

**DATE:** July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
**TO:** Mayor Hurst and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** The Business Transportation Task Force  
**RE:** Request for written submissions for the Special Council Meeting July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002

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The purpose of this brief is to provide City Council with a written update on the status of the Business Transportation Task Force.

### **Background:**

The Government of Canada has recently announced \$2 billion dollars to be invested in a national infrastructure program. Furthermore, the Government of Canada has announced a \$600 million dollar program targeted at border crossings in response to September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

At a meeting in Windsor on May 6, 2002, attended by Deputy Prime Minister John Manley and the Hon. Susan Whelan, it was made clear that requests for funding from these sources were to be made as soon as possible.

The Government of Ontario has a multi-billion dollar Superbuild fund targeted towards infrastructure needs in the Province at large.

Windsor region is the number one border crossing community along the Canada/ U.S. border, serving the needs of Canada's vital industrial, agriculture and tourism industries. Windsor's transportation infrastructure is in need of significant new investment.

### **Task Force Objectives:**

- Assess and identify problems and issues facing the existing border crossings, including physical infrastructure and institutional barriers.
- Develop criteria integral to business needs.
- Recommend short-term alternative concepts and regional "Now Solutions," national in significance, which could access federal and provincial dollars in order to enhance border efficiency and throughput.

## **Task Force Composition:**

The Task Force was struck, recognizing that there are three key pillars of the Windsor/Essex economic profile: Manufacturing/Auto, Tourism/Gaming, and Agri-Business. The task force members are:

**Honorary Chair:** Anthony (Tony) Toldo

### **Co-Chairs:**

Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce – Michael Robinson

Windsor/Essex County Development Commission – Michael Walker

### **Members:**

Accucaps Industries Limited – Gordon Moore

Atlas Tube Inc. – Barry Zekelman

Colonial Tool Group Inc. – Diana Lausch

DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc. – Lori Shalhoub

Family Tradition Foods Inc. - John Omstead

NARMCO – John Rodzik

Ontario Greenhouse Association – Denton Hoffman

University of Windsor – Ross Paul

Windsor Casino Limited – Keith Andrews

Windsor Raceway Inc. – William Carter

Windsor Raceway Inc. – John Millson

**Legal Advisor:** McTague Law Firm – Doug Lawson

### **Secretariat:**

Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce – Linda Smith

**Observers** included representatives from the City of Windsor, the County of Essex, the Provincial and Federal Ministries of Transportation, Prime Minister's Office, Deputy Prime Minister's Office, and the Deputy Prime Minister's Department.

## **Status Report:**

The Task Force has met three times to date. We have heard presentations from numerous stakeholders including:

1. Dr. John Taylor, Associate Professor of Marketing and Logistics, Seidman School of Business, Grand Valley State University  
*Long Term Border Management: A Case, Alternative Strategies, and Issues*

2. Detroit & Canada Tunnel Corporation, Gordon Jarvis  
*A Vision For The Detroit Windsor Tunnel*
3. Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Bruce McCuaig  
*Windsor-Detroit Gateway – Bi-National Planning Process*
4. Michigan Department of Transportation, Andrew Zeigler  
*The Ambassador Bridge/Gateway Project Summary Report*
5. Canadian Transit Company, Remo Mancini, Skip McMahon  
*Ambassador Bridge – A Model Border Crossing For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
6. Mich-Can International Bridge, Ross Clarke  
*The Detroit- Windsor Third Crossing*
7. Detroit Rail Tunnel Partnership, Michael Sheahan  
*The Windsor-Detroit TradeWay Proposal*
8. City of Windsor, John Tofflemire  
*Border/Corridor Historical Context/Short Term Alternative Concepts Discussion*

**Next Steps:**

In its final phase, the Task Force is now completing public consultations and digesting reports. It is anticipated that the final report will be ready the first week of August. At that time, it will be delivered to the Deputy Prime Minister, and other interested parties including City Council.