



CGLI Position Paper on the New International Trade Crossing

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The Canada-US trade relationship is the biggest trade relationship in the world. According to the Consulate General of Canada, more than \$1.7 billion in goods cross the US-Canada border every day. The Consulate notes that the US exported more goods to Canada in 2011 than it did to China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Russia combined. Much of this trade crosses the border between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. In fact, one-quarter of the trade – around \$120 billion in 2011 -- crosses the 83-year old Ambassador Bridge that spans the Detroit River between Detroit and Windsor.

On June 15, 2012 Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor Rick Snyder announced an Agreement between Canada and Michigan to build a new publicly-owned bridge between Detroit and Windsor. The new bridge would include inspection plazas at each end and an interchange between I-75 and the Windsor-Essex Parkway. The total project will cost an estimated \$3.5 to \$4 billion. Bridge construction will be funded primarily by the Canadian government and private investors, and the US government is expected to cover the cost of the customs plaza on the US side. Investors will be allowed to recoup their initial investment through toll revenues, but after the initial cost is repaid, the US and Canada will share toll revenues for the remainder of the bridge's projected life.

CGLI supports efforts to construct the new bridge. The new bridge would provide an additional border crossing and a freeway-to-freeway connection at Detroit-Windsor that does not currently exist. The new bridge also would streamline customs inspections on each side of the border. Currently, security screening in Canada occurs two miles away from Canada's customs plaza and low-risk secondary screening in the US occurs five miles from the US customs plaza. The new crossing would reduce border congestion and its associated costs and delays. CGLI supports the new bridge project as a means of facilitating trade between the US and Canada and enhancing the investment climate of the Great Lakes region.