

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT
WINTER/SPRING 2022



The Community Benefits Plan is a key component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. With a commitment to transparent and accountable implementation, the project team is proud to report on Community Benefit Plan activities and accomplishments each quarter. For more information on Community Benefits Plan initiatives visit [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

PROMOTING SKILLED TRADES

The Workforce Development and Participation Strategy supports training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities for local youth, which includes promoting skilled trades and educating students about pathways into careers in construction. To support this goal, the project team has participated in multiple presentations and events over the past months.



Students operate construction equipment at the Michigan Construction Career Days event in May 2022.

Southwest Detroit Skilled Trades Fair

Hosted by Congress of Communities in April at SER Metro, project representatives attended the skilled trades career fair roundtable event to promote awareness of the project and pathways to explore construction careers.

Express to the Trades Event

The Windsor Express partnered with local labour leaders and community organizations to host a skilled trades expo for grade 7-12 students prior to a basketball game in April. The project team highlighted the importance of skilled trades to approximately 1,000 attendees.

St. Clair College Presentation

Project representatives held an information session in March for St. Clair College students in Engineering Technologies, Apprenticeships and Skilled Trades. The presentation included first-hand accounts from BNA and WDBA staff, including some St. Clair College graduates.

Michigan Construction Career Days

In May, project representatives promoted skilled trades at this two-day event for middle and high school students at the Operating Engineers 324 Construction Career Center. Over 4,000 students experienced construction up-close, participating in hands-on demonstrations and learning of the training and education paths to secure a construction career.

Walpole Island First Nation Workforce Information Session

At a May information session hosted by the Walpole Island First Nation Employment and Training Program, attendees seeking careers in the skilled trades engaged with unions, subcontractors and project representatives at the Walpole Island Sports Complex.

District 3 Construction Career and Job Fair

Hosted by Councilman Scott Benson in May at the Detroit Carpenter and Millwright Training Center, this event was

open to job seekers and youth interested in careers in skilled trades.

Michigan Construction Science Expo

This May event at the Durfee Innovation Society provided an opportunity for middle and high school students interested in engineering and construction careers to engage with skilled trades and construction design industry experts.



High school students engage with project representatives at the Michigan Construction Science Expo.

We wish to acknowledge that the land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project 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.

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO MARCH 2022

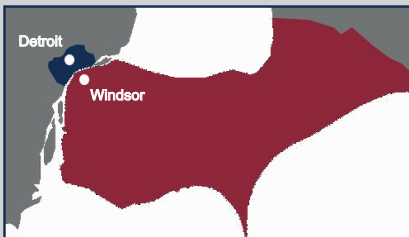
6470

individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US



43%

are local*



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



300+

pre-apprentices/apprentices assigned to the project



220

local* businesses engaged on the project



Ironworkers construct the bridge tower in the US.

Between January 2021 and March 2022, over

\$2.3 million

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

[Learn more about BNA procurement on the project website.](#)

UPCOMING

COMMUNITY BENEFITS INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Engagement on the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour
- Public consultation on accessibility of the Malden Park Observation Area
- Incorporation of public input in Sandwich Street Enhancements
- Continuation of the Delray Home Improvement Program
- Construction of the Belanger Park Observation Area
- Continued engagement with local education and workforce organizations

NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY



NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

The Community Benefits Plan includes an investment in **Essex Region Conservation Authority's (ERCA) Triple Tree Impact initiative**. Through this program, ERCA hosted a Sandwich litter cleanup where volunteers, including WDBA and BNA staff, collected 1,659 lbs or 725 kg of garbage from the Sandwich community in April.

In an effort to increase native greenery, ERCA held two April tree planting events in Sandwich at Brock Park and College Avenue Bikeway Park. Approximately 50 native trees and shrubs were planted by community volunteers.

Volunteers collect litter in Queen's Dock Park (top) and plant native trees and shrubs at Brock Park (bottom) in Sandwich.





COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT

The Community Organization Investment is an annual program providing funding to local organizations to support events, programming and infrastructure improvements. In July 2022, the third round of annual funding equalling \$100,000 (CDN), will be released to support five initiatives in Windsor and four initiatives in Detroit:



CANADIAN INITIATIVES

Look Again! Outside

Art Windsor-Essex (AWE) - \$20,000

Art Windsor-Essex will expand the 'Look Again! Outside' project into Sandwich. The project will provide several life-sized artwork reproductions from the AWE collection that are relevant to the history of the Sandwich neighbourhood and will include an in-person and virtual public tour.

Caring Hearts Food Bank

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Windsor Essex Central Council - \$10,000

Funding will be provided for enhancements to the current structure of the Caring Hearts Food Bank including paving the pathway from the parking area to the edge of the Food Bank premises and the provision and installation of a retractable canvas canopy over the area of the Food Bank structure to protect visitors from inclement weather.

Green Space Reclamation/Jesuit Pear Grove Conservation

Les Amis Duff-Bâby - \$7,650

Funding will be used to reclaim the former garden area/orchard of the historic Duff-Bâby Mansion. The project will include removing undergrowth and non-native species to restore and enhance the area for public access.

Outdoor Basketball Hoops

Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG) - \$6,700

Allocated funds will be used to purchase and install two new outdoor basketball hoops behind the STAG facility where the youth and community can play at their leisure.

BBBS Big Sandwich Afterschool Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor Essex - \$5,650

Funding for furniture and/or AV equipment for the Sandwich/west Windsor Group Mentoring Room at Mackenzie Hall to provide a welcoming place for youth.

DUFF-BÂBY MANSION GRAND OPENING

Les Amis Duff-Bâby hosted a grand opening event at the Duff-Bâby Mansion to commemorate the partnership recently established between the City of Windsor, Ontario Heritage Trust and Les Amis Duff-Bâby. This partnership will permit regular public access to the historically significant structure and site. The grand opening celebration was supported by a \$2,400 Community Organization Investment grant as part of the 2020 funding cycle. Funds remained available for use following the lifting of Covid-19 guidelines for public gatherings.

Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens addresses the crowd, including students from General Brock Public School at the Grand Opening of the Duff-Bâby Mansion in May.



US INITIATIVES

Creative Placemaking in Southwest Detroit Urban Neighborhood Initiatives - \$25,000

Funding is being provided for the Creative Placemaking programming – The Land Stewardship Program, which will support the implementation of two community gardens, an outdoor kitchen, art installations, and an outdoor gathering space on four vacant lots in the Springwells neighborhood.

Fort Street Bridge Park Multi-Purpose Trailhead Phase II

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) - \$10,000

FOTR is spearheading the effort to establish a 29-mile water trail on the Lower Rouge River that traverses 10 cities from Canton to River Rouge. Funding will support the creation of final design, construction documents, and/or permitting for Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II, that includes a universally accessible kayak launch.

Fiesta Detroit Cinco De Mayo Festival

We Are Culture Creators (WACC) - \$7,500

Funding will support Fiesta Detroit – a music, art and cultural festival for residents of Southwest Detroit on the historic holiday of Cinco De Mayo in 2023.

Livernois 2 Clark Neighbor Connections

Livernois 2 Clark Neighborhood Association - \$7,500

Funding will support 12 community-building activities and events including Motor City Makeover, Holiday Lights Competition, a fall block party, and information sharing meetings.

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



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between **February 2022** and **May 2022**, the project team participated in the following:

- Hosted Workforce Development Information sessions in Canada and the US
- Participated in the Access for All Advisory Board Meeting
- Held two virtual community meetings and issued a public survey about the Sandwich Street reconstruction project and the \$1 million enhancements provided through the Community Benefits Plan
- Hosted a virtual public meeting to promote the expansion of the Delray Home Improvement Program
- Participated in the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association Construction Hiring Fair
- Attended the 2022 Michigan Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Annual Conference
- Delivered a virtual presentation to the Harvard Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure
- Presented at the City of Detroit District 6 virtual Public Meeting
- *Other skilled trades events listed on cover page*

RECOGNITION FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS



In recognition of BNA's contribution to fostering more women in the industry, Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (WEST) selected BNA to receive the Journey Towards Success Award in March 2022. Through BNA's partnership with WEST, the project team has offered tours and information sessions to WEST program participants.

BNA receives WEST's Journey Towards Success Award in March 2022.

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 and Delray communities, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

Community benefits initiatives are delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan.

The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components:



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.



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

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. 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

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

- Facebook: @GordieHoweBridge
- Twitter: @GordieHoweBrg
- LinkedIn: WDBA-APWD
- Instagram: @gordiehowebrg
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