

Michigan Department of Transportation  
Status Update – Continental Rail Gateway Project  
PA 84 of 2015 Section 1006  
October 28, 2015

*Sec. 1006. The department shall prepare a report regarding progress on the construction of a new rail tunnel crossing of the Detroit River between the city of Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, Canada, referenced in the balance of this section as “the project”. On November 10, 2015, the department shall provide the report to the house and senate transportation appropriations subcommittees and the house and senate fiscal agencies. The report shall include the following:*

*(a) Whether the project has obtained all necessary environmental and cross-border crossing permits from the governments of Canada and the United States.*

*(b) Whether the project is included in the long-range transportation plan of the southeast Michigan council of governments.*

*(c) Whether the department is satisfied that the project will accommodate not fewer than 400,000 rail cars per year.*

*(d) Whether the department is satisfied that the project will be available for use by all rail companies.*

*(e) Whether the department is satisfied that all approvals necessary for the completion of the project have been secured.*

### ***Background***

The Continental Rail Gateway (CRG) project is an infrastructure project of regional and national significance. It will provide immediate state and national economic stimulus, while also supporting long-term growth and stability in global trade and travel to and from the region. The construction of this replacement high-clearance rail tunnel linking Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario will accommodate domestic double-stacked 9’6” containers, which cannot fit in the existing 100-year-old tunnel. The project will have direct benefits to both the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal (DIFT) project and cross-border passenger rail service between Michigan and Ontario.

### ***Project Status***

- The project is currently on a temporary hold, as the project economics are being re-evaluated by Borealis and CP Rail, joint owners of the existing tunnel.
- All required approvals have been obtained with the exception of the Canadian International Bridges and Tunnels Act (IBTA) approval and the U.S. Presidential Permit, neither of which can be sought until full project funding is in place.
- Discussions have been held regarding the project’s inclusion in the SEMCOG Long Range Plan; action is on hold until the tunnel’s joint owners complete their evaluation of the project’s economics and move forward.
- The Department is satisfied that the project will accommodate not fewer than 400,000 rail cars per year.
- The Department is satisfied that the project will be available for use by all rail companies.
- The Department is satisfied that, with the exception of those approvals noted above that are dependent upon funding, all approvals necessary for construction of the project have been obtained.