

City council rejects latest attempt by bridge owner to allow hazmat trucks

[Dave Battagello](#) • Windsor Star
Published Oct 20, 2020

The Windsor-Detroit Bridge Company filed documents with the Michigan Department of Transportation and state government leaders seeking approval to allow "hazmat trucks" to use the 91-year-old Ambassador Bridge.

The bridge company had a similar request rejected in 2014 because of safety and environmental concerns. Hazmat trucks are required to use the Detroit-Windsor truck ferry or travel to Sarnia and cross the Blue Water Bridge.

Windsor's city council and emergency responders have previously filed strong opposition to a similar bridge request, citing a lack of safety equipment on the bridge and potential impact on residential neighbourhoods. "These materials for good reason have not been allowed since the bridge opened in 1929," said Mayor Drew Dilkens.

Windsor mayor Drew Dilkens said the city's fire department and all area emergency responders are concerned about an "unforeseen accident" on the Ambassador Bridge, which could lead to an extended closure of North America's busiest trade crossing.

Coun. Fabio Costante believes unanimous support from council sends a strong signal that the bridge is not appropriate to transport hazmat through high-density residential neighbourhoods.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge, which is currently under construction, will be better equipped to handle hazmat trucks than the Ambassador Bridge.

1. Which hazardous symbols do you think should not be allowed across the Ambassador Bridge? Why did you pick these ones?

2. Why is the Ambassador Bridge not appropriate to transport hazmat materials?

3. What might happen if there was an accident? Why?
