

## **Air Quality**

Air quality is one of seven evaluation factors taken into consideration as part of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment (EA) study. Air quality specialists worked in consultation with provincial and federal agencies to identify any changes to air quality resulting from the crossing, plaza and access road alternatives.

### **What did the studies reveal?**

- The Windsor-Essex Parkway improves air quality by eliminating stop-and-go conditions caused by the traffic signals that exist in the Huron Church Road/Highway 3 corridor today.
- The wide right-of-way and more than 300 acres of green space of The Windsor-Essex Parkway provide a buffer to residential areas.
- Constructing tunnels longer than those proposed in The Windsor-Essex Parkway would not provide additional improvements in air quality.
- Sensitive areas are avoided by the location of the plaza and crossing in an existing industrial area.
- The Huron Church Road corridor contributes less than 2% of the nitrogen oxides emissions to the Windsor region air shed.
- The effect of all vehicles on all paved roads in the region amounts to less than 20% of the particulate matter and only two per cent of the particulate concentrations comes directly from vehicle exhaust or tailpipes; the remainder is from road dust.
- Particulate concentrations in Windsor are strongly influenced by other sources, both within and outside the region. Local area sources such as agriculture, construction sites, and unpaved roads contribute to almost half the particulate concentrations and industry contributes more than a third.
- During the monitoring program, the pollutant concentration levels for the pollutants being measured were generally within relevant federal Canada Wide Standards and provincial Ambient Air Quality Criteria.

### **What does this mean for future air quality?**

With the advent of new fuel and engine technologies and the improvements provided by the Recommended Plan, air quality influenced by transportation sources in the region will be improved.

### **How were the studies done?**

A detailed work plan, reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Health Canada (HC) and Environment Canada (EC), outlined how the DRIC study team would assess air quality. In response to public input, the DRIC study team also added a field measurement component to the Air Quality work plan. This helped to improve the understanding of the current air quality conditions adjacent to the Huron Church Road/Highway 3 corridor.

More information on air quality can be found at [www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com)