

Technical Studies and the Seven Evaluation Factors

The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study team undertook extensive technical studies to conduct the detailed analysis of The Windsor-Essex Parkway. This work included: air quality modelling; studying the impacts to neighbourhoods, communities and property owners; identifying archaeological sites and important fish and wildlife habitat areas and species present (including any species at risk); investigation of soils and drainage conditions; and developing construction staging and traffic management requirements.

The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides significant advantages over the other Practical Alternatives according to the seven major evaluation factors.

Changes to Air Quality – All alternatives offer similar benefits to air quality by eliminating stop and go traffic and getting trucks off local streets.

Protecting Community and Neighbourhood Characteristics – The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides a greater buffer between neighbourhoods and the roadway than other options and as such requires more property. In addition, new connections link communities and new recreation paths and green space areas are possible.

Maintaining Consistency with Existing and Planned Land Use – The Windsor-Essex Parkway creates more open space along the corridor, which provides a buffer for adjacent land uses and new recreational opportunities.

Protecting Cultural Resources – The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides a greater number of opportunities for new parks and recreation trails to link to existing parks and trails.

Protecting the Natural Environment – The effects of a larger right-of-way are offset by the greater opportunities for the enhancement of natural features and the restoration of natural linkages. At least 240 acres of new green space will be created.

Improving Regional Mobility – The Windsor-Essex Parkway has better access between the freeway and the service roads. The design of the roadway results in better service road operations.

Cost and Constructability – The Windsor-Essex Parkway is estimated to cost \$1.6 billion (2011 dollars). It is almost \$1 billion more expensive than the lowest cost at-grade alternative and is the most expensive highway per kilometre ever built in Ontario.

The DRIC study team's comprehensive evaluation has determined that The Windsor-Essex Parkway is the Technically and Environmentally Preferred Alternative for the access road.

Additional technical information on The Windsor-Essex Parkway will be made available at Public Information Open Houses to be held after the identification of the preferred end-to-end alternative, including the locations of the inspection plaza and new river crossing.

For more information on The Windsor-Essex Parkway visit www.weparkway.ca

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