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Statement

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada welcomes an arrangement with the United States to advance the new publicly-owned bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan

February 18, 2015

Ottawa, Ontario

Transport Canada

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, issued today the following statement:

"I am pleased to confirm that following significant discussions with the United States and Michigan, Canada has now signed an Arrangement to ensure that the new publicly-owned bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan can proceed without further delay.

"Under the terms of the Arrangement, the U.S. inspection plaza will be procured as part of the public-private partnership (P3) which will design, finance, construct, operate and maintain the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) / New International Trade Crossing (NITC) project. The cost of the U.S. Port of Entry will be repaid from future toll revenues and not by Canadian taxpayers.

"This Arrangement is good for Canada and for Canadians. It ensures that all the elements of the project will ultimately be delivered through a public-private partnership. It also allows Canada and Michigan to move the project forward immediately to its next steps which include further design work and property acquisition on the U.S. side of the border.

"The new DRIC / NITC bridge is of vital importance to the economic prosperity of communities and businesses on both sides of the border. It will facilitate the movement of people, goods and services by ensuring that there is sufficient border crossing capacity to handle projected growth in cross border trade and traffic in the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor. As well, it will provide a much-needed crossing alternative at one of the busiest commercial border crossings in North America and support national security and public safety priorities in Canada and the U.S. It will also bring new jobs, opportunities and continued prosperity to communities in both countries.

"A new Windsor-Detroit crossing remains one of Canada's top infrastructure priorities for Canada. The Government of Canada is committed to completing the new crossing and will continue to work very closely with the State of Michigan and the Government of the United States to build this new bridge as soon as possible."

This is in line with the goals of the Canada-US Beyond the Border Action Plan, signed by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper in December 07, 2011."

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