

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

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WHAT'S NEW?

HEADING TOWARD ROUND 2

On Tuesday, June 5, 2012 in Gatineau and Tuesday, June 12th, 2012, in Ottawa, public consultation sessions will be held in Gatineau and Ottawa respectively, as part of Phase 2B of the Interprovincial Crossings Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. In this round of consultations, the second of four public sessions during this last phase of the Study, the public will have the opportunity to review the functional designs of the technically preferred alignment within each corridor and the steps taken to develop that recommended alignment. The technically preferred alignment for each corridor can be viewed on the Study website's [Resources](#) page. These consultations will also solicit the public's input into the evaluation factors that are being used to select the corridor and their weighting, and to refine the functional design of each alignment in each corridor and mitigation measures to fit with the identified community values. The meetings will also provide an opportunity for members of the public to suggest additional criteria and their perspective on the importance of the criteria in the decision-making process. Members of the public are invited to the following locations:

Gatineau, QC	Ottawa, ON
Tuesday, June 5, 2012 Maison du Citoyen 25 rue Laurier Gatineau, QC Open House 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m	Tuesday, June 12, 2012 Shinkman Arts Centre – Lower Lobby 245 Centrum Boulevard Orléans, ON Open House 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m

RECENT INITIATIVES TO ALLOW MORE INPUT

The consultants met in February, March and April with affected residents and stakeholders to get their initial feedback on some of the more specific elements of the design and mitigation measures. The meetings were highly productive with many practical comments provided and opportunities explored about the proposed bridges and roadway networks. This initial input has helped refine the alignments, which are to be formally presented for further feedback in this Round 2 consultation.

PUBLIC INPUT INTO THE CORRIDORS EVALUATION

During Round 2 of public consultation, in addition to the alternatives developed and the transportation report, stakeholders and members of the public will have the opportunity to complete the Pair-Wise matrix on the comment sheet during the events in Gatineau and Ottawa or on the Study website at www.ncrcrossings.ca until **July 5, 2012**. The Factor definitions are available on the Study Website in the [Draft Evaluation Methodology Report](#) (Appendix B) or upon request. The weights collected from the public will be presented to the Evaluation Committee for their information and consideration during the evaluation process of the (3) corridors studied.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE AND FAIRNESS AUDITOR

The Evaluation Committee (EC) will conduct the evaluation of the three Corridors. The committee is made up of several technical experts with relevant and broad knowledge of the Corridors to ensure there is a balanced and informed evaluation. As a result of the discussions regarding the EC Selection and Evaluation Methodology, and to further ensure the equity, equality and transparency of the Evaluation Process for all Corridors, the Study Team has decided to engage an external auditor. This is a new addition to the Evaluation Process since the start of Phase 2B. The role of the auditor is to represent the public interest by assessing the quality of the deliberations and the procedural fairness of the corridor

selection and how the evaluation process work is done. To do so, the auditor will confirm that members of the evaluation committee have the skills and backgrounds identified in the publicly-available criteria as requirements for their selection as well as determine whether the evaluation committee conducted their work in a manner that was in the broad public interest. The auditor will also assess the quality of the deliberations and the procedural fairness of the Consultant's work related to the evaluation of alignments of each corridor.

SELECTING THE PREFERRED CORRIDOR

Following Round 2 public consultation, each corridor will be subjected to a comparative analysis process identified in the [Study Design Report](#) to determine the best performing corridor. **Round 3 of public consultation is scheduled to begin this fall.** The preferred corridor will be brought forward for public consultation and feedback at that time. The final round of consultation in late winter/early spring 2013 will focus on the overall results of the Study, including the preliminary design of the proposed bridge.

STUDY DEADLINE

The consultant technical activities for the completion of the EA and Screening Reports is currently scheduled to be completed by spring 2013 with all environmental endorsements, authorization and approvals by Spring 2014.

Corridors being studied

Three corridors are under study for a new Interprovincial Bridge Crossing to link the Cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. Phase 1 of the Study, which was carried out from 2007 to 2009 assessed the need and short listed these three crossing locations as the preferred candidate corridor locations. The need for a new crossing was defined to accommodate growth of the Region since the last bridge was built in the early 1970s and to promote tourism and development in the Nation's Capital. The need and the recommendation to further study these three corridors for further study have been endorsed by both cities, and provinces and the federal government. Phase 2A, completed in 2010, defines a Study Design Report that describes a "blue print" for undertaking (the remainder of the Environmental Assessment study is described as Phase 2B). Phase 2B of the Study is to be completed in 2013, and environmental approvals are currently scheduled in spring 2014.

Context

The different levels of government responsible for planning and managing the National Capital Region have long been aware of the area's interprovincial transportation challenges. In addition to the obvious truck impacts through the downtown core, previous planning studies have identified the Region's lack of sufficient interprovincial crossing capacity during peak hours as a key constraint to an integrated and efficient interprovincial transportation network. Recognizing this, the NCC, the ministère des Transports du Québec and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario have formed a partnership to identify a potential new inter-provincial crossing, working with the Cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. The selection and ultimate construction of an additional future crossing, following a sound environmental assessment process, is an important step towards the enhancement of interprovincial and regional transportation. In May 2011, Phase 2B was initiated by the Roche-GENIVAR Joint Venture.

For more information on the Interprovincial Crossings EA Study, please visit the website at www.ncrcrossings.ca.