



August 6, 1007

***Twin Span in Port Huron, Michigan Did Not Resolve Cross-Border Traffic Problems:
Could Poor Planning for a Twin Span in Buffalo Yield Similar Results?***

Dear Resident:

Front page headlines published by *The Buffalo News* report on the Buffalo Common Council's decision to support the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Peace Bridge Expansion Project with backing from New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer – *but little is said about the negative impacts of the project to West Side residents and their neighborhood. Impacts you won't read about in The Buffalo News!*

In April 2007 the US Department of Homeland Security decided that a shared border management concept, which would minimize impacts to the West Side neighborhood surrounding the Peace Bridge, was not possible. Since that decision was announced, the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority and your Congressman Brian Higgins, anxious to expand the region's cross-border trucking capacity, have rushed forward with commitments and plans for the Peace Bridge that expand the plaza and road network on the West Side, requiring the condemnation of acres of land and the demolition and/or relocation of hundreds of homes and businesses – all paid for with hundreds of millions of **your** tax dollars – dollars that could be used instead to fix New York's State's structurally deficient bridges.

Condemnation and demolition does not have to happen! The Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge Group's private-sector proposal to build a bridge approximately one mile north of the Peace Bridge does **not** require public funding or the taking of a single home. The location of our project is in the International Railroad Bridge corridor and is situated entirely on land owned by Ambassador. This location is at the nexus of commercial railroads, Interstate 190, and the Black Rock Canal and provides an excellent economic opportunity for the region. The amount of vacant, brownfield sites surrounding this corridor means that there is ample space available for future expansion while still providing a buffer to help protect the local community!

The Ambassador project would be built with private dollars, not tax-payer handouts.

Similar to the Blue Water Bridge that links Port Huron, Michigan with Sarnia, Ontario, the Peace Bridge does not have a sufficient amount of land or money to accommodate future expansion. (See the attached article.) If construction of a twin span requires the relocation of homes and businesses in 2007, what will happen if increased demand necessitates further expansion ten years from now, as is the case with the Blue Water Bridge?

We must now move forward! Today the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge Group stands ready and willing to work with the community and public officials on both sides of the border to build and operate a state-of-the-art international border crossing linking Buffalo and Fort Erie. The border should benefit your community rather than destroy your neighborhood. For more information, please visit our website at www.ambassadorniagara.com or email us at info@ambassadorniagara.com.

Sincerely,

James B. Kane, Regional Director

Attachment: "So far, bridge's 2nd span is a mixed blessing," published in The Times Herald on July 29, 2007.