

## The Windsor-Essex Parkway - An Overview

In 2005, the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study began under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. Throughout the study, Windsor and Essex County residents attended meetings, talked to the study team, and provided written comments. This consultation, combined with detailed technical studies and analysis, led to the identification of the Windsor-Essex Parkway as the Ontario access road portion of an end-to-end border transportation system in the Windsor-Detroit Gateway.

The Windsor-Essex Parkway is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. It is unprecedented in its community enhancement features for any highway, anywhere in Ontario and will include:

- 1.8 kilometres of tunnelled sections
- extensive landscaping throughout the corridor
- noise mitigation through strategic placement of tunnels, noise barriers and berms
- ecological restoration and measures to protect wildlife.

Upon completion, the 11 kilometre Parkway will ensure the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services to and from the Windsor-Detroit border, separate local and international traffic, and eliminate stop-and-go traffic in residential areas. With more than 300 acres of green space, 20 kilometres of recreational trails and new community connections, residents in Windsor-Essex will enjoy an improved quality of life.



The Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) will design, build, finance, and maintain the Parkway. The Parkway is the first road project in Ontario to be delivered using an alternative financing and procurement model.

Design and construction of the Parkway is anticipated to provide a sizeable boost to regional and Ontario economies by creating an estimated 12,000 project-related jobs, with the majority in the Windsor-Essex region.

Work on the Parkway has been underway since Ontario approved the Environmental Assessment in August 2009 and includes:

- acquiring approximately 900 properties
- removing 169 buildings in the corridor
- partnering with local groups for community benefit, including salvaging more than 250 tonnes of materials
- ecological restoration
- constructing two bridges and a two kilometre noise barrier
- relocating utilities and raising two hydro towers.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late summer 2011 and the Parkway is expected to be open to traffic in fall 2014.

The public has an important role to play during the design and construction phases of the Parkway. Community input will be solicited at Public Information Open Houses and at other consultation events over 2011 and 2012 and questions, feedback and comments are always welcome. The public can reach the project team through email at [detroit.river@ontario.ca](mailto:detroit.river@ontario.ca) or by mail at 949 McDougall Avenue, Suite 200, Windsor, ON, N9A 1L9 (Fax: 519-973-7327). The Windsor Essex Mobility Group's Windsor office will open soon.

For project information, to join the mailing list and to submit resumes and company information visit [www.weparkway.ca](http://www.weparkway.ca). Follow the project on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/weparkway](http://www.twitter.com/weparkway)), Flickr ([www.flickr.com/weparkway](http://www.flickr.com/weparkway)) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/weparkway](http://www.youtube.com/weparkway)) to stay in touch and to find out the latest news.