

## Straight Talk On...

### Access Road Options

Without question, tunnelling an access road is an option that deserves further analysis to determine if it is the most appropriate solution for the community. Over the coming months, the DRIC study team will thoroughly investigate the advantages and disadvantages of a range of options for an access road, including tunnelling, a depressed roadway and an at-grade roadway within the Hwy 3 / Huron Church Road corridor. All of these options will include service road alternatives that will allow local traffic to remain on city streets, separating local from international traffic.

The study team will consult with the public, and conduct detailed investigations, engineering, and technical analysis to identify the pros and cons of each access road option. The team will take into consideration things like air quality impacts, noise, constructability (including technical and engineering considerations) and cost, and public safety.

After the investigations and analysis are complete, it is possible the best option for an access road may in fact be a combination of tunnelling, at-grade roadways and depressed roadways, while protecting the continuity and function of the local road network. This will be identified through ongoing consultation with the community, and additional technical analysis.

Some questions about each of the access road options to be considered include:

- **Safety for travellers** – Are there special safety considerations associated with any of these options? How can interchanges be designed to ensure safe access to entrances and exits along the freeway?
- **Air Quality** – What is the impact on air quality when you compare the three options? Does a tunnel effectively improve air quality when compared to an at-grade or depressed roadway?
- **Noise** – What are the noise impacts of depressed roadways and at-grade roadways, and a tunnel? What types of noise mitigation options may be required for each of these options?
- **Engineering considerations** – Which option is best given the soil and groundwater considerations along the access road corridor? What are they impacts to the existing utilities within the corridor? Do the road designs accommodate the local traffic needs?
- **Construction management** – How long would it take to build each option? How do you handle the existing traffic within the corridor to minimize diversions to other roadways? What are the impacts to local residents during construction?

The study team is committed to examining these issues, and consulting with the community on the results in order to identify the solution that provides the best balance of transportation benefits with community impacts, when compared to other alternatives.