Border Protection Agency representatives also provided input that plazas will be required on each side of the border in any situation. Nevertheless, if there needs to be a joint plaza, the potential of the plaza sites on each side of the border to expand to 100+ acres will be assessed in the evaluation process.
- The caution by the Steering Committee made it clear that all involved, particularly the public, are to understand that regional, national and international items of significance (i.e., economics and transportation (freight flow)) will be overriding issues in selecting a final alternative.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Meet with MDOT on May 3rd to review design criteria.
- Continue application of QUANTM and coordinate that activity with the Canadian team on a regular basis.
- Develop prototype connections to freeways and plazas.
- Prepare a draft support of the Illustrative Alternatives by the end of May.
- Prepare a set of graphics that define the Illustrative Alternatives for Working Group (5/26) and Steering Committee (5/27) meetings review.
- Meet on May 12th with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol representatives to ensure the adequacy of the plaza definition.

TASK 5 (2160) – DEVELOP SCOPING DOCUMENT

A. Work Progress

- Began early preparation of the scoping document which will increase in more detail as the Illustrative Alternatives are formed.

B. Products

- None as none required.

C. Task Evaluation

- FHWA/MDOT will now convene an informal scoping meeting on May 18th with a number of U.S. and federal agencies.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Assist MDOT and FHWA in the May 18th review of the Purpose and Need 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
 - Discussed with state and federal agencies the permissibility of various tunnels.
 - Continued field research.
 - Continued literature search.
 - Developed additional base mapping.
 - ✓ Coastal Zone Management
 - Discussed with state and federal agencies the permissibility of various tunnels.
 - Developed additional base mapping.
 - Continued field research.
 - ✓ Cultural Resources
 - Expanded the project area to include the area south of Sibley Road to just north of Rockwood. The work for this area included gathering information on recorded archaeological and historical sites. This included research at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and City of Detroit Planning and Development Department.
 - Gathered National Register of Historic Places information on the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport. The site was considered provisionally eligible in 1991. This information was submitted to the project team.
 - Started the process for the development of historic contexts for the project. These are necessary in order to have a framework for the evaluation of historic resources.
 - ✓ Agriculture
 - Completed GIS mapping.
 - ✓ Air Quality
 - Requested appropriate asthma data from the Department of Community Health through MDOT.
 - ✓ Flooding/Water Quality
 - Developed additional base mapping.
 - Continued field research.
 - Continued literature search.
 - ✓ Recreational Uses
 - Continued GIS mapping.
 - ✓ Community Impact Assessment

- Continued field verification of community facilities.
- Expanded area of field verifications.
- ✓ Title VI Issues
 - Refined analysis of protected groups (EJ and Title VI).
 - Developed graphics and GIS for input to evaluation of Illustrative Alternatives.
- ✓ Wetland Delineation/Assessment
 - Obtained and reviewed new wetlands assessment methodology (at MDOT direction).
 - Continued field research.
 - Continued literature search.
 - Developed additional base mapping.

B. Products

- Additional field work to update GIS.
- Continued refinement of the archaeological and historic sites.
- Refinement of the Census data study area defining key (EJ and Title VI) populations.
- Wetland and Coastal Resource’s opinion that the environmental conditions associated with the submerged tunnel prevent it from being a feasible and prudent option.

C. Task Evaluation

- The continuing work, largely based on paper research, but including selective but limited field research, has been and will continue to be key to the development of the Illustrative Alternatives.
- There is a lack of GIS information for the area south of Grosse Ile extending to the west. A number of attempts have been made to secure the information from Wayne County without success. This will significantly limit the ability to be as refined in this southern area as with the rest of the study area in terms of defining and evaluating Illustrative Alternatives. This issue must be resolved by mid-May.
- The Grosse Ile airport as a plaza site has been rejected because a number of structures are considered eligible for the National Register.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Conclude field work to refine GIS.
- Receive from Wayne County permission to use additional GIS information in the area south and west of Belle Isle.

- Work with MDOT to determine the approach to moving forward on additional aerial photography.
- Prepare preliminary evaluation for deeply-buried archaeological sites.
- Determine the alternative approaches to define the location of deeply-buried salt mines.
- Continue to coordinate issues dealing with the effects of environmental conditions on tunnel issues with the Canadian team.
- Participate in the informal scoping event of May 18th.
- Submit preliminary information on the evaluation of the project area for deeply buried archaeological sites.
- Submit revised site list to include area south of Sibley Road.
- Determine the flight track/airspace issues of all airports in the region including the Windsor airport to determine their effects on the height of a new Detroit River bridge location.

TASK 7 (2320) – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A. Work Progress

- Completed production of existing ORTHO photography of the current study area.
- Press MDOT on the acceptance, or lack thereof, of additional aerial photography of portions of the study area that are currently missing.

B. Products

- Delivery to MDOT of a memorandum to conduct additional work necessary to fly and produce ORTHO photos of the missing coverage of the study area.
- Complete production of existing ORTHO photography of the current study area.

C. Task Evaluation

- Existing data need 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 and the southern corridor to the west of the I-75/Telegraph Road area.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Work with MDOT on getting coverage of the missing portion of the study area.

TASK 8 (2330) – GEOTECHNICAL DATA

A. Work Progress

- Reviewed the Canadian team’s geotechnical report. Developed conclusions dealing with all crossing types (tunnel and bridge) as they relate to the various crossing corridors in the study area.
- Prepared a summary and conclusions on the viability of various bridge and tunnel crossings.
- Developed through the Wetlands and Coastal Resources a determination that a submerged tunnel would not be a feasible and prudent alternative.

B. Products

- Completed Orthos

C. Task Evaluation

- Coordination/collaboration between the Canadian and U.S. geotechnical teams has led to a determination that a submerged tunnel is not viable in any corridor. Likewise, a bored tunnel in soft ground or rock would not be considered a viable alternative in the Grosse Ile and Fighting Island areas. A rock-bored tunnel is not considered viable in any corridor. The leaves only a soft ground bored tunnel in the Central, I-75/I-96, and East corridors. A bridge crossing is viable in every corridor.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Receive the review by Canadian and MDOT government technical specialists of the legitimacy of the conclusions by the U.S. and Canadian consultants with respect to issues dealing with tunnel locations.
- Advance a proposal to MDOT to address with more certainty than is currently proposed in the various scopes of work the location of salt mines on the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border affecting the Illustrative Alternatives area.

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

- Offer the proposal to MDOT for additional aerial photography and topographic mapping so that complete definition of Illustrative Alternatives leading to Practical Alternatives could take place.

B. Products

- Proposal to MDOT for additional work.

C. Task Evaluation

- Work is awaited from MDOT on the potential additional work dealing with aerial photography and topographic mapping.

D. Upcoming Plans

- Proceed as appropriate based upon MDOT review of the change order.

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 had been moved to mid-April from late March based upon the different “spring breaks” affecting the constituencies in the project area. This has had no impact on the overall project schedule.

E. ITEMS NEEDED FROM MDOT

- Review by the Partnership Working Group and Steering Committee of the Illustrative Alternatives to be reviewed at the end of May.
- 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 and proposed facilities development for the Detroit River Tunnel Partnership proposal.
- 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 12 from Van Horn to US 12.
 - ✓ 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:
 - ✓ April 5th and 6th on the Canadian public information open houses.
 - ✓ April 11th, 12, 13th and 14th in the public meetings for the U.S. side.
 - ✓ April 21st with the Modeling Group.
 - ✓ April 21st with Customs and Border Protection Agency representatives.
 - ✓ April 26th with the MDOT/FHWA Core Team.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Partnership Working Group.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ April 28th with Detroit International Bridge Company representatives.
- 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.
- Three bi-weekly status reports.
- Meetings of:
 - ✓ April 5th and 6th on the Canadian public information open houses.
 - ✓ April 11th, 12, 13th and 14th in the public meetings for the U.S. side.
 - ✓ April 21st with the Modeling Group.
 - ✓ April 21st with the Customs and Border Protection Agency representatives.
 - ✓ April 26th with the U.S. Core Team.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Partnership Working Group.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Local Agency Group.
 - ✓ April 27th with the Local Advisory Council.
 - ✓ April 28th with Detroit International Bridge Company representatives.

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