

## Straight Talk On...

### The Seven Evaluation Factors

As part of the Environmental study process, the DRIC study teams in Canada and the U.S. established seven evaluation factors to assess the various alternatives identified by the study team. In consultation with stakeholders, these factors were weighted, giving more weight to features whose impacts are considered to be more important. Within these seven factors are specific performance measures that help define what is actually being assessed.

<b>FACTORS</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>
<b>Changes in Air Quality</b>	Effects on areas where people will be directly impacted by air quality. Air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions changes.
<b>Protect Community and Neighbourhood Characteristics</b>	Displacement of and disruption to residences, businesses and social features. Direct impacts on existing businesses. Noise and vibration impacts. Community, neighbourhood, traffic and municipal impacts.
<b>Maintain Consistency with Existing and Planned Land Use</b>	Compatibility with government goals, objectives, and policies. Impacts to land use (existing and planned) and to development plans. Impacts to contaminated sites/disposal sites.
<b>Protect Cultural Resources</b>	Impacts to historic/archaeological features and cultural landscape units. Impacts to national, provincial and local parks/recreation sites.
<b>Protect the Natural Environment</b>	Impacts to ecological landscapes. Impacts to communities/ecosystems. Impacts to population/species. Impacts to surface water/groundwater recharge areas. Impacts to other natural resources.
<b>Improve Regional Mobility</b>	Assessment of highway network effectiveness. Assessment of continuous/ongoing river crossing capacity. Operational considerations of crossing system (river crossing and plaza).
<b>Cost</b>	Cost, including value for tax dollar. Assessment of constructability.

The evaluation will be considered in the overall context of the international and national significance of the Detroit River crossing in terms of the economy, security, and ability to provide continuous river crossing capacity.

The DRIC study team has not been directed to find the cheapest solution but rather is working with the community to identify the solution that provides the best balance of transportation benefits with community impacts, when compared to other alternatives. We are all taxpayers and we all expect our public funds to be spent responsibly. The DRIC study team must have good justification for any recommendations that are made. Evaluation throughout the EA process has been and will continue to be measured against the seven factors and conditions outlined above. This will ensure a fair and replicable evaluation process has taken place and a solution has been proposed that best balances project objectives, community needs and technical requirements.

03/28/2006