

# Highlights from The Bi-National Planning Process – Windsor/ Detroit Gateway Presentation

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## **Overview:**

- It is a partnership involving Canadian, U.S., Michigan Department of Transportation and Ontario's Provincial Ministry of Transportation
- The purpose is to develop a long-term transportation Strategy that will ensure safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services between Southwestern Ontario and Southeastern Michigan.
- It is the first step in a single, integrated planning process that addresses the requirements of legislation on both sides of the border.

The **Process** will involve five key steps:

1. Planning/Needs and Feasibility Study – present to the end of 2003
2. Scoping/Terms of Reference – one year to the end of 2004
3. Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Assessment – 1.5 – 2 years to the end of 2006
4. Design – 1.5 – 2 years to the end of 2008
5. Construction – at least two years, earliest for construction starts, 2008

*Ontario is prepared to consider infrastructure projects or operational improvements that do not prejudice the outcome of the bi-national planning process in the interim period.*

## **Objectives:**

- Identify existing and future transportation problems and opportunities
- Identify focused analysis areas within which major infrastructure alternatives will be studied
- Analyze practical and feasible land-based surface transportation alternatives
- Recommend feasible international crossing alternatives
- Determine user and economic benefits of recommended feasible alternatives
- Develop overall 30-year Transportation strategy, including medium and long range plans and implementation strategies

**Next Steps:** Host stakeholder consultation forums in the summer of 2002. Public information centers will begin in the fall of 2002.

## **Immediate/Short Term Actions:**

- Recognizing that immediate/short term action is required to manage congestion while Bi-National Planning Process is underway, the Ministry of Transportation is working with City and Federal Governments to pursue immediate projects to help improve traffic management. This includes the measures outlined in Windsor's original list of operational improvements
- Transportation infrastructure alone cannot solve the congestion issue
- Need for reform of border processes by federal agencies responsible for customs, immigration and security
- MTO is interested in working with City, Federal Government and Industry on short/medium term projects that can help "bridge" the gap to the long-term solution
- Interested in ideas on how public and private sector can work together:
  - Without prejudicing Bi-National Planning Process
  - Within context of legislative environment on both sides of the border
  - Partnership approach can mobilize additional resources and build momentum