

Gordie Howe International Bridge

MOMENTUM

issued by: Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



The Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan will help move goods and people more efficiently at this important trade gateway. Managed by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and working in collaboration with the State of Michigan, the project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3) which will see Bridging North America design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

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MULTI-USE PATH – SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Walking or riding a bike across the border will be a reality once the Gordie Howe International Bridge opens. Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and the Trans-Canada Trail recently announced that the bridge will become the first international bridge border crossing within the 28,000 km trail network. The dedicated multi-use path will offer a safe, toll-free way to move between Windsor and Detroit, connecting the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail in Windsor, to the Iron Belle Trail and the Great Lakes Way in Detroit.

To support the multi-use path's operation, the project team seeks feedback from future users through an online survey, focus groups and public meetings. Information gathered will help develop policies relating to hours of operation, public safety, and the overall user experience.

The multi-use path will be located on the east side of the bridge and support two-way pedestrian and cyclist traffic, with concrete barriers separating vehicular traffic. The multi-use path will benefit communities and travellers by supporting active transportation, healthy lifestyles and enhance tourism. It will also reduce the carbon footprint of cross-border traffic and provide a sustainable option for travelers. In addition to public consultation, the project team is working with both municipalities and various agencies on the operational details.

Consultation feedback will be internally reviewed and discussed with the appropriate external agencies. Final policies will be shared publicly prior to the bridge opening. Details about the multi-use path and consultation options, including the survey, are available on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com. The survey closes April 5, 2024.

CONTACT US

Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?

Meet with our team at our Sandwich Community Office at **3201 Sandwich St.** or Southwest Detroit Community Office at **7744 W Vernor Hwy.**

Available office hours can be found on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

Call us toll-free at **1-844-322-1773**, email us at info@wdbbridge.com, or message us through any of the project social media accounts.



PEOPLE PROFILE

MEET SARAH DANDASH

Sarah is a Junior Project Coordinator for Bridging North America. She has a BA Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Windsor. Sarah moved to Canada from the United Arab Emirates to attend the University of Windsor and was a local resident when she applied for the job on the project.

Q. What type of work are you doing on the project?

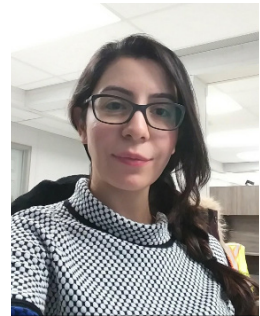
I am responsible for managing architectural packages from tender to the final stage. I currently assist with civil packages on the Canadian components, including Sandwich Street reconstruction, landscaping, and the Malden Park Observation Area. I've also assisted with heavy civil packages including the Return to US Bridge in the Canadian Port of Entry. I review design documents, propose changes to expedite construction, prepare tender documents, review bidders' proposals based on compliance with specifications, design drawings and budgets, ensure all submitted technical/construction submittals meet the specifications, design and constructability requirements, and resolve issues by communicating with clients, consultants and subcontractors.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of working on the project?

I am proud to be part of this once in a generation project in Windsor. It is the perfect opportunity to build, learn and share this amazing experience with my colleagues. I am thankful for being able to build friendships and wonderful memories that I will remember every time I cross the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Q. What do you wish other people knew about the project?

How much time, effort, and sweat that the entire team is putting into the project to be able to get to the finish line and deliver this iconic bridge to the public.



SARAH DANDASH

Junior Project Coordinator – Bridging North America

LETTER FROM THE CEO

It is a privilege to be part of the WDBA team, to serve the community, and deliver this once in a lifetime project that will be a catalyst for regional growth for many years to come. Our team recognizes that living near a major construction project can be challenging, and we deeply appreciate the patience and support that local residents and businesses have shown over the past five years. We recently announced a new construction completion date of September 2025 for the project, with the first vehicles expected to travel across the bridge that fall. I would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and understanding as we enter this final stage of construction.

Safety and quality continue to be our top priority, which means we do not want to rush the work simply to meet a specific date. It isn't just the safety of the men and women passionately working to complete the project that matters, but also the safety of all community members. We also want an asset that continues to serve the community far into the future and achieve the 125-year intended design life.

We are committed to continued engagement with residents, businesses and community members as construction progresses and we begin preparations for opening day. In 2023, we shared information and heard your views through over 300 stakeholder and community meetings, presentations, and site tours. We are committed to continuing these outreach efforts this year.

Our Community Benefits Plan, which includes a comprehensive Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and a Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, continues to enhance our host communities. With the recent extension of the project, \$3 million (CDN) has been added to the \$20 million (CDN) Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy. The team is reviewing how to best invest the additional funds and will share more information later this year. Since 2019, more than 80 local agencies and organizations serve as delivery partners for the two strategies and \$17.5 million (CDN) has been committed to community identified priorities.

The progress to date would not be possible without the more than 12,000 individuals in Canada and the US that have been directly involved on site. We greatly appreciate the efforts of every single person. In 2023, both bridge towers reached their final heights, and we are excited to see the two bridge decks connect this summer. Once the bridge deck connects, the progress may appear to slow down yet the effort will actually be ramping up as the team focusses on completing building interiors, completing the bridge surfaces and local roads, and shift attention to final commissioning.

We are proud to be part of the communities we serve and of the progress we have made so far on this monumental project. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Charl van Niekerk

IN THE COMMUNITY

Miracle in Sandwich

In December, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team welcomed Santa to Sandwich Towne for the annual tree lighting in Mary E. Bibb Park at Mackenzie Hall. An ornament painting activity was held at the Sandwich Community Office.



Questers

In January, the project team met with the Questers, a local community group at the Sandwich Community Office. The group learned how the new crossing will improve transportation in the region and heard about recent Community Benefits Plan activities.



Community Grant Open Houses

The annual Community Organization Investment initiative is a popular part of the Community Benefit Plan, offering non-profit and charitable organizations grants to support events, programming and infrastructure improvements in the host communities. Open houses were held in January at the Community Offices to address questions from potential applicants. The application window closed in January and eligible applications are now under review. Funding is anticipated for July 2024.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project will hold Public Information Meetings on March 19, 2024, at our Southwest Detroit Community Office and on March 21, 2024, in Windsor at Mackenzie Hall. Join us to meet project representatives, get the latest design and construction updates, as well as hear progress on the Community Benefits Plan implementation.

Attendees can also share feedback on the future operation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project multi-use path. Information gathered will help inform future policies and will consider operational items related to access, public safety and user experience. Presentations will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. followed by a question-and-answer session.

Business Development Open House

Sandwich/west Windsor businesses and entrepreneurs learned about the support available through the Sandwich Business Development Program at an information session in January. The event featured workshops, presentations and information about the free services offered in the area by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Centre and The Accelerator. Read more about this program and its Southwest Detroit equivalent on the project website.



Community Benefits Plan Allocates \$2.6 Million in New Investments

In February, the Community Benefits team added 13 new projects worth \$2.6 million (CDN) that will bring further benefits to the local host communities.

The 13 projects are the result of a 2023 public consultation and call for proposals, with investments in:

- \$250,000 towards local history and culture
- \$1.24 million towards community safety
- \$540,000 towards green initiatives
- \$250,000 towards food security
- \$250,000 towards wellness

Details on the new initiatives are available on the project website.

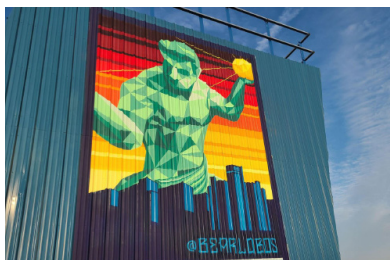
NEW HOMES FOR THE TOWER MURALS

For nearly three years, colourful murals graced the tops of the two bridge towers, reflecting the history and culture of Southwest Detroit and the local Indigenous Peoples in Windsor. The murals were affixed to the tower jump forms, which provided a safe space for the workers as they constructed the bridge towers. With the towers reaching their final height of 220 metres/722 feet, those jump forms have been removed, allowing the public to see the elegant silhouettes that will hold the weight of the bridge.

Recognizing that the murals have become iconic within the communities, the project team has worked with organizations in Windsor and Detroit to find new owners who will find ways to display the giant artworks at ground level.

The Canadian murals reflect Indigenous knowledge and tradition, and were painted by Paul White, Teresa Altman and Daisy White from Walpole Island First Nation and Naomi Peters from Caldwell First Nation. Two of these murals have found homes with the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village, located in Essex County. The third mural has been accepted with gratitude by the City of Windsor, through its Community Services Division, in partnership with Museum Windsor and Art Windsor-Essex (AWE). Each organization will identify the best way to display the murals, which will require reassembly and touch-ups. The project team appreciates the assistance of Hotham Building Materials for delivering the murals to their new owners.

Painted by Southwest Detroit artist, Roberto Villalobos, the US murals celebrate the area's strong history with the trades and pride for the City of Detroit and America. The murals have found permanent homes with the City of Detroit, Ironworkers Local 25 and Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters & Millwrights Local 687. Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters & Millwrights Local 687 graciously provided delivery of the giant mural panels to the City of Detroit.



SOUTHWEST DETROIT MURALS

Urban Neighborhoods Initiative (UNI) has painted over 100 murals in Southwest Detroit since 2007 to help combat blight and beautify community spaces. Their Southwest Urban Arts Mural Project (SUAMP) helps to increase youth arts education, beautifies the Springwells neighbourhood and inspires youth and the wider community through engagement with the arts.

An investment of \$50,000 (CDN) from the project Community Benefits Plan is supporting two new murals in the Springwells community, plus art and design workshops for youth throughout 2023 and 2024. So far, the funding has supported 18 young artists between the ages of 14-22, and the murals are anticipated to be painted this year.



KID ZONE

Complete this Gordie Howe International Bridge themed word search.

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Y V A R I H V T R T
B U C O U O B O B F
M O Q A D W N W U B
H D U J N E A E W U
B E S I S A D R D R
C C A G T X D E B S
A K X Z X N M A A G
B G O R D I E C S E
L X H E B R I D G E
E K T P N T U P Y I
    
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Canada	Bridge	Gordie	USA
Tower	Deck	WDBA	BNA
Cable	Howe		