
News Release Communiqué

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BORDER TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP REACHES MILESTONE

Foundations investigations completed

The Governments of Canada, the United States, Ontario and Michigan announced today that the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study teams have reached an important milestone with the completion of the technical analysis of the foundations investigations.

The results of the foundations investigations and technical analysis were reviewed by a bi-national Geotechnical Advisory Group, a group of 12 leading experts in foundations, rock mechanics and geophysics from across North America, which was assembled to provide advice on the conduct and analysis of the investigations.

The foundations investigations studied how historic salt mining activities could impact the crossings being considered for a new international bridge spanning the Detroit River. The investigations were undertaken on both sides of the river and are a critical part of the bi-national environmental study. With the results, the Canadian and U.S. teams will work together to complete the analysis of the three crossing options, in accordance with the legislated process in each jurisdiction.

“This is an important milestone and brings us one step closer to the development of additional border crossing capacity,” said the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “The foundations investigations will help ensure that the new river crossing is safe, efficient and secure.”

“I am pleased to see the process moving forward. We urgently need a new transportation link at Windsor-Detroit,” said Ontario Minister of Transportation, Jim Bradley. “The time is now – the need is now. Thousands of employees and their employers are depending on us to build a secure, reliable crossing. Our economic future depends on this.”

“As part of the U.S. process for this important project, under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), this foundations information has been included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which was recently released,” said Kirk Steudle, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

U.S. foundations investigations concluded:

- There are no subsurface features or conditions associated with solution mining that might affect the bridge foundations at the proposed Crossing B nor at Crossing C.

Canadian foundations investigations concluded:

- Bedrock stability in the area of the proposed Crossing B has not been influenced by solution mining of salt deposits.

- Pier locations for the main bridge at the proposed Crossing C are located in areas that have not been influenced by solution mining of salt deposits.
- The proposed approach alignment to Crossing C passes over a portion of an historic solution mining area which might affect bedrock stability. In evaluating this crossing alignment the study teams will have to consider the impact this finding will have on the overall study schedule, cost, feasibility, and risk.

Investigation was not undertaken at the proposed Crossing A, as this location in Canada was not affected by historic mining of salt deposits.

The Governments of Canada, the United States, Ontario and Michigan are committed to an efficient and secure Windsor-Detroit Trade Corridor. The development of additional border capacity is a national priority in both countries to support the continued growth in trade between Canada and the United States.

Read more about the Border Transportation Partnership at www.partnershipborderstudy.com

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