

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT
WINTER 2020



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 will be delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), Bridging North America (BNA) 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.



NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

In winter 2020, the project team released funding to four Community Benefits Plan initiatives, two in Canada and two in the US, totaling more than **\$475,000 (CDN)**.

CANADIAN INITIATIVES:



Ojibway Park Wildlife Eco-Passage

The City of Windsor received **\$250,000** in advance funding to undertake an Environmental Assessment for a proposed eco-passage between Black Oak Heritage Park and Ojibway Park that will provide safe passage for area wildlife. This is part of a larger investment of \$1.5 million in seed funding to be released to the City should all approvals, permits and funds be secured to progress the Eco-Passage project.



Sandwich Community Art Project

Life After Fifty will use **\$20,000** in funding to launch West End Art Project, a community art project that will engage local youth and the surrounding community in the development and coordination of a representative art project that celebrates the culture and heritage of Sandwich/west Windsor.

US INITIATIVES:



Bridge to Prosperity Program, Southwest Detroit Business Association

The first of three installments, **\$83,333** has been provided to Southwest Detroit Business Association to launch Bridge to Prosperity, a new business development program that will provide planning and development support to Southwest Detroit small businesses and start-ups. The Bridge to Prosperity program has begun accepting clients, offering drop-in office hours, one-on-one coaching and workshops. For more information visit: southwestdetroit.com/bridge-to-prosperity.



Fort Street Bridge Park Sculpture Installation

The Fort-Rouge Gateway (FRoG) Partnership received **\$125,000** for the creation of a sculpture within the new Fort Street Bridge Park. The park will connect residents with nature while highlighting the region's culture and history.



BENEFITING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

The Canadian and US Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategies each include an annual investment of **\$50,000 (CDN)** for community organizations serving Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit residents.

In November 2019, a call went out for proposals for projects that would benefit these communities. Sixty applications were received, almost evenly split between Canada and the US.

Eligible applications were reviewed by the **Local Community Group** (see page 4). Their recommendations were presented to the **Community Benefits Committee** comprised of senior representatives from WDBA, BNA, and the State of Michigan who determined which projects to fund. Successful applicants will be notified in April and funding will be released in July 2020. This is the first installment of a five-year, \$500,000 (CDN) investment.

Stay tuned to hear about the exciting community initiatives funded through the 2020 Community Organization Investment.

UPCOMING NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY INITIATIVES

CANADIAN

- Tree planting initiatives in Sandwich/west Windsor
- 2020 Sandwich Business Summit
- Annual investment to ProsperUS for programming specific to the Sandwich Community

US

- Tree planting initiatives in Delray/Southwest Detroit
- Donation of vans to community partners in Delray
- Funding for People's Community Service to support repairs at Delray House and youth programming



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2019



800+
Vendor Summit attendees

20+
educational engagements



2280+
individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US



Over **50%** are local*



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

30+
pre-apprentices/
apprentices assigned to the project



130+
local* businesses engaged on the project



To learn more about employment and procurement opportunities on the project visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

We wish to acknowledge that the land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project will be constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fire 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.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY BENEFITS

BENEFITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community Benefits Plan includes commitments to support economic development through participation on the project by engaging:

- eligible local residents through training and employment opportunities, and
- local businesses through the procurement of goods and services.

During the reporting period the project team participated in:

7 Career Fairs

6 Engagement Events

Local engagement activities included:

- Michigan Department of Transportation Networking Symposium
- Michigan Hispanic Contractors Association Events
- Vendor Summits in Windsor and Detroit
- Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting



Bridge Jobs Tool Launch 2019

In August 2019, **Workforce WindsorEssex** launched the Bridge Jobs Tool. This user-friendly tool publicly tracks and shares Canadian job postings and project milestones related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. For more information visit: workforcewindsor.essex.com/bridge-jobs-tool.

BENEFITING VENDORS



Vendor Summits 2019

In November 2019 the project team hosted Vendor Summits in Windsor and Detroit to inform local businesses about project timing, upcoming contracting opportunities and the bid process. The events attracted more than 800 collective participants and included a presentation by BNA followed by networking breakout sessions.

Presentation highlights included:

- Design work will be heavy between 2019-2020
- The peak construction period, consisting of 70% of total construction hours, will be between 2021-2023
- Construction will predominantly engage Operators, Labourers, Ironworkers, Carpenters and Specialty Trades workers
- The construction schedule is 74 months
- Interested businesses can register on the project website to be considered for future procurement opportunities.

Similar events will continue to be held as the design-build period for the project progresses. For more information about current procurement packages out for tender or to see the full event presentation please visit the project website.



BENEFITING EDUCATION

Between September 2018 and December 2019 project representatives were out in the communities speaking to students of all ages about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. During this time, 21 presentations were given within the Greater Detroit area and Windsor-Essex County, connecting with learners elementary-aged to those in continuing education. These events took place in classes, after-school programs and during special events.

To request a school presentation about the Gordie Howe International Bridge, please complete an outreach form on the 'Contact Us' tab of the website.



St. James WE-STEAM 2019

UPCOMING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY INITIATIVES

- Annual information session with workforce development organizations
- The creation of a Trades-specific Steering Committee to inform outreach activities and apprentice engagement
- Hiring of co-op students
- Ongoing school and business engagements

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTS PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

The Local Community Group (LCG) provides valuable input and formal linkages to the region enabling WDBA and BNA to better understand project stakeholders' perspectives about the Community Benefits Plan. Members of the LCG contribute by providing input into:

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

The following individuals are currently serving as **Local Community Group Representatives:**

- Teajai Travis, Sandwich Community Resident
- Randal Sasso, Windsor-Essex County Resident
- Clara Deck, Daily Cross Border Commuter - Canada
- Chief Miskokomon, Representative from Walpole Island First Nation
- Fabio Costante, City of Windsor - Ward 2 Councillor
- Mary Ann Cuderman, Sandwich Business Improvement Association
- Sabrina DeMarco, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation
- Mike Cardinal, Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition



Local Community Group Representatives

- Candida Leon, Delray Community Resident
- Kimberly Simmons, Greater Detroit Area Resident
- Simona Simion, Daily Cross Border Commuter - USA
- Nikki Orosz, Representative from Caldwell First Nation
- Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, City of Detroit - District 6 Council Member
- Robert Dewaelsche, Southwest Detroit Business Association
- Virginia Wilkinson, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- Simone Sagovac, Delray Community Advisory Group

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:

- @GordieHoweBridge
- @GordieHoweBrg
- WDBA-APWD
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- YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge

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