

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

2021-2022 YEAR-IN-REVIEW REPORT

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022





THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT

is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it will also provide jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region and includes features that make this project truly distinctive.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will be a six-lane, 2.5 kilometre/1.5 mile, cable-stayed bridge, connecting Windsor and Detroit.

The project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3). Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation responsible for the delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, including oversight of construction and operations.

Bridging North America (BNA) is WDBA's private-sector partner and is also responsible for delivering the Community Benefits Plan in collaboration with WDBA and the State of Michigan.

A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

The project consists of four components:



THE BRIDGE



CANADIAN PORT OF ENTRY



US PORT OF ENTRY



MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE

ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for local communities. In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich, Ontario and Delray, Michigan communities, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge that the Sandwich community and land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge is being constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. This land has also served as a place of refuge for the Huron/Wendat people.

Cover Photo: Essex Region Conservation Authority's (ERCA) multi-year Triple Tree Impact initiative supports tree planting events in Sandwich/west Windsor parks.

BACKGROUND

The mandate to include a Community Benefits Plan as an integral part of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project originates in the Canada-Michigan Crossing Agreement signed in 2012. Recognizing the opportunity to leverage the significant investment of this public infrastructure for the benefit of the Windsor/Sandwich and Detroit/Delray communities, Canada and Michigan incorporated the requirement for a Community Benefits Plan for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project into the Crossing Agreement that includes:

- (A) the manner in which stakeholders and community are to **continue to be involved**
- (B) the manner in which host **community input** relating to community benefits and stakeholder involvement are to be factored
- (C) the manner in which bidders plan to work with **local institutes of higher learning, unions and others**
- (D) the manner in which **job training and local job development** will be encouraged.

The Crossing Agreement further states benefits will be shared equally amongst the two countries.

VISION

The vision for Community Benefits on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is to deliver a series of initiatives, based on public input, that create measurable and positive results-based opportunities for the host communities. The plan will:

- provide economic opportunities in the host communities
- contribute positively to workforce development programs
- deliver neighbourhood improvements
- ensure clear commitments and accountability from all parties for its delivery.

To ensure this vision is achieved, the Community Benefits Plan is specifically tailored to the project, satisfies all requirements of the Crossing Agreement, is based on community input and is measurable, quantifiable and achievable. The principles of the **I-Care Framework** continue to be followed, ensuring that Community Benefits shall be:



INTEGRATED

an integral component of the Project carried out during the construction and operation periods



COLLABORATIVE

reflect the input of the host communities and be delivered through partnerships, ensuring that the interests of the respective communities are taken into account



ACCESSIBLE

easy to understand, easily accessible, regularly measured and publicly reported



REGIONAL

reflective of the character of the region, tailored specifically for the region and provide value to the region



ENTERPRISING

comprised of new methods, ideas and innovative approaches to engage and benefit the neighbouring communities



DEFINING THE COMMUNITY

WIN+DET

The approach to developing the Community Benefits Plan has been defined by the local communities on both sides of the border, including:

- adjacent residents and businesses
- community groups
- public agencies
- educational institutions
- not-for-profit organizations
- elected officials
- workforce development organizations.

While the plan will bring many benefits to the region, special attention was given to those who reside or provide services in the areas of Sandwich and Delray.

GOVERNANCE, REPORTING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Community Benefits Plan includes a robust documenting, tracking and reporting structure that demonstrates accountability to the region. As of March 2022, one Year-in-Review and seven quarterly Community Benefits Reports have been published on the project website.

Comprised of 16 stakeholders representing the communities of Sandwich and Delray, Windsor-Essex County, greater Detroit area, bridge user groups, economic development organizations and Indigenous Peoples in Canada, the **Local Community Group (LCG)** provides valuable input and formal linkages to the region. Their collaboration enables WDBA and BNA to better understand stakeholder perspectives about the Community Benefits Plan. Meeting quarterly throughout the Design-Build period, members of the LCG contribute by providing input into:

- the implementation of initiatives within the Community Benefits Plan
- the assessment and review of community funding applications as part of the Community Organization Investment initiative.

Recruitment for six positions on the LCG took place during summer 2021 and resulted in the six incumbents continuing. Visit the project website for a list of LCG members.



*Inaugural meeting of the LCG
December 2019*

“The project team deserves great credit for their commitment to community-building through the active inclusion of groups and individuals within the planning and building process of this huge enterprise as the Gordie Howe International Bridge emerges from bedrock and grows.”

LCG member



The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components:



THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY is geared toward engaging businesses and individuals and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities.



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits and/or aesthetics and landscaping.

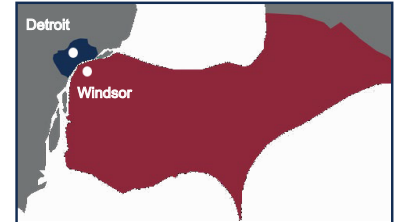
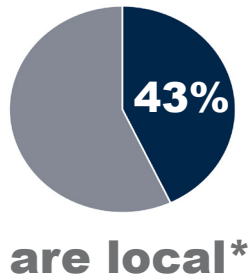


WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The Workforce Development and Participation Strategy focuses on creating and making jobs, training and contracting opportunities accessible to local workers and contractors while leveraging existing local resources to maximize these opportunities.

From September 2018 to March 31, 2022, the following workforce statistics have been achieved on the project:

6470
individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US



*“Local” is defined as being within the City of Detroit or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor



304
pre-apprentices/ apprentices assigned to the project



220
local* businesses engaged on the project

co-op students engaged on the project



214

27 Indigenous Peoples in Canada assigned to the project

Between April 2021 and March 2022, the Community Benefits team participated in:



3 Career Fairs



8 Educational Activities



20 Engagement Activities

Other workforce development and participation activities during the reporting period included:

2



Information sessions for workforce development organizations

4



Trades-Specific Workforce Development Steering Committee meetings

150



Participants in Canada and US Procurement Summits

700+



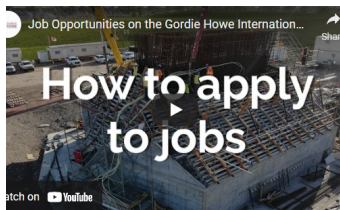
Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board Construction Academy students attended a virtual project presentation

WORKFORCE VIDEOS

To help job seekers navigate the pathways to working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, three workforce videos were produced.

These short videos focus on:

- how to apply for opportunities with WDBA and BNA
- how to apply for a US Union job
- how to apply for a Canadian Union job.



Watch the videos on the Opportunities page on the project website.

Between January 2021 and March 2022, over

\$2.3 million

(CDN) was spent on small-scale purchases under \$25,000 from local* businesses

6

co-op students have been hired full-time this fiscal year

BUILDING CONNECTIONS, BUILDING CAREERS

Following a co-op placement on the US Bridge in summer 2021, **Lorie Lonchamp** was hired in 2022 as a US Bridge Finishes Engineer.

“I’ve always been intrigued by the built environment and its varied infrastructures. This personal objective propelled me to pursue a total of three master’s degrees in architecture, urban planning and structural engineering.

What excites me the most about working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is the opportunity to get hands-on experience and firsthand knowledge of the intricacies of the post-design construction process. Throughout my academic career and professional experience thus far, I have been exposed to a great deal of design, but not nearly enough to the complexities of building and execution. As a result, this opportunity contributes a sense of balance to my understanding of both the design aspect and the construction process.”



Former co-op students Waleed Almadhagi and Lorie Lonchamp now hold full-time positions with BNA in the US.

The project team hosted tours of the Canadian and US construction sites to expose students of **Women’s Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (WEST)** and **Detroit Workforce of the Future** to working on a construction project of this scale.



Detroit Workforce of the Future students tour the US POE.

Project subcontractors also provide co-op placements for students. Isaac Drouin works on the Canadian Bridge site shadowing an electrical supplier, **JTM Electric**. Isaac has been placed on the project through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

“So far, my co-op has been really good. I’m helping out as much as I can, and I’m being included as much as possible. Overall, I’m learning a lot. It is a great experience.”

Isaac Drouin, OYAP student on the Canadian Bridge site.



NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy includes \$20 million in direct community investments for Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit, consistent with the key regional priorities identified through public consultation.

All investments relating to Community Benefits are noted in Canadian funds.

\$20 million in direct community investments to be spent over five years



Allocated Funds: \$14,586,139
Unallocated Funds: \$5,413,861
Funds Disbursed: \$1,625,139
 (as of March 31, 2022)

Community Investments as of March 31, 2022:

Community Safety and Connections

\$211,823

Economic Benefits

\$393,500

Community Partnerships

\$417,409

Aesthetics and Landscaping

\$602,406

■ 2021-2022
 ■ 2019-2021

Over \$1.6 million invested in community-identified priorities

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

SOUTHWEST DETROIT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The **Southwest Detroit Business Association's** (SDBA) *Bridge to Prosperity* program continued to support construction contractors, entrepreneurs, brick and mortar and minority and immigrant-owned businesses throughout 2021. The program connected small businesses to technical, financial and service resources.

"The program's commitment to helping small businesses is evident and laudable. This program serves an essential role in our community to help talented small businesses to experience measurable growth."

Bridge to Prosperity
program participant

SANDWICH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Centre (SBEC), A Division of Invest WindsorEssex

To deliver the *Sandwich Business Development Program* in 2021, **SBEC** provided concierge small business and entrepreneurship supports and programming to businesses located in Sandwich and west Windsor. With the help of a dedicated advisor for the area, SBEC performed outreach through consultations and targeted information sessions, and provided access to Digital Main Street programs, relevant resources and a team of dedicated technical professionals.

Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator

Through the *Sandwich Business Development Program*, the **Accelerator** provided support services to existing and potential new businesses in Sandwich. In 2021, the Accelerator launched the *Entrepreneur Roadmap Program* which supported participating businesses in creating a path towards solving business challenges and provided access to a database of resources, including a grant-matching platform connecting small businesses with grant opportunities.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

UNITED WAY/CENTRAIDE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY INVESTMENT

Based on feedback from Sandwich and west Windsor BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) youth, the **United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County** launched the *Ujima Initiative* in 2021, which supports Black youth enrolled in United Way's On Track to Success program. Ujima provides academic support, Black cultural exploration, mental health and wellness programming, community mentorship, and career exploration for Black youth in west Windsor.

The Community Benefits funding is part of a financial partnership with the United Way between 2021-2024, which will directly support programs for Sandwich-area youth.



Ujima participants prepared and enjoyed American soul food at Cook Up Inc.

"Overall, the program has been a great success. These youth, who have shared stories of feeling "othered" in spaces intended to be inclusive, feeling misrepresented, misunderstood, who have learned to censor themselves were in a space where they could be themselves and proudly share their culture with one other."

Zeneeka Brown, Ujima Initiative Coordinator, United Way/Centraide

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT

The Community Organization Investment (COI) provides an annual investment for community organizations located in or serving Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit to support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit these communities.



Girls Can Summit Series, Border City Athletics Club

In December 2021, the Girls Can Summit Series provided an opportunity for over 70 BIPOC girls and families from west Windsor to be physically active and meet Olympians and elite athletes from different sports. Due to the funding, attendance increased by 75% over previous years.

“The number one remark from our participants was “do I get to keep the bag?” When they were told yes, the happiness and appreciation from these girls was extremely moving. This seemingly small gesture holds tremendous weight to this population. The day was filled with laughter and smiles from all parties involved.”

Kurt Downes, President, Border City Athletics Club



Joyful Movement Outside, Unity in Our Community TimeBank

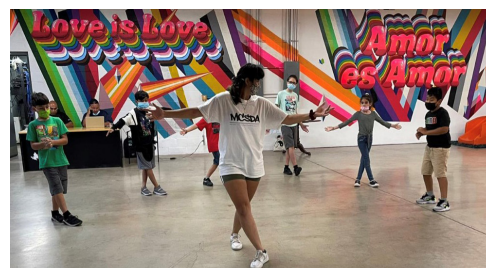
A series of events, including five yoga classes in Clark Park, monthly bike rides during the warm weather months and four yard-game parties were offered to encourage Southwest Detroit residents to get outside and be active. Over 60 individuals of all ages participated in at least one of the events.

Delray Bilingual Programs for Family Assistance Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)

DHDC’s after-school and summer program served 56 youth from Southwest Detroit in grades K-12 with weekly in-person science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM)-based activities, culturally appropriate healing-centered practices, and robotics program. To facilitate involvement, transportation was provided for those that needed it.

DHDC also offered services to 45 adults and families, including housing counseling, financial literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and parenting workshops, and provided for basic needs such as diapers, cleaning supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts and direct financial assistance in the form of gift cards.

COI funding also helped DHDC provide wellness checks and clean water to families in Delray, guide families applying for property tax relief and supported family reunification efforts.



“Several parents shared how grateful they were to have someone reach out to them to provide the emotional and financial support that they needed during this very difficult period.”

Angela Reyes, Executive Director, DHDC

Southwest Detroit Winter Carnival 2022, Clark Park Coalition

The January 2022 event provided a day of ice skating, outdoor games and horse-drawn carriage rides. The Winter Carnival also included a petting zoo and complementary food. The free event ended with two charity hockey games. Promotional postcards were mailed to the three closest zip codes to the park, resulting in hundreds of new attendees.

"I have volunteered for the Clark Park Carnival since the very first one 10 years ago. Each year I am so impressed at the wonderful diverse group of people who come to enjoy the day and share in the fun at the Carnival. I am proud to be a part of such a successful event!"

Clark Park Volunteer



Photo courtesy of Tomorrow's Memories by Christi

Several COI projects that received funding in 2020 were delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. In 2021, the following organizations delivered their projects:



Helping Hands Friendship Centre, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Windsor Essex (SSVP)

Funding supported the purchase of television equipment and tables and chairs for the new location of the *Helping Hands Friendship Centre* in Sandwich. Volunteers continued to connect with members via cards, phone calls and monthly gift basket draws.

"Participants have been delighted with the contacts and look forward to the monthly draws. Now that we can meet again, we will be moving forward with small group activities, outings, movies, and outdoor social activities."

Penny Craig, Secretary, SSVP

Big Neighbourhood Sandwich, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex (BBBS)

A virtual outreach session in spring 2021 led to 11 new volunteer mentorship matches in west Windsor. BBBS was able to leverage the COI funding to secure a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support two new social work positions specifically designated for the Sandwich community.

Detroit River Cleanup, Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

More than 30 volunteers helped collect over 300 pounds of litter and debris during a cleanup event in Sandwich. The cleanup provided educational experiences about litter and waste, fostering environmental stewardship of the Detroit River, cleaning public spaces, and improving the aesthetics of the area.



ADDITIONAL 2021 COI RECIPIENTS

- Across the River to Freedom: Early Black History in Sandwich, Ontario, **Essex County Black Historical Research Society**
- A Bridge to Play McGivney: New Accessible Ramp, **John McGivney Children's Centre**
- Sandwich Community DiverCity BBQ, **Windsor Police Services Community Services Branch** in partnership with **New Beginnings**
- Community Recreation Service Center, **First Latin American Baptist Church of Detroit**

AESTHETICS AND LANDSCAPING

COMMUNITY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM



The *Delray Home Improvement Program*, a free home repair program for residences in the area surrounding the Gordie Howe International Bridge's US Port of Entry construction site expanded its territory in winter 2021. Eligible applicants may receive items from the pre-approved repair/replacement list, based on an assessment of the home, with a per-house cap of \$20,000 (USD).

As of March 31, 2021, more than 15 homes were part of the program. Applications will be accepted for homes within the eligibility area until 2024 or until funding is exhausted.

The first roof replacement of the Delray Home Improvement Program.



NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

In April 2021, the **Greening of Detroit** provided 250 trees during the first free tree-giveaway for Southwest Detroit residents at a drive-through event held at Most Holy Redeemer Church. Residents selected a three-gallon potted tree in one of five native species and received an information package to help them plant and care for their new trees. A second tree-giveaway will be held in 2024.

Residents select one of five native species of trees for pick up.



SANDWICH STREET ENHANCEMENTS

As part of the project's reconstruction of Sandwich Street, the project team is investing \$1 million towards street enhancements. In winter 2021, the community took part in a survey which asked them to prioritize four categories for investment: hardscaping, landscaping, active transportation and gathering spaces. More than 70 responses were received.

While the overall street design will include features from all four categories, funding will focus on what is most important to the community. Designs are anticipated to be shared in 2022 with reconstruction of Sandwich Street in the Business Improvement Area anticipated for 2023.



SANDWICH PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In 2021, funding was provided to the **City of Windsor** to support the construction of a new gazebo and improvements to the existing board walkway in McKee Park in Sandwich. The construction work is expected to begin in 2022.



2022 COMMUNITY BENEFITS LOOKAHEAD:

The project team continues to implement the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. Upcoming activities will include:

- Continuation of multi-year programs including the *Sandwich Business Development Program* in Windsor and *Bridge to Prosperity Program* in Detroit
- Ongoing enrollment and construction on homes as part of the *Delray Home Improvement Program*
- Construction of observation areas in Windsor and River Rouge
- Continued engagement activities with students, job seekers and businesses in the region
- Activities in partnership with Essex Region Conservation Authority as part of the ongoing *Triple Tree Impact Program*
- Engagement on Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour, including establishing a Community Stories Committee and behind-the-scenes work to determine design and locations of the interpretive signage
- Design work and incorporation of community survey feedback on the \$1 million *Sandwich Street Enhancements*
- Applications for the 2023 Community Organization Investment initiative funding cycle starting in November 2022
- Performing design work to support expanding adjacent trails to connect existing cycling infrastructure in Windsor and determine cycling infrastructure investments in Detroit
- Investments in existing or new initiatives as the Community Benefits Plan approaches the midway point in implementation

THE BRIDGE ARTISTS INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBIT

In August 2021, Art Windsor Essex (AWE – formerly Art Gallery of Windsor) hosted an exhibit by the Indigenous artists responsible for the Indigenous art murals on the Canadian bridge tower forms, attracting more than 2,000 visitors.

The Bridge Artists exhibition featured Anishinaabe artists Teresa Altman and Daisy White of Walpole Island First Nation, and Naomi Peters of Caldwell First Nation who drew from their culture to create stunning artworks focusing on themes of nature, philosophy and pride in their Indigenous roots. The digital school programming associated with the exhibit was accessed by 196 classrooms of over 4,700 students in 19 local schools.



For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:

- Facebook: @GordieHoweBridge
- Twitter: @GordieHoweBrg
- LinkedIn: WDBA-APWD
- Instagram: @gordiehowebrg
- YouTube: YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge

- Phone: 1-844-322-1773
- Email: info@wdbridge.com
- Website: GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com

WDBA - Main Office
100 Ouellette Ave., Suite 400
Windsor, ON, N9A 6T3

Southwest Detroit Community Office (Temporarily Closed)
7744 W Vernor Hwy.
Detroit, MI, 48209

Sandwich Community Office (Temporarily Closed)
3201 Sandwich St.
Windsor, ON, N9C 1A8