Trucking Industry Welcomes Release of Windsor Border Plan

Ontario Trucking Association president David Bradley – a forceful advocate of making our borders work -- welcomed today’s release of the City of Windsor’s proposed plan for improving the road and highway infrastructure leading to the Windsor-Detroit border crossing as a significant step forward in what has become a very long and highly contentious debate over what was initially supposed to be a “short term” solution to the traffic congestion approaching the border. In September 2002, then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and then Ontario Premier Ernie Eves, announced they had agreed to jointly contribute $300 million over five years to alleviate some of the traffic problems in Windsor over the short-term.

“Today’s announcement by the City of Windsor is a very positive step,” Bradley said. “It has taken a long time, but today we finally have a concrete proposal for moving forward – a local solution with a national vision. It’s now up to the two senior levels of government to provide the necessary support and leadership to put the plan into action.”

“This is welcome news for local businesses, as well as for importers, exporters and the trucking industry. By now everyone knows that the Windsor-Detroit gateway is the single most important trade link in the world. Given the importance of Canada-US trade to our economy, it is no understatement to say that the Windsor-Detroit border crossing is Canada’s economic lifeline. By creating greater freeway access to the border the infrastructure improvements contained in the plan should help improve the free flow of trade at Windsor-Detroit, so much of which is time-sensitive freight.”

Bradley also commended Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis for his leadership in developing the plan and on its scope, “The plan contains a number of the key improvements we believe are necessary for the free flow of trade and for the protection of the Windsor community. For us the key issues were provision of a freeway-to-freeway access to the border; more separation of cars and trucks; and more choice in terms of border crossings. The plan attempts to address all of these objectives".

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