PONT INTERNATIONAL
Gordie Howe
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

FACT SHEET

The Gordie Howe International Bridge is connected. What's next?

In June 2024, the Canadian and US sides of the Gordie Howe International Bridge deck met over the Detroit River. Crews installed the final segment, known as the mid-span closure, officially making the bridge an international crossing.

While the two sides have joined, there's still work to be done before the first vehicles cross in fall of 2025.

Electrical

Electrical systems installation is underway. This work is broken down into two categories:

1. **Lighting Systems** including aesthetic lighting, roadway and pedestrian lighting, navigational lighting for vessels and aircrafts and maintenance lighting. The LED lighting is energy efficient and low maintenance to minimize light spill and any effect on migratory birds.
2. **Instrumentation Systems** including a bridge monitoring system, weather station, fire alarm system, security systems and an intelligent transportation system to enhance traffic management efficiency.

Power cables have been laid between the two towers and support infrastructure is currently being installed. Soon, the pace of work will accelerate as lighting fixtures, equipment and communication fiber are installed.

Drainage

The Gordie Howe International Bridge has drainage scuppers along both sides of the bridge deck. They allow stormwater to flow away from the deck and into underground drainage structures on either end of the bridge. There are 332 scuppers in total, one approximately every 10 metres/32.8 feet. Both the Canadian and US sides have stormwater management ponds that collect and treat water before it is released into the river. While scuppers are already in place, the next step is the installation of all pipe accessories.

Fire Suppression

The Gordie Howe International Bridge integrates a semi-automatic dry standpipe fire suppression system. Fire pumps are installed in a weather-protected enclosure and stainless-steel dry pipes, fire hydrants and electrically actuated valves are placed throughout the bridge deck. If a fire were to start, crews would open the valve in the enclosure, allowing water to run through the pipes to the fire hydrants installed throughout the crossing.

Pipe installation has started as has pressure testing with pipe accessories and controls to follow. Upon completion, pipes will be connected to fire pumps and the fire alarm panel.

Fine-Tune Re-Stressing of Stay Cables

Fine-tune re-stressing of the 216 stay cables connecting the deck to the towers is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2024. Along with the stay cables, the towers provide the support system for the entire weight of the bridge and the load it will eventually carry.

Road Surface Work

Crews continue to pour the 270-mm/10.63-inch thick concrete for the Canadian and US approach spans of the bridge.

Once both spans are complete, work is expected to begin in fall 2024 on the thick road surface layer on the concrete bridge deck. Composed of a latex modified concrete, this overlay is 50 mm/1.97 inches thick.

Safety and Emergency Features

To ensure the safety of the travelling public, the Gordie Howe International Bridge deck includes design elements such as barriers separating vehicular traffic from the multi-use path and means restriction fencing. The fencing, installed on both sides of the bridge deck, measures 2.9 metres/9.5 feet high. The multi-use path features security cameras and seven emergency call boxes, similar to those located on the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway Trail and the Detroit Riverfront Trail Network.

Next steps include traffic and wayfinding signage installation and road surface marking, all of which will help travellers find their way through the new border facilities.

Falcon Nesting Box

A peregrine falcon nesting box is one of the last elements to be put in place. The nesting box's design is complete, and it will be constructed in 2025. Located below the bridge deck, it features a remote-operated camera and an access platform to facilitate the nesting of falcons within sight of the Canadian shoreline.