

[View All Articles In This Issue ▶](#)

---

## **Tunnel Improvements Ease Border Crossing**

**November/December 2005**

by Melanie Rembrandt

### **New programs and benefits at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel are making cross-border traffic swift and convenient again.**

Thanks to recent improvements to the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, cross-border travel is more efficient and convenient. Opened in 1930, the tunnel, which connects Detroit with Windsor, Ontario, is the only vehicular, international underwater border-crossing in the world handling almost 9 million vehicles per year. After the terrorist acts of 9/11 caused U.S./Canadian border traffic to decrease by approximately 35 percent, the Detroit Canada Tunnel Corporation made significant, customer-service improvements.

Besides duty-free shopping and easy access to Ontario attractions, now you can benefit from the tunnel's new convenient routes that include limited queuing and dedicated toll-lane programs; current conditions, video and information at [dwtunnel.com](http://dwtunnel.com); credit-card acceptance for toll transactions in Detroit and access to a number of cellular services and WJR News/Talk 760 AM Radio. Prior to the improvements, cell service and radio broadcasts were difficult to transmit. During the past few years, however, efforts have been made to add carriers and broaden communication for travelers using the tunnel.

Travelers who frequently cross the border will appreciate the tunnel's NEXUS program. It is an alternative inspection program that allows border officials to process pre-screened, low-risk travelers with little or no delay. Since 2003, this process has decreased traveling time to and from Canada from 20 minutes to five minutes. Approved travelers cross the border in a dedicated lane where they present their NEXUS card and are released quickly unless a secondary or random search is warranted.

To expedite the border crossing even more, NEXUS participants may apply for a NEXPRESS pass that hangs from their car mirror and allows travel in a dedicated NEXPRESS lane to avoid any delays.

As improvements continue, the tunnel draws more vacationers and commuters to Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, a situation fitting for our friendly border relations.

*Melanie Rembrandt is a freelance writer based in Michigan.*