

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



PONT INTERNATIONAL
Gordie Howe
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

**QUARTERLY REPORT
SUMMER 2024**

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).

NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

With the support of Community Benefits Plan funding, non-profit and charitable organizations in west Windsor and Southwest Detroit are delivering important programming and community infrastructure improvements, resulting in positive benefits for local community members. A summary of some of the outcomes from funded projects are listed in the following pages.

AmeriCorps Urban Safety Programming Wayne State University

AmeriCorps youth members completed five Safe Routes to Schools assessments in Southwest Detroit. After observing students walking to school, members established safe routes which they marked by installing signs and painting footprints on the sidewalks. Ongoing safety intervention programming, several property board-ups and a community event also took place over the summer months.

Indigenous Youth Programming Turtle Island Aboriginal Education Centre University of Windsor

Over 2,500 students and community members attended the second annual Alumni and Student Pow Wow in May 2024, held in partnership with St. Clair College. Funding also supported Indigenous secondary and post-secondary students through camp programming during the summer.

ProsperUS Program United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County

Ignite Academy staff continued to deliver wrap-around supports and afterschool programming for 30 young people and their families at General Brock Public School in Sandwich. In addition to programming, the team provided over 500 community referrals and language interpretations to address unique needs and enhance communication for students and their families.



Students from the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program install a Safe Route to School sign in Southwest Detroit.



Ignite Academy students and staff during after school programming.

We acknowledge that the Sandwich community and land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge 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.

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Community Outreach Programming Assumption Cares

Staff and volunteers have provided community meals, a foodbank program events and classes that benefit the mental and physical health of community members in Sandwich, while fostering connections and healthy relationships. The food box program distributes 145 healthy food boxes to families each month, helping to enhance nutrition in the community.



Assumption Cares volunteers serve community meals to Sandwich residents.

Green Space Development at Maryvale The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism

A new accessible playground was installed on Maryvale's campus, providing a safe outdoor space for young children and their families to develop skills and relax in nature. Final surfacing and landscaping enhancements will be installed soon.



Work on the accessible playground at the Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism progressed over the summer months.

Mobile Wi-Fi and Charging Stations Bridging Communities Inc.

Solar Wi-Fi stations with charging capacity were installed in five Southwest Detroit locations. It is estimated that more than 200 individuals are already utilizing these resources.

Unity House Improvements and Programming Craft Living Studios

Several renovations to the Unity House Community Center in Southwest Detroit were completed, including installation of a staircase and earthen floor and the addition of electricity and Wi-Fi. Programming, such as community gardening, micro-apprenticeships and STEM/environmental education workshops is also being delivered.

Triple Tree Impact Program Essex Region Conservation Authority

In May 2024, 20 volunteers, including students, residents and project staff, planted 50 native large stock trees in Malden Park in Sandwich. The planting provided an opportunity for a meaningful volunteer experience, directly benefiting the community and environment at large.

Environmental Stewardship Programming The Greening of Detroit

Funding supported school-based activities, tree planting initiatives and youth employment in Southwest Detroit. Through the Green Corps Summer Youth Employment Program, 65 high school students and 13 crew leaders participated in 10 events over the summer, watering over 1,850 newly planted trees throughout streets and parks in Southwest Detroit.



Holy Redeemer Catholic School students take part in the Greening of Detroit's Environmental Stewardship Programming.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between May and September 2024, the project team hosted or participated in the following activities:

- Engaged with students at the Michigan Construction Science Expo.
- Participated in the Build Detroit: Youth Skilled Trades Challenge.
- Presented at a career development session for Wayne State AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program students.
- Hosted multiple information sessions for the final call for large-scale Community Benefits funding investments.
- Consulted with the public, residents and key stakeholders on the design and construction plans for the Broadway Street Multi-Use Path in west Windsor.



In June 2024, delivery partners (pictured above) gathered at Crowley Park in Sandwich to announce the 13 projects funded through the **2024 Community Organization Investment (COI)** initiative. Visit the project website for information on how to apply for the 2025 COI funding cycle.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JUNE 2024



12,950+

individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US

42%

are local*



385+

co-op students assigned to the project



280+

local* businesses engaged on the project

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



735+

pre-apprentices/ apprentices assigned to the project

Between January 2021 and June 2024, over

\$6.6 million

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

FALL 2024 AND WINTER 2025 ACTIVITIES

- Host Community Capacity Building Summits in Windsor and Detroit.
- Launch the call for applications for the 2025 Community Organization Investment initiative.
- Close consultation on the Broadway Street Multi-Use Path in west Windsor.
- Install Sandwich Street enhancement features.
- Announce new initiatives identified through the 2024 Community Benefits Call for Proposals process.
- Continue content development and design work for the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour interpretive signs.
- Facilitate student bike rack design initiatives with post-secondary partners.

THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE is here to move people and goods across the Detroit River. It connects more than businesses and communities. It creates possibilities. By evolving to meet customer needs with sustainable operations, the bridge will be an accelerator for international trade and make a powerful difference now and for future generations. 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

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 has two components:



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop and implement a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, aesthetics, landscaping and green initiatives, local history and culture and food security and wellness.



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

Alternative formats of this document can be requested by contacting the project team.

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

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