

## PREFACE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires that the impacts of any proposed action of the federal government be analyzed and that the public be involved. There are three levels of analysis, called “classes of action.” Class I Actions are those that may significantly affect the environment and require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Class II and Class III Actions are expected to have lesser impacts.

This document is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the United States’ part of a proposed border crossing system between the international border cities of Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario. The proposed project also includes the plaza where tolls and U.S. Customs activities occur and the interchange connecting the plaza to I-75. This DEIS explains why the project is needed and analyzes the alternatives that are being considered, including the No Build Alternative. Each alternative’s impacts are explained. Sometimes impacts can be avoided, lessened, or mitigated. Mitigation means taking steps to reduce or substitute or provide a replacement for impacts, such as replacing wetlands affected by a project. The potential indirect and cumulative effects, as well as the impacts this project may have across the international boundary in Canada, are also covered in this document.

Federal, state, and local agencies, and the public, will review and comment on this DEIS. A public hearing will be held. Comments received from the public and agencies will be summarized and addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in which a Preferred Alternative will be identified. Any necessary changes resulting from the comments will be made in selecting the Preferred Alternative. Once complete, the FEIS must be first approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and, then, it will be distributed for public and agency review. If FHWA agrees with the document’s findings, after its circulation, it will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). It will allow the project to move forward into the design phase. No funding has been identified past this environmental/planning phase.

Because impacts are anticipated to historic resources and public parks/recreation lands, which are called “adverse effects,” this DEIS also documents the coordination among agencies and the public that has occurred. Coordination on historic resources is required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. A Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is included as required under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, which protects parklands and historic sites.

This DEIS was prepared by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and a consultant team, in cooperation with FHWA and other members of a Technical Team and the cooperating agencies listed on the cover of this DEIS. The Technical Team includes representatives from the following divisions/support areas within MDOT: Communications, Construction and Technology, Design, Environmental, Roadside

Development, Intermodal/Multimodal, Project Planning, Real Estate, Statewide Planning, Traffic and Safety, and the Metro Region. Information was also furnished by other federal and state agencies, local units of government, public interest groups, a Private Sector Advisory Group, a Local Advisory Council of stakeholders and interested citizen groups, a Local Agency Group of governmental representatives, and individual citizens.

This DEIS and supporting Technical Reports are available for review on the project Web site ([www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)) and at the following locations:

Place Name	Address
MDOT Lansing Office	425 West Ottawa Street Contact: Mr. Bob Parsons Lansing, MI 48909
MDOT Metro Region Office	18101 W. Nine Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075
Detroit Transportation Service Center	1400 Howard Street Detroit, MI 48216
Taylor Transportation Service Center	25185 Goddard Road Taylor, MI 48180
Allen Park Library	8100 Allen Road Allen Park, MI 48101
Bowen Branch of the Detroit Public Library	3648 W. Vernor Detroit, MI 48216
Campbell Branch Library	8733 W. Vernor Detroit, MI 48209
Detroit Public Library	5201 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48202
Ecorse Library	4184 W. Jefferson Avenue Ecorse, MI 48229
Henry Ford Centennial Library	16301 Michigan Avenue Dearborn, MI 48126
Melvindale Library	18650 Allen Road Melvindale, MI 48122
River Rouge Library	221 Burke Street River Rouge, MI 48218
Southwestern High School Library	6921 W. Fort Street Detroit, MI 48209
Delray Community Center	420 Leigh Street Detroit, MI 48209
Kemeny Recreation Center	2260 S. Forth Street Detroit, MI 48209

<b>Place Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Neighborhood City Hall Central District	2 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48226
Neighborhood City Hall Northwestern District	19180 Grand River Avenue Detroit, MI 48223
Neighborhood City Hall Northeastern District	2328 E. Seven Mile Road Detroit, MI 48234
Neighborhood City Hall Western District	18100 Meyers Road Detroit, MI 48235
Neighborhood City Hall Eastern District	7737 Kercheval Street Detroit, MI 48214
Neighborhood City Hall Southwestern District	7744 W. Vernor Street Detroit, MI 48209

