



MEDIA RELEASE

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Blue Water Bridge resurfacing project begins in April

Point Edward/Sarnia, ON, CAN (January 19, 2015) – The Blue Water Bridge international crossing will be partially closed beginning in April for the resurfacing and waterproof undercoating of its original span. Work is expected to be finished by July 1. Bridge co-owners, Blue Water Bridge Canada (BWBC) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are coordinating the construction project.

The original bridge, built in 1937, currently serves U.S.-bound traffic. The Canada-bound span, built in 1997, will be used to accommodate international traffic in both directions during the project. Only one lane of traffic will be open in each direction across the bridge, with two lanes available in each direction as vehicles approach the toll plazas at each end of the bridge.

"This important project continues the long-term commitment by BWBC and MDOT to maintain and preserve the safety and reliability of the Blue Water Bridge," said BWBC Chief Operating Officer John Elliott. "Helping to minimize and manage short-term traffic delays for cross-border travellers is an integral part of the project."

Reduced lane access during the project will prevent the availability of a dedicated lane for NEXUS and F.A.S.T. motorists, as well as for buses. Wide loads will be restricted to less than 3.35 metres (11 ft), and bicyclists cannot be accommodated during the construction. Due to the longer wait times expected at the border, motorists are encouraged to travel at off-peak hours, if possible, or travel south to use the international ferry at Sombra/Marine City, or the bridge or tunnel crossings in the Windsor/Detroit area.

BWBC and MDOT have been seeking input and assistance from local border security and public safety agencies to ensure that the most efficient traffic plans are incorporated into this project. Traffic flow and sign placement are being developed to help reduce delays and keep vehicles moving safely. As well, staffs from both agencies are refining their daily traffic management procedures to promote the efficient flow of vehicles during the project, while also maintaining emergency vehicle access.

BWBC, a non-appropriated federal Crown corporation, owns and operates the Canadian side of the Blue Water Bridge. The international crossing extends across the St. Clair River between Point Edward/Sarnia, ON, CAN and Port Huron, MI, USA. Operating since 1938 and twinned in 1997, the bridge is among the most preferred land border crossings for commercial and passenger vehicles travelling between Canada and the United States. The U.S. side of the bridge is owned and operated by MDOT.

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