

Community Input

Community input has played an important role in the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study since it started in 2005. Over the last three years, the DRIC study team has held nearly 300 consultation events involving thousands of Tecumseh, LaSalle, Windsor and Essex County residents, community groups, experts, local elected officials and other government agencies.

Extensive consultation, combined with detailed technical studies and analysis, led to the development of The Windsor-Essex Parkway.

Comments from local residents have helped shape The Windsor-Essex Parkway.

- The DRIC study began with the concept of a new roadway connecting Highway 401 to a new Detroit River crossing. The public said standard at-grade alternatives would create a division through the community. The at-grade alternatives were removed from further study as other options were investigated. The study team found that below-grade options, like The Windsor-Essex Parkway, delivered opportunities to remove the freeway from sight in certain areas and reduce the noise effects of traffic from residents' backyards.
- The public asked for tunnel options to be studied. The DRIC study team undertook extensive studies on tunnels and found that although an end-to-end tunnel was not the best solution, tunnelled sections could be incorporated with the below-grade alternatives. The Windsor-Essex Parkway includes 11 tunnels totalling 1.8 km that hide the roadway from view, provide additional green space and join communities together.
- Getting trucks off local streets and maintaining access to neighbourhoods and community features were two top priorities for the public. The Windsor-Essex Parkway reflects both of these needs by providing border-bound traffic with direct access from Highway 401 to a new river crossing, separating local and international traffic, and including service roads that enhance access to neighbourhoods, schools, natural areas and shopping.
- The residents along the Highway 3/Huron Church Road corridor expressed concerns about living next to a new freeway. The Windsor-Essex Parkway provides a wide right-of-way to accommodate buffer areas along the roadway, reducing the effects on adjacent neighbourhoods.
- The community expressed support for a roadway integrated with natural landscaped features to improve community and wildlife connections. With The Windsor-Essex Parkway, tunnel roofs and buffer areas along the right-of-way provide opportunities for restoring areas of natural prairie grass and Carolinian forest to enhance the natural features remaining in Windsor-Essex County.
- Following the presentation of the Parkway in August 2007, the City of Windsor and the community asked the study team to adjust the location and lengths of some of the tunnels. In response, The Windsor-Essex Parkway includes:

- o a new 200 m tunnel in the vicinity of the Spring Garden community
- o a new 240 m tunnel placed in the vicinity of the Oliver Estates community
- o the length of the Hearthwood Place Tunnel increased from 165 m to 220 m.

The DRIC study team is interested in hearing your thoughts on The Windsor-Essex Parkway. Visit www.weparkway.ca or call 519-973-7367. Public Information Open Houses will be held to present technical findings, answer questions and to gather input. Dates and locations will be announced shortly.

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