

Straight Talk On...

Community Consultation

To date, the DRIC study team has held a total of no less than **90 meetings** with stakeholders in Windsor-Essex County:

- 8 Meetings with Councils of affected municipalities
- 35 meetings with the general public and/or community representatives including Public Information Open Houses (PIOHs), Workshops, Public Meetings, Community Consultation Group and Community Group Meetings
- 27 Advisory Group Meetings (including First Nations)
- 24 Other Study Area/Interest Group Meetings

This represents an average of 2 meetings with stakeholders per week since the EA process began in late January 2005.

Community consultation is an integral part of the DRIC Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Community Consultation continues to provide us with invaluable input and the unique perspective that only residents of Windsor-Essex County can offer.

The public has a major role to play in the planning for this new border crossing capacity in the Windsor-Detroit gateway. We have asked -- and will continue to ask -- the public to review, comment on and provide input to the work being done as part of the EA process. We rely on the public's knowledge of local issues, history, and business to give us the local perspective and help us determine how a new transportation system will best fit into Windsor's community. The public's comments and views have, and will, influence the direction of the study and the recommendations that are made at the end of the study process.

More workshops will take place following the March 28, 2006, announcement of specific options for access roads, inspection plazas and river crossings. Additional meetings, including PIOHs will be held as key project milestones are reached (see 'Next Steps' fact sheet for timeline information). Group meetings will continue as well and, as always, any group or individual can request a meeting with the study team to discuss their specific concerns. Details regarding meeting dates can be found at www.partnershipborderstudy.com.

The concerns of residents, business owners and politicians are important to the DRIC study team and the suggestions made by the public are factored into the overall assessment process. We are committed to listening to what local communities have to say, addressing their concerns and incorporating their ideas whenever possible.

The DRIC study teams on both sides of the border are continuing to work with the community to identify the solution that provides the best balance of transportation benefits with community impacts, when compared to other alternatives. Anyone who has concerns or questions should contact the study team directly. If they don't tell us their concerns, we can't begin to address them.