

Summary of Meetings and Presentations  
Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge Group (ANSBG) Project

2001

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| February 7, 2001  | Meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard, Bridge Branch, Cleveland, Ohio.   |
| February 13, 2001 | Meeting with the International Boundary Commission, Washington, D.C.   |
| February 13, 2001 | Meeting with the Great Lakes International Joint Commission.   |
| February 15, 2001 | Meeting with the New York State Department of Transportation, Buffalo, New York.   |
| February 16, 2001 | Meeting with the U.S. Department State, Canadian Desk, Washington, D.C.  |
| February 16, 2001 | Meeting with the U.S. State Department, Mexican Desk, Washington, D.C.   |
| February 20, 2001 | Meeting with the New York State Department of State, Albany, New York.   |
| March 7, 2001     | Meeting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Buffalo, New York.   |
| March 22, 2001    | Meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo, New York.  |
| May 2001          | Meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Bridge Administration, Washington, D.C.   |
| May 2001          | Presentation to Robin Schimminger, New York State, Assemblyman, Tonawanda, New York.   |
| May 2001          | Presentation to the Buffalo West Side Environmental Defense Fund, Buffalo, New York.   |
| November 9, 2001  | Meeting with Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. |

## Additional Meetings and Presentations, 2001-2003

Meeting with the Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.

Meeting with the Greater Buffalo and Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Buffalo, New York.

Meeting with the New York State Thruway Authority, Buffalo, New York.

Meeting with the County of Erie, Buffalo, New York.

Meeting with the City of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Senator Charles Schumer, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Senator Patrick Moynihan, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Congressman John Lafalce, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Congressman Jack Quinn, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Sam Hoyt, New York State Assemblyman, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for the Erie County Legislature, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for the Buffalo City Council, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for Ron Moline, Supervisor, Town of Tonawanda, Tonawanda, New York.

Presentation for Peter McMahon, Supervisor, Town of Grand Island, Grand Island, New York.

Presentation for Dr. Lwebuga-Mukasa, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

Presentation for the New Millennium Group, Buffalo, New York.

## 2004

May 13, 2004            Presentation to US Senator Charles Schumer and staff, Buffalo, New York.

July 19, 2004           ANSBG presents project to US Senator Charles Schumer, Buffalo, New York.

- September 8, 2004 Presentation to Dr. Mukasa and his research team at the University of Buffalo Medical School, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- air quality,
  - traffic congestion impacts,
  - truck traffic patterns and rate of movement,
  - respiratory health.
- September 8, 2004 Presentation to the Buffalo News Editorial Board, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- access to Route 198 and project impact on Interstate 190,
  - customs and border security requirements,
  - shared border management,
  - project related ancillary benefits,
  - bridge pier effects on the Niagara River,
  - impact on the existing Peace Bridge,
  - Canadian citizen reaction to the project.
- September 8, 2004 Presentation to the staff of US Senator Hillary Clinton, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- involvement with the community of Black Rock,
  - bridge design,
  - plans for community outreach,
  - agricultural impacts in Canada,
  - political views on the ANSBG project.
- September 8, 2004 Presentation to Ron Hayes, aide to Congressman Jack Quinn, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- railroad involvement in the project,
  - relationship of project to the PBA expansion plan,
  - political views on the ANSBG project,
  - coordination with the Governor of New York State and the New York State Department of Transportation,
  - shared border management,
  - name of the bridge.
- September 9, 2004 Presentation to the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- level of service and traffic volumes,
  - Peace Bridge truck traffic,
  - anticipated toll structure,

- project related leveraging of funds,
- integration of the project with regional transportation plans,
- scheduling of motorized freight movements.

September 9, 2004 Presentation to the Mayor of Fort Erie and the council and staff of the Town of Fort Erie, Ontario in chambers. Topics discussed:

- public outreach,
- respiratory health,
- border security,
- elevation of bridge structures,
- amount of property acquired,
- impact on the Peace Bridge,
- ability of the project to serve transportation needs,
- project related residential impacts,
- PBA franchise.

September 9, 2004 Presentation to the City of Buffalo Bi-national Committee and members of the public Buffalo, New York. Approximate attendance: 30. Issues discussed:

- project environmental benefits,
- air quality,
- plans for public input,
- traffic analysis,
- disposition of excess project lands,
- land acquired,
- project community enhancements,
- project funding,
- regulatory permit process,
- anticipated ancillary development,
- cost comparison with the PBA expansion project.

September 9, 2004 Presentation to the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Buffalo, New York. Attendance approximately 20. Topics discussed:

- reconnection of Front Park with the Niagara River,
- length of time it will take for the ANSBG to realize a return on the initial project investment,
- tax implications,
- anticipated toll structure,
- ability to meet future transportation needs,
- impact on park resources on Squaw Island.

September 20, 2004 Presentation to the Black Rock – Riverside Good Neighbor Planning Alliance and the staff of the Riverside Review Buffalo, New York. Attendance: 15. Topics discussed:

- plaza area dimensions,
- project alternatives,
- future project presentations and public involvement,
- intermodal transportation opportunities,
- bridge navigation clearances,
- potential for traffic to accumulate on bridge ramps,
- impact of truck idling emissions,
- possible delays on Interstate 190,
- construction schedule,
- noise impacts,
- border security,
- respiratory health impacts,
- distances between emission sources and receptors,
- access to Squaw Island,
- project related ancillary benefits,
- recreational trail improvements,
- traffic delays for customs inspections,
- expected return on investment,
- consulting firm project experience,
- project cost.

September 28, 2004 Presentation to Erie County Legislator Charles M. Swanick, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:

- project features,
- community benefits,
- neighborhood environmental impacts.

September 30, 2004 Presentation to New York State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:

- status of the regulatory process for the ANSBG project,
- property acquired for this project,
- impact on the Interstate 190 & Route 198 interchanges,
- mitigation of project impacts in the Black Rock community,
- auto and truck emissions and impact on neighborhoods,
- potential for partnering with the PBA.

September 30, 2004 Presentation to a special session of the City of Buffalo Bi-National Committee Buffalo, New York. Attendance approximately 40. Issues discussed:

- future public involvement,
- status of regulatory permits for the project,
- Homeland Security concerns,
- Front Park restoration,
- potential for Relocation of Interstate 190 north of Route 198,
- traffic volumes on Routes 190 and 198,
- air quality impacts,
- comparison of costs ANSBG project and PBA expansion,
- combined impact of sewer plant odors and vehicle emissions,
- project schedule.

October 12, 2004 Press conference announcing the demolition of the unsafe building at 189 Tonawanda Street at the site of the new plaza for the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge Buffalo, New York. Attendance approximately 20. Topics discussed:

- air quality,
- community benefits,
- reuse of brownfields.

October 12, 2004 Presentation during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Fort Erie Town Council, Fort Erie, Ontario. Attendance approximately 100. Topics of discussed:

- status of property acquisition for the project,
- impact of railroad yard expansion plans on the project,
- traffic patterns in Canada and the United States,
- potential for partnership with the PBA,
- project effect on Peace Bridge expansion plans,
- anticipated toll structure at the new crossing,
- taking of residences and businesses for the project,
- air quality impacts and effect on adjacent neighborhoods,
- access to the Bridgeburg business district,
- status of environmental studies,
- franchise issue,
- source of funds for the project,
- community economic and environmental impacts,
- effect on duty free facilities and ability to add new facilities,
- traffic delays and traffic volume,
- future plans for public outreach,
- relationship to the new Ambassador Bridge in Detroit,
- dimensional specifications for the new crossing,
- project effect on the Central Avenue Bridge,
- ability of border security agencies to staff the new crossing.

- October 13, 2004 Presentation at the public meeting sponsored by the Fresh Air Coalition, Fort Erie, Ontario. Attendance approximately 125. Topics discussed:
- noise abatement,
  - opportunities for public input,
  - additive effect of emissions from trains and trucks,
  - effect on PBA expansion plans,
  - right of eminent domain,
  - project schedule.
- October 19, 2004 Presentation to the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Buffalo, New York. Topics of discussion:
- need for a second bridge arch spanning the Niagara River,
  - brownfield clean up opportunities,
  - brownfield credit program,
  - effect on City of Buffalo local waterfront revitalization plan,
  - bridge piers effect on river velocity and fish migration,
  - toll structure,
  - project funding and anticipated return on investment,
  - bridge dimensions and specifications,
  - avian collection studies.
- October 21, 2004 Public workshop on the ANSBG project sponsored by the Riverside Review, Buffalo, New York. Attendance approximately 200. Topics discussed:
- plans for clean up and reuse of brownfields,
  - anticipated emissions from trucks and buses,
  - air quality impacts on homes, businesses and day care centers,
  - combined effect of diesel fumes and sewage treatment plant odors,
  - air pollution control technology,
  - project effect on railroads,
  - potential for adding more green space to the new plaza,
  - border security,
  - truck back ups on bridge ramps accessing plaza,
  - management of truck traffic during cold weather,
  - project effect on eastern poplar and gold finch populations,
  - status of environmental studies,
  - experience with other bridge projects,
  - difference between PBA and ANSBG project cost estimates,
  - truck processing delays,
  - ability of customs agencies to staff inspection facilities,

- future plans for public outreach,
- anticipated property tax revenues from the project,
- Ambassador Bridge impacts on Detroit/Windsor neighborhoods,
- status of regulatory permits for the project,
- jobs brought to the community by the project,
- adequacy of ramp connections to Interstate 190,
- willingness to fund recreational facilities for the community.

November 9, 2004 Presentation to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Thorold, Ontario. Attendance approximately 20. Topics discussed:

- project schedule,
- relationship to the planned Mid-Peninsula highway project
- PBA franchise,
- air quality impacts,
- statutory changes required for rerouting of truck traffic,
- project scale and specifications,
- filing status Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

November 10, 2004 Presentation and preapplication meeting US Department of State Washington, DC. Topics discussed:

- ownership and operation of the International Railroad Bridge,
- location of the new bridge,
- funding source for the project,
- description of the project proponent,
- public involvement.

November 15, 2004 Meeting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the planned ANSBG project. Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:

- project alternatives,
- brownfield credit program,
- need for joint meetings with the NYSDEC and NYSDOT,
- bridge and plaza spill control and containment,
- project funding mechanisms,
- bridge dimensions and specifications,
- mitigation measures,
- park noise impacts and potential for taking of parkland,
- comparison of cost between PBA and ANSBG plans,
- need for residential relocations,
- ANSBG's ability to fund additional infrastructure improvements
- mitigation measures,
- collection and management of stormwater.

November 16, 2004 Presentation to the Association of International Cross Border Agencies, Fort Erie, Ontario. Approximate attendance 75. Topics of discussion:

- status of land acquisition,
- project effect on brokerage interests,
- capital cost of relocating brokerage facilities,
- potential for partnership with the PBA,
- schedule for environmental review.

November 17, 2004 Meeting with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Toronto, Ontario. Topics of discussion:

- type of traffic carried by the new bridge;
- location of Canadian plazas;
- project relationship to PBA expansion plan;
- project cost comparisons PBA and ANSBG estimates;
- anticipated transportation infrastructure improvements;
- combination of the new bridge with the existing railroad bridge;
- impact on the flow, velocity and capacity of the Niagara River;
- effect of placing bridge piers near existing railroad bridge piers;
- combined air quality impact of the PBA and ANSBG projects;
- benefits of reducing truck traffic in Fort Erie;
- franchise issue;
- possibility of establishing a two bridge system;
- consistency of impact analysis for Buffalo and Detroit crossings;
- environmental review process;
- impact on fishery habitat;
- regulatory permit requirements;
- navigation clearances;
- bridge dimensions and specifications;
- project impact on local roads and streets;
- storm water and spill management;
- hazardous materials;
- remedial action plan and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
- avian impacts, migratory bird nesting, bird collision potential;
- water quality, sewage collection and treatment;
- Provincial requirements;
- environmental scoping process;
- customs and border security;
- source and method of funding.

November 20, 2004 Walking tour of the ANSBG project Buffalo (Black Rock), New York. Attendance approximately 50. Topics discussed:

- access to Dearborn Street,
- dumping on project lands,
- potential for backup of idling trucks on plaza ramps,
- upgrading of bicycle trail,
- public waterfront access via Scajaquada Creek,
- potential use of phyto-remediation to control air quality impacts,
- noise,
- air pollution impact on neighborhoods.

December 8, 2004 Public workshop on the ANSBG project sponsored by the Bridgeburg Improvement Association, Fort Erie, Ontario. Attendance 134. Topics discussed:

- air quality,
- noise pollution,
- project impact on property values,
- effect on residential neighborhoods,
- rail-truck intermodal opportunities,
- access to Bridgeburg,
- land acquisition by the PBA and ANSBG,
- existing relationship with communities at the Detroit Bridge site,
- ANSBG support for the addition of public recreation facilities
- combined effect of highway and railroad operations on air quality,
- project effect on tourism,
- franchise issue,
- residential and commercial relocations or takings,
- traffic congestion,
- plaza locations and ability to accommodate traffic growth,
- project alternatives,
- request for organization of a Canadian project walking tour,
- local employment opportunities brought about by the project,
- project schedule.

December 14, 2004 Presentation to the Campaign for a Greater Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. Attendance 12. Topics discussed:

- benefits to the Black Rock – Riverside area,
- bridge capacity and ability to add additional lanes,
- property tax revenue potential,
- public waterfront access Scajaquada Creek and Black Rock Canal,
- development of intermodal transportation opportunities.

2005

January 14, 2005 James B. Kane, Regional Director, ANSBG, interviewed by Aaron Saykin, Channel Two News Buffalo, NY.

January 17, 2005 Presentation to the American Planning Association, Buffalo, NY. Approximate attendance 25. Topics discussed:

- project relationship to the Peace Bridge,
- ability to incorporate shared border management into plan,
- impact on the Peace Bridge,
- reaction to the project in Canada,
- right of way issues,
- border security,
- mechanism for private funding,
- project schedule,
- reaction to the project in Black Rock,
- status of property acquisition,
- anticipated toll schedule,
- intermodal opportunities,
- project effect on recreational boating.

February 2, 2005 Meeting with the Friends of Fort Erie Creeks, Fort Erie, Ontario. Attendance 8. Topics discussed:

- availability of field data on streams and creeks,
- potential aquatic resource mitigation measures,
- public workshop sponsorship,
- support for environmental clean up events,
- environmental education.

February 3, 2005 Meeting with the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:

- review of the physical features of the project,
- anticipated avian collision issues,
- bird collision study criteria.

February 24, 2005 Presentation to the American Bridge Construction and Design Association, Amherst, New York. Approximate attendance 120. Topics discussed:

- private vs. public ownership of the bridge,
- cost of bridge compared to the rest of the project,
- impact of the franchise issue,

- impact of the Peace Bridge on the ANSBG project.
  - Why did Ambassador acquire the Detroit Bridge?
- March 8, 2005      Presentation to the Rotary Club of Fort Erie, Fort Erie, Ontario. Approximate attendance 18. Topics discussed:
- potential for placing the traffic coming into Canada in a tunnel
  - air quality,
  - noise,
  - aesthetics,
  - impact of the project on the fiscal viability of the Peace Bridge.
- March 10, 2005      Presentation to US Congressman Brian Higgins' staff members. Topics discussed:
- tolls,
  - relationship between this project and the Scajaquada downgrade,
  - ability of current road infrastructure to handle project,
  - market service area of the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge vs. that of the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit-Windsor,
  - unionization of employees.
- March 29, 2005      Meeting with Black Rock Business Interests, Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- parkland impacts;
  - truck noise and emissions;
  - project alternatives;
  - truck, rail and ship intermodal freight opportunities;
  - public waterfront access to Scajaquada Creek and the Black Rock Canal.
- April 5, 2005      Meeting with the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Buffalo, New York. Topics discussed:
- brownfield credit program,
  - status of brownfield properties within the project site,
  - use of brownfields for parkland or water access.
- April 26, 2005      Meeting with the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Topics discussed:
- construction phase storm water pollution prevent plan,
  - storm water management requirements for project operations,
  - regulatory authorities and related permit requirements.

- May 11, 2005 Meeting with the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Topics discussed:
- format of Brownfield Cleanup Program application,
  - public comment within eligibility determination process.
- May 16, 2005 Presentation to Buffalo 2032. Approximate attendance 25. Topics discussed:
- positive and negative impacts of the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge on the regional economy,
  - traffic concerns,
  - ANSBG's role within the community.
- May 17, 2005 Meeting with staff from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), Fort Erie, Ontario. Attendance 12. Discussion points included the following:
- tour of project area,
  - PBA franchise issue,
  - environmental studies undertaken by ANSBG,
  - ANSBG project's impact on the Central Avenue Bridge and nearby railroad tracks.
- May 18, 2005 Presentation to Fort Erie Christian Men's Fellowship Club, Fort Erie, Ontario. Approximate attendance 20. Discussion points:
- impacts of the ANSBG project on the International Railroad Bridge and its piers,
  - study of the hydraulics in the Niagara River and how these relate to the ANSBG project,
  - status of the relationship between the PBA and the ANSBG.
- May 18, 2005 Presentation to Greater Buffalo Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA), Buffalo, New York. Attendance: 51. Topics addressed:
- seriousness of ANSBG's commitment to bring this project to the Buffalo area,
  - PBA allegations that permits cannot be obtained for the new bridge,
  - impact of the franchise issue on the proposal,
  - failure of political leadership to embrace this privately funded project,
  - construction schedule,

-decrease in commuting time to the QEW as a result of the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge.

June 18, 2005

Presentation on the ANSBG project, requested by Conrad S. Mikulec, CEO Smart X, at his residence in Fort Erie, Ontario. Approximate attendance: 150. Comments and topics discussed:

- impact the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge will have on the revenue stream for the existing Peace Bridge,
- jobs created during construction and operation,
- projected property tax revenue from the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge.
- The Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge is in the right location and should have been constructed years ago (comment).
- Private funding makes this project a top priority (comment).

July 20, 2005

Environmental Walking Tour of Fort Erie, given by ANSBG staff. Attendance: 9. The tour included the following:

- presentation on the project, including flyover of project area,
- stops at area south of the Coal Docks, Central Avenue Bridge, Frenchman's Creek in Greenwood Cemetery, Miller Creek at Bowen Road,
- discussion of tolls at the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge, property acquisition, need for a second bridge, wetland mitigation, number of trees affected by project, security along corridor.

July 27, 2005

Public Walking Tour of Fort Erie, given by ANSBG staff. Attendance: 55. The tour included the following:

- presentation on the project, including flyover of project area,
- stops at the International Railway and Central Avenue Bridges, Frenchman's Creek in Greenwood Cemetery and Miller Creek at Bowen Road,
- discussion of tolls at the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge, property acquisition, need for a second bridge, affects on area residents, noise and air quality, wetland mitigation, number of trees affected by the project, security along the corridor and employment opportunities.

September 20, 2005

Meeting with Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

- September 22, 2005 Presentation at session on Border Crossing Infrastructure at American Planning Association's Upstate New York Chapter Conference. Attendance: approximately 25.
- September 22, 2005 Presentation to the Air Waste Management Association (AWMA), Niagara Frontier Section (joint meeting with Ontario section). Attendance: 55. Discussion points included the following:
- the effect of the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge on the Peace Bridge,
  - clarification on ANSBG's likely application for brownfields designation and its statement that it is a privately funded project,
  - geotechnical issues in bridge construction,
  - flexibility in bridge plaza design, in coordination with future transportation projects in Buffalo and Fort Erie.
- September 27, 2005 Bridgeburg Station Business Improvement Association Walking Tour of Fort Erie, given by ANSBG staff. Attendance: 33. The tour included the following:
- presentation on the project, including flyover of project area,
  - stops at the International Railway and Central Avenue Bridges,
  - discussion of tolls at the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge, property acquisition, need for a second bridge, employment opportunities and the effects on Bridgeburg Station and its property owners.
- September 29, 2005 Meeting with NYS SHPO, Field Services Bureau, defining project transition after departure of key SHPO staff member.

## 2006

- March 15, 2006 Presentation to the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists, given by Jack Krajewski (ANSBG staff). Attendance: 35. Topics discussed included:
- Will eminent domain be used to acquire properties?
  - Is the traffic volume sufficient to support the bridge?
  - Is the Peace Bridge threatened by ANSBG plans?
  - When will the Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge be completed?
- May 14, 2006 Presentation to staff from the office of Hon Rob Nicholson, MP House Leader. Attendance: 6. Topic featured:
- ANSBG Project update

- May 16, 2006 Presentation to the Horton CBI Quarter Century Club Dinner, Bridgewater Country Club, given by Tom Lewis. Attendance : 60.  
Topic featured:  
-ANSBG project update.
- June 1, 2006 Meeting with the City of Buffalo and Panamerican Consultants (sub-consultant). Attendance: 6. Topics discussed:  
-Status of Phase IA Report  
-Aesthetics (Visual Impact Assessment) Study
- June 12, 2006 Presentation to the Forest District Civic Association given by Paul Leuchner and Jim Kane, representing the ANSBG. Attendance: 30  
Topic featured:  
-ANSBG project update
- July 17, 2006 Presentation to Hon. Rob Nicholson, MP, and staff. Attendance:6.  
Topic featured:  
-ANSBG project update
- September 13, 2006 Presentation to Concepts of International Trade class at Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, International Business Department, by ANSBG staffer Tom Lewis. Attendance: 30. Topic featured:  
-ANSBG powerpoint show with fly-over, followed by Q/A session