

Backgrounder **—Phase 2A Community Engagement Plan—**

The National Capital Commission (NCC) announced in October 2009 that Co-Enterprise AECOM-Delcan was selected to lead Phase 2A of the Future Interprovincial Crossings in the National Capital Region, Environmental Assessment Study.

Phase 1 of the Study, completed in January of 2009, assessed the needs and justification for a future crossing(s) of the Ottawa River and concluded that an additional interprovincial crossing is required. After assessing ten potential locations, Kettle Island was identified as the technically preferred corridor.

Phase 2A has begun. The mandate of this phase is to develop a process for evaluating and selecting a bridge crossing in the east-end of the National Capital Region. In response to public comments, the three corridors under consideration are those that obtained the highest ratings during Phase 1: Kettle Island (Corridor 5); Lower Duck Island (Corridor 6); and Gatineau Airport/McLaurin Bay (Corridor 7). A decision on the bridge location will not be taken during Phase 2A; the actual selection will occur during Phase 2B.





A new bridge will be an important addition to the National Capital Region's landscape and will shape the development, growth and vibrancy of the area. As population and employment increase in the region, a new bridge will be essential in helping to alleviate transportation issues and enhance cultural and social cohesion between the cities and the provinces. It is important that the process for selecting a new crossing location is rigorous and reflects public sentiment.

A major component of Phase 2A is consultation with communities, the public and stakeholders to obtain input into the development of the Study Design (methodology for selecting a location) and CEEA Scoping document that will guide the Environmental Assessment process in Phase 2B.

The Community Engagement Plan developed for Phase 2A reflects the commitment to meaningful and collaborative consultations. In addition to a number of consultation activities (e.g., public sessions and online activities), the program also includes two forums to engage organizations on more specific matters: the Public Consultation Group (PCG) and the Community Consultation Groups (CCGs):

- The Public Consultation Group is a broad collection of stakeholder groups that have a regional interest in this Study, and includes representation from various community associations, business groups, environmental organizations, institutions, etc.
- The Community Consultation Groups are a new forum introduced as a pilot for this phase to allow for more proactive and direct consultations with the communities that are adjacent or in proximity to the three corridors under consideration.

The 4-step approach and key dates for the Phase 2A Public Engagement Plan are provided in the table below:

Steps	Objective	Consultation Activities and Key Dates
 STEP 1: Launch Activities (Nov 2009-Feb 2010)	Project update: inform public, stakeholders of project launch, Phase 2 A and B objectives, and opportunities for input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 15, 2009: Public Consultation Group Meeting #1 November 2009-February 2010: website updates, briefing package for elected officials, news releases, etc.
 STEP 2: Input (Feb 2010-March 2010)	Seek input into draft Study Design and CEAA Scoping reports; more interactive consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 22, 2010: Public Consultation Group Meeting #2 End February-early March 2010: Community Consultation Groups (Round 1) Early Spring 2010: Public Sessions: one in Ottawa, one in Gatineau (details to be announced) March 2010: Online Consultation
 STEP 3: Refine (April 2010)	Refine draft Study Design and CEAA Scoping reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-to-end April 2010: Community Consultation Groups (Round 2) End April 2010: Public Consultation Group Meeting #3
 STEP 4: Report (May-June 2010)	Present Final Study Design and CEAA Scoping reports; Project wrap-up and reporting of what was heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May/June 2010: Consultation activity reports June 2010: Presentations to city committees, NCC Board May/June 2010: Web updates

The Study is funded by the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ), and guided by a Study Team consisting of the funding partners and the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau.

The total cost for Phase 2A is currently estimated at \$500,000, and is expected to conclude in June 2010. A consultant for Phase 2B services is scheduled to be retained in Fall 2010 and the anticipated completion date for the Phase 2B is end of 2012. The approvals process following completion of the Study is expected to extend to the end of 2013. Both Phases A and B will include extensive public and stakeholder consultations and ongoing opportunities for review and input at key milestones.

For more information, please visit the Study website at www.ncrcrossings.ca.

