



## BACKGROUND

### Supportive Statements

“Walt Disney said you can design and create and build the most wonderful thing in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality. That rings true for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. We are building a wonderful piece of infrastructure and I want to thank those who have spent the last thousand days working to bring this project into reality. We still have a long way to go but look at all the progress that has been made. It is to be commended.”

- Dwight Duncan, Chair, Board of Directors, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

“This is a time to celebrate an important milestone. Congratulations to everyone who is working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. It is exciting to see the tangible progress underway.

A special thank you to the WDBA and Michigan teams, as well as our private-sector partner at Bridging North America, all of whom have kept working despite the challenges of the pandemic. Your commitment and dedication to the project has been tremendous. Let’s celebrate, as well, the way the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team has involved local communities through its support for projects with environmental and social benefits on both sides of the border.”

- Kristine Burr, Chair, International Authority

“Congratulations to Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority on 1000 days of construction! Since I first took office in the Michigan legislature, issues related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge have always been a priority for my office. Delray and Southwest Detroit residents have for years made sacrifices and advocated for quality of life and environmental enhancements, home repair grants, job training, support for critical neighborhood needs, and much more. We are grateful for the strong collaborative relationships with Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, State of Michigan, and City of Detroit that have led to historic community benefits agreements. The bridge project has been a massive undertaking by so many and will make a dramatic impact for the economy, infrastructure, and workforce of Michigan and Canada. I am excited to continue supporting the bridge with benefits.”

- Michigan Senator Stephanie Chang

“Congratulations to Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America on reaching the milestone 1000 days of construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. It is incredible to witness this iconic, once-in-a-generation project rise up on both sides of the Detroit River. The Gordie Howe International Bridge is not just changing our landscape, but recharging our economy, revitalizing our neighbourhoods and reinforcing the longstanding ties between Windsor and Detroit. The progress we see today is a testament to the will of the people and governments committed to ensuring our region continues to thrive as the busiest commercial crossing along the Canada-U.S. border. I commend CEO Bryce Phillips and everyone on both sides of the border who worked hard to keep this project on schedule despite the unprecedented challenges of the past year. We look forward to seeing what other impressive transformations take shape over the next 1000 days.”

- Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens

“Throughout my time on Council I have worked closely with residents, community stakeholders, and government officials to ensure that the dignity and well-being of families in the Delray community are protected during the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. One thousand days into construction, I am excited to see the Delray Home Improvement Program and Community Organization Investment initiative, as

part of project Community Benefits Plan, roll out. These programs wouldn't exist if it weren't for the decades-long organizing efforts of Delray residents, fighting for common sense solutions to protect the environment & invest in the host neighborhoods.

I look forward to continuing this work, alongside residents and stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the remaining community benefits. I know that working together we can build upon the work thus far to create bridge that enhances life for Delray and all Detroiters.”

- Raquel Castañeda-López, District 6 Council Member, City of Detroit

“Congratulations to Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority on the 1000th day of construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project! This project has been an integral part of the revitalization of Windsor-Essex, and especially for those individuals and organizations located in Windsor’s West Side. We as a community have gained and will be set to benefit tremendously from the project.

Organizations and individuals in Sandwich Town have been recipients of the Community Benefits that have derived from the project. These benefits have supported key infrastructure and programming initiatives that have contributed positively to our community. We now look forward to the road reconstruction on Sandwich St. and further investments as the project moves along.

The future of Sandwich Town looks bright and that is partly because of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. I have no doubt that we will continue to see the positive effects during the construction phase and for generations to come after it is built.“

- Fabio Costante, Ward 2 Councillor, City of Windsor

“The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a one-in-a century milestone project that will enhance the Essex, Chatham-Kent region, the province of Ontario and Canadian economic climate forever. Clearly the entire local construction sector has been a direct benefactor of this massive undertaking to date, and as the project continues to grow in magnitude, so too will the number of construction workers and vendors who are either directly or indirectly employed. At this 1000 day milestone, we thank and congratulate the Bridging North America team for their conscious efforts to engage local Contractors and vendors to assist them in bringing this magnificent bridge structure higher and higher into the region’s skyline and closer to completion.”

- Jim Lyons, Executive Director, Windsor Construction Association

“Sitting on the busiest northern border crossing in the U.S. already makes the Detroit-Windsor Region a global destination for business and an international gateway to the world. Adding a major infrastructure asset like the Gordie Howe International Bridge sets the foundation for more economic growth. As the Detroit Regional Partnership recruits global companies looking for the best location to invest in the North American market, the new bridge will make our pitch that much stronger. We couldn't be more excited about the progress on the bridge and what it means for further enhancing our region's connectivity to our largest and most important trading partner.”

- Maureen Donohue Krauss, President and CEO, Detroit Regional Partnership

“Invest WindsorEssex would like to congratulate Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and all key partners for reaching the 1000 days construction milestone.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation megaproject that will deliver much-needed transportation improvements for logistics, cross-border trade and international travellers, and provide jobs and opportunities for growth in the Windsor-Essex region.

Invest WindsorEssex is proud to support this state-of-the-art infrastructure development that will further improve our binational advantage and economic competitiveness across the globe.”

- Stephen MacKenzie, President and CEO, Invest WindsorEssex

“The Gordie Howe International Bridge is a transformational investment in our region’s economy. The 1000 days of construction is a milestone of resilience after more than a year of COVID-19, and points us in the direction of growth and continued cross-border collaboration.”

- Brad Williams, Vice President of Government Relations, Detroit Regional Chamber

“The 1000 days of construction milestone on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a defining moment in our region’s history. This once-in-a-generation undertaking not only bridges two great nations, Canada and the United States of America, but also connects the present to future robust growth whilst honoring the legacy of the past.

Once complete, the bridge will advance economic, social, and environmental positive outcomes for local communities and the nation all under the great legacy of one of the best hockey players in NHL history, Gordie Howe. The bridge will be one of the most instrumented and advanced bridges in the world and will facilitate autonomous commercial vehicle movement between the two countries. The planning, management, and construction process have been nothing short of phenomenal. The construction activity has already had a positive economic impact on the Windsor-Essex region. Several local companies have been engaged in the construction activities.

It is commendable that despite the pandemic, the construction activities have continued safely. The bridge is truly a remarkable project and something that will be a beacon of light for the whole world, shining right here in our wonderful Windsor-Essex region.”

- Rakesh Naidu, President and CEO, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

“The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation is proud to play an integral role in the planning efforts on the US side the new bridge. As we continue to work with our many partners in the U.S. and Canada, we are focused on the economic benefits this additional border crossing will provide. Detroit is a premier site for entry into North America, and the additional flow of goods into our city will provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.”

- Kenyetta Hairston-Bridges, Executive Vice President, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation