

6. How Were Local, State and Federal Agencies and the Public Involved?

6.1 Agency Coordination

6.1.1 Early Coordination

MDOT conducted an agency scoping meeting on August 31, 2005, at Cobo Hall in Detroit. The meeting, which was open to the public, provided the opportunity for federal, state, and local agencies to review and comment on the scoping document prepared to guide the study process. The Local Advisory Council (comprised of representatives of community groups and local elected officials) and the Local Agency Group (comprised of technical professionals from local governments) also participated in the meeting. Prior to it, a scoping packet was mailed to those invited or who requested it. Letters received in response to scoping are found in Appendix F.

6.1.2 Cooperating Agencies

The following federal agencies have agreed to be cooperating agencies for the project:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit;
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. General Services Administration – Great Lakes Region;
- U.S. Coast Guard;
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security – U.S. Customs & Border Protection; and,
- U.S. Department of State.

A cooperating agency has special authority or expertise over the implementation of a project. Their participation is provided for by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. Each has reviewed and approved release of this document in the role of cooperating agency.

6.1.3 Agency Meetings

In addition to the scoping meeting, several other meetings were held with federal and state agencies. Details regarding the meetings are listed in Table 6-1. These meetings were held consistent with the commitment by FHWA and MDOT to continuous cooperation throughout the DRIC Study. These meetings assisted in gaining approval on the scoping document, Illustrative Alternatives, the Practical Alternatives and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Table 6-1
Agency Meetings
Detroit River International Crossing Study

Date	Location	Purpose/Topics of Discussion
April 27, 2005	Detroit	Project update with technical representatives of local governments.
May 18, 2005	Detroit	Involve the U.S. Cooperating Agencies in the Detroit River International Border Crossing Study.
July 20, 2005	Detroit	Project update with technical representatives of local governments.
August 18, 2005	Detroit	Project coordination with SEMCOG in regard to their travel demand modeling.
October 19, 2005	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies with emphasis on Illustrative Alternatives
November 18, 2005	Cleveland	Determine needs of the U.S. Coast Guard as they related to a new crossing of the Detroit River.
December 19, 2005	Detroit	Project update with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol on Plaza location.
December 20, 2005	Detroit	Project update with U.S. Army Corps.
January 9, 2006	Conference Call	Project update and coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
January 25, 2006	Detroit	Project update with technical representatives of local governments.
February 17, 2006	Detroit	Project update with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
February 21, 2006	Lansing	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies with emphasis on Illustrative Alternatives Evaluation of Practical Alternatives.
February 23, 2006	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies with emphasis on Preliminary Practical Alternatives.
February 24, 2006	Washington, D.C.	Project update with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
March 8, 2006	Detroit	Project update with the Detroit Department of Environmental Affairs with a focus on the right-of-entry requests to the City for the geotechnical/drilling program.
April 26, 2006	Detroit	Project update with technical representatives of local governments.
May 17, 2006	Lansing	Project update with the State agencies.
May 31, 2006	Detroit	Project update with technical representatives of local governments.
June 13, 2006	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies with emphasis on the drilling program and social/cultural workshops.
September 12, 2006	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on the drilling program, Context Sensitive Solution workshops.
September 13, 2006	Windsor	Update the Coast Guard and others on Practical International Crossing Alternatives.
September 25, 2006	Lansing	Project coordination and guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office.
December 5, 2006	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on preliminary project impacts; deep drilling program; and, results of Context Sensitive Solution workshops.
March 14, 2007	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on deep drilling program; Value Planning results; and, Bridge-type Study.
May 17, 2007	Detroit	Update officials at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation on land use planning that has been done in conjunction with the Delray community.

Table 6-1 (continued)
Agency Meetings
Detroit River International Crossing Study

Date	Location	Purpose/Topics of Discussion
June 7, 2007	Conference Call	Project update with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the General Services Administration.
June 13, 2007	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on Screening of Practical Alternatives; deep drilling program; Bridge-type Study; CBP/GSA coordination; and, Delray land use.
September 19, 2007	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on review of Technical Reports
October 22, 2007	Lansing	Resolved issues regarding the <i>National Register</i> eligibility of certain properties/districts, and addressed other project-related issues with the SHPO.
October 29, 2007	Conference Call	To exchange information related to possible mitigation efforts at Fort Wayne with the SHPO, Detroit Recreation Department and the National Parks Service.
October 30, 2007	Lansing	Project update and coordination of project activities with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
December 12, 2007	Detroit	Project update of U.S. Cooperating Agencies and State agencies with emphasis on Technical Reports and DEIS.

6.2 Public Workshops and Meetings

Engaging the public during the development of the DEIS involved a series of workshops and formal public meetings. Approximately 10,000 residences and businesses were sent mailings about each formal public meeting. In addition to the mailings, more than a thousand fliers were handed out door-to-door in Delray and along the I-75 service drive north of the freeway for public meetings and workshops. Selected display advertisements and media advisories were also posted in the following newspapers:

- Detroit Free Press
- Detroit News
- Latino Press
- Arab American News
- Michigan Chronicle
- News-Herald Downriver

Additionally, early in the DRIC, when the study area ranged from Wyandotte to Belle Isle, radio advertisements on Detroit's principal stations were used to help promote awareness of the milestone public meetings.

A DRIC Workshop



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

6.2.1 U.S. Public Workshops

The following is a list of DRIC Study Workshops and the principal content of each:

Date	Focus
December 14, 2005	Vision Statement
December 21, 2005	First Step to Plaza Location
January 4, 2006	Final Vision Statement and Presentation of Preliminary Plaza Locations
January 18, 2006	Proposed Plaza Locations and Work Station "Q and A"
February 8, 2006	Proposed Plazas with Preliminary Tie to Bridges and I-75
February 27, 2006	Land Use Goals
March 8, 2006	Community Analysis
March 22, 2006	Community Planning
April 19, 2006	Context Sensitive Solution Terminology/Process
May 9 & 10, 2006	Social and Cultural Issues
May 23, 2006	Illustrative Land Use Plans
June 22, 2006	Bus Tour to View Toledo and Port Huron Bridges
August 24, 2006	Ramp/Plaza Concepts/Aesthetics
November 2 & 15, 2006	Initial Bridge Concepts/Aesthetics
April 26, 2007	Land Use/Urban Design/Crossing System Aesthetics
August 8, 2007	Bridge Aesthetics

Notes of all workshops are on the project Web site (www.partnershipborderstudy.com).

6.2.2 U.S. Formal Public Meetings

The list of DRIC Study public meetings and the purpose of each follows.

A DRIC Formal Public Meeting



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

- **April 2005 Public Meetings – April 11 at Biddle Hall in Wyandotte, April 12 at River Rouge High School in River Rouge, April 13 at Southwestern High School in Detroit, and April 14 at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Detroit.**
 - Introduced the project and solicited input on where the Illustrative Alternatives should or should not go. Public input was used to define evaluation criteria and develop Illustrative Alternatives.

- **June 2005 Public Meetings – June 27 at Martin Luther King, Jr. High School in Detroit, June 28 at Southwestern High School in Detroit, June 29 at River Rouge High School in River Rouge, and June 30 at Crystal Gardens in Southgate.**
 - Explained the Illustrative Alternatives and received input. The community was involved in weighting evaluation criteria. The Illustrative Alternatives were then refined prior to evaluation. More than 900 people participated.

- **December 2005 Public Meetings – December 5 at River Rouge High School in River Rouge, December 6 at old HomeQuarters (HQ) in Southgate, December 7 at Southwestern High School in Detroit, and December 8 at Butzel Family Center in Detroit.**
 - Reviewed the Illustrative Alternatives evaluation results. Public input led to working with the Delray/Southwest Detroit community to establish the area within which the proposed plaza would be located. The eight workshops listed on the previous page, held between December 14, 2005, and March 22, 2006, fulfilled that objective.

- **March 2006 Public Meeting – Delray Community Center and Southwestern High School.**
 - Presented the Practical Alternatives. The Practical Alternatives were refined based on the public input received.

- **December 5, 2006 – Southwestern High School.**
 - Discussed preliminary results of analyses of potential impacts of the Practical Alternatives. Public input received allowed further refinement and evaluation of the Practical Alternatives.

- **January 11 and 31, February 28, March 21 and 28, 2007 – Delray Community Center.**
 - Reviewed the DRIC deep drilling program to test for the location of brine well cavities. These meetings allowed the local community to be fully aware of all field work and to have questions answered by a team of field representatives.

- **April 25, 2007 – Southwestern High School.**
 - Concluded discussion of DRIC deep drilling program and explained the next steps in the analysis process, which would lead to a conclusion to be released to the public in the DEIS.

- **June 20, 2007 – Southwestern High School.**
 - Reviewed the screening of Practical Alternatives. Public input received allowed refinements to the alternatives and addition of Alternative #16 to better address local access considerations.

- **December 12, 2007 – Southwestern High School.**
 - Reviewed the Context Sensitive Solutions and conceptual land use planning work conducted beginning December 2005. An open house allowed input to be gained on this aspect of the project as well as the cultural resources work addressing significant historic resources.

Two public hearings on the DEIS will be held on March 18, 2008, at Southwestern High School (6921 West Fort Street) and on March 19, 2008, at LA SED (7150 West Vernor Highway). The public hearings will be held at least 15 days following formal notice of availability of the DEIS and all supporting technical reports. The hearings will be conducted, as most DRIC public meetings, as a combination “open forum/formal presentation/open microphone format.” The open forum will allow the public to stop in anytime during the scheduled hours, gather facts on the study, and speak with members of the MDOT Team on a one-to-one basis. MDOT will present a summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) during the formal presentation followed by an opportunity for all to hear public comments and questions in the open microphone portion of the meeting.

Court reporters will be available to record oral comments at any time during the hearing. Citizens can also fill out a comment form and deposit it into the comment boxes at the public hearing site. Comments can be submitted through the project Web site

(www.partnershipborderstudy.com) using the on-line comment form. They can also be mailed, faxed or emailed. The public record will be open for comments until April 29, 2008.

All written or recorded comments will appear in a transcript of the public hearing. A copy of the complete transcript, including all written and recorded oral comments received, will be available for public review once completed at the locations listed in the Preface of this DEIS.

Notes of all formal public meetings are on the project Web site.

6.3 U.S. Local Advisory Council (LAC) and Local Agency Group (LAG)

In addition to the series of public workshops and meetings, the DRIC Local Advisory Council (LAC) and the Local Agency Group (LAG) were formed. The LAC is made up of various elected officials, interest groups, and community representatives. It is a representative form of public involvement that involves members bringing ideas and concerns of their respective constituents to the table for discussion. In turn, LAC members communicate results of those discussions to their groups.



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

The Local Agency Group (LAG) was formed to have technical professionals from area governments, directly or indirectly affected by the DRIC proposal, engage in the study process. While held separately for the first year of the project (2005), LAG meetings were consolidated with those of the LAC after that.

In March 2006 and November 2006 the LAC met jointly with the Canadian Community Consultation Group. The purpose of the meetings was to review the Practical Alternatives and the preliminary impact data before the public meetings on these topics.

The LAC/LAG meets on the last Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise announced. Each meeting was opened to the public and included two public comment periods. Each formal public meeting presentation was pre-screened at the LAC/LAG and refined based on their input. Additionally, monthly input was used to shape the study process, respond to issues and conduct analyses to satisfy the community's interest in the project. Organizations participating in the DRIC Local Advisory Council are listed in Appendix H. Those invited to the LAG are also listed in Appendix H.

Notes of all LAC/LAG meetings are on the project Web site (www.partnershipborderstudy.com).

6.4 Other Meetings and Public Involvement

6.4.1 MDOT Real Estate Meetings with Property Owners in the DRIC Study Area

Residents who are within the DRIC Study area footprint (see Figure 3-9) received a letter in early July 2007 inviting them to attend open houses held at the Delray Community Center on July 30 and 31 and August 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Owners/tenants were briefed on their rights and benefits, if they are relocated as part of the DRIC project. Information on the project and real estate procedures were available. MDOT did not engage in any discussions of property purchase.

One-on-one meetings were held with about half the property owners/tenants on these four days. Additional meetings were held on an as-requested basis. These meetings took place as part of the preparation for the DEIS. Results are documented in MDOT's files.

MDOT also interviewed all businesses owners/operators, usually at their place of business.

6.4.2 Joint Transportation Committee Meetings

The House Transportation Committee (Rep. Philip LaJoy, Chair) and Senate Transportation Committee (Sen. Judson Gilbert, Chair) conducted joint sessions on March 23 and 30, 2006, and on May 11 and 18, 2006, in Lansing regarding the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study. These meetings were open to the public. The results are reported on the project Web site (www.partnershipborderstudy.com).

6.4.3 Other Public Involvement

The public involvement process has involved many small group/one-on-one meetings requested by the public. These have included meetings with city councils, chambers of commerce, trucking companies, owners and operators of potentially-impacted businesses, public agencies, and other groups.

The project Web site (www.partnershipborderstudy.com) includes information on meeting notes and reports. Information is also provided on contacting the project team and being added to the project mailing list. There is also a toll-free telephone system

(1.800.900.2649) through which a caller can make comments or ask questions about the project.

A DRIC Study Information Office is located at the Delray Community Center, 420 Leigh Street, in Detroit. It is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM to provide information and answer questions about the project.

6.4.4 Boat and Bus Tours

On September 28, 2005, a boat tour was conducted of the study area on both sides of the Detroit River. The tour examined different potential river crossing areas and the impacts they might have. The tour was open to agencies, LAC members, and the public.

On June 22, 2006, a bus tour examined bridges in Toledo, Ohio, and Port Huron, Michigan. This tour was also open to agencies, LAC members, and members of the public.

September 28, 2005, Bus Tour



Source: The Corradino Group of Michigan, Inc.

