

Gordie Howe International Bridge

MOMENTUM

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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 (BNA) design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

IN THIS EDITION

- Indigenous Artwork Installed
- People Profile
- Paving of the Bridge Deck
- Sandwich Street Reconstruction Nearing Completion
- In The Community
- Seamlessly Connecting North America
- Renowned Canadian Artist Selected to Create Aesthetic Bridge Lighting Design
- Kid Zone

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@wdbridge.com, or message us through any of the project social media accounts.



INDIGENOUS ARTWORK INSTALLED

The second public art commission at the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has been installed. Titled Aazhoge, the 3-metre/10-foot-high free-standing sculpture is a contemporary reflection of the culture and traditions of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, with emphasis on local Anishinaabe First Nations.

“Aazhoge” is the Anishinaabe word for bridge and can also mean crossing over or seeing other planes of existence. Created by renowned Anishinaabe artist, Michael Belmore, the artwork is prominently located within the Canadian Port of Entry (POE), visible to travellers as they enter and exit Canada.

The stainless-steel structure reflects a curving piece of birchbark, a material of importance to the local Anishinaabe due to its ability to offer shelter and transportation and as a means to capture knowledge. A pattern to reflect wampum beads is laid out in Ascii code, a character encoding standard for electronic communication, to spell the word “Aazhoge”. The use of Ascii code is often used by the artist as a mnemonic device similar to wampum beads that were formerly used to convey information. The Three Fires Confederacy is recognized with three flames being released by an animikiig, or thunderbird or spirit. The Three Fires Confederacy consists of the Ojibwa, Odawa and Pottawatomi peoples that call this region their traditional lands. This inclusion was based on feedback from Caldwell First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation.

Members of Caldwell First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation that participated in the initial discussions with the artist will be invited to view the artwork on site at the Canadian POE in the spring. Learn more about this artwork and the public art incorporated into the project on our website.



PEOPLE PROFILE

MEET DOMENICO BOCCANFUSO

Domenico is a Field Engineer and Traffic Control Engineer with Bridging North America (BNA). He graduated from the University of Toronto with an Applied Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Living in Sarnia, Ontario, the new bridge between Windsor and Detroit was always in the news. His engineering position in Sarnia was nearing completion in fall 2023 and a friend recommended that he look for a job in the US. He found that the project had positions available in Detroit so he applied for an engineering position with BNA. He currently resides in Detroit and returns home to Sarnia on weekends.

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

I was originally hired by Bridging North America as a Field Engineer for the US approach bridge. I was responsible for approach girder bolt tracking, girder bearing installation and approach deck wood formwork installation. In August 2024, my manager brought to my attention a Traffic Control Engineer position that was vacant on the Michigan Interchange team. I am now responsible for preparing lane closure notifications so that construction work can proceed on local Detroit roads such as Fort Street, Jefferson Avenue and Junction Street.

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

The most rewarding part of working on the project has been watching the different phases of the bridge construction. The concrete towers' erection skyward, and the bridge deck's step by step movement over the Detroit River.

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

Once the US and Canadian sides of the bridge deck were connected in June, the public thought the bridge would open shortly after. There is still a lot of work to complete on the different components before the bridge opens to traffic in fall 2025.



DOMENICO BOCCANFUSO

Field Engineer and Traffic Control Engineer- Bridging North America

SANDWICH STREET RECONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

Funded by the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, Bridging North America is nearly finished with the reconstruction of Sandwich Street from the Canadian Port of Entry to the Rosedale Avenue roundabout. This work started in a phased approach in summer 2023 with the goal of achieving full completion in 2024. The reconstruction included asphalt paving and sidewalks, the addition of new bicycle lanes and enhanced streetscaping within the Sandwich BIA district from Brock Street through Detroit Street. It is anticipated that the roadwork will be complete along the three kilometre stretch shortly.

As part of the project's Community Benefits Plan, an additional \$1 million was invested to further enhance the Sandwich Business Improvement Area. Following a two-year consultation process, Bridging North America developed designs that will result in a vibrant, enhanced area for residents and visitors with emphasis on landscaping, gathering spaces and hardscaping. The design also aligns with municipal standards and requirements and the Sandwich Heritage Conservation District Plan. Streetscaping construction began in coordination with road reconstruction and is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024.

PAVING OF THE BRIDGE DECK

The paving and finishing of the bridge deck is underway. Composed of a latex modified concrete, the overlay is 50 mm/1.97 inches thick. Additionally, crews continue to pour the 270-mm/10.63-inch thick concrete for the Canadian and US approach spans of the bridge. Many other critical actions are also underway including the installation of electrical systems, fire suppression systems, drainage systems, safety features and more.



IN THE COMMUNITY

ElderCollege Presentations

In October, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) held two educational sessions about the project for Canterbury ElderCollege in LaSalle. ElderCollege is dedicated to lifelong learning by offering courses that are useful, sociable, and entertaining to people over the age of 55. ElderCollege participants learned about the design and aesthetics of the bridge, benefits for commercial users, and the Community Benefits Plan.



Public Information Meetings

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America will hold Public Information Meetings on December 3, 2024, in Detroit at our Southwest Detroit Community Office and on December 4, 2024, in Windsor at Mackenzie Hall. The meetings will provide the latest updates on Canadian and US construction activities and the implementation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan.

Presentations will begin at 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. followed by a question-and-answer session.

Spooky Halloween

Over the weekend before Halloween, the project team participated in two Halloween events for some holiday fun. The project team took part in the Town of LaSalle's annual Truck or Treat event, where families dressed in costumes and visited a lineup of unique vehicles including project construction equipment. The project team also took part in Urban Neighborhood Initiative's Spooktacular Halloween Fest which offered the project team a chance to meet families as they went Trunk or Treating and participated in other fun activities such as face painting.



Conferences

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team has been attending trade shows and conferences in Canada and the US promoting the opening of the bridge in 2025:

- Pathways for Trade Symposium in Laredo, Texas sharing how the Gordie Howe International Bridge will enhance the North American supply chain.
- Automotive Logistics & Supply Chain Conference in Dearborn, Michigan connecting with senior leaders and decision makers as they master the growing complexity of the supply chain.
- EDGE 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee connecting with supply chain leaders.
- Canadian Greenhouse Conference in Niagara, Ontario networking with growers and suppliers.
- Global Produce and Floral Show in Atlanta, Georgia connecting with buyers and suppliers.
- International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association's (IBTTA) Annual Meeting, in Cleveland, Ohio networking with peers in the largest exhibit hall in IBTTA history.



RENOWNED CANADIAN ARTIST SELECTED TO CREATE AESTHETIC BRIDGE LIGHTING DESIGN

The project team is pleased to announce the completion of its artist selection process for the Aesthetic Bridge Lighting Commission on the Gordie Howe International Bridge. Douglas Coupland, a Canadian novelist and visual artist, will develop the commission to be installed on the bridge.

Mr. Coupland will develop one concept for the aesthetic bridge lighting that will serve as an artistic feature based on the theme of the bridge as a symbolic connection linking Canada and the U.S.

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) held a community meeting in Windsor in November to allow the community to meet the artist and share their thoughts on possible themes and symbolism to help inform the design. The artistic concept will be shared at a later date and will be installed on the bridge in 2025.



SEAMLESSLY CONNECTING NORTH AMERICA

The Gordie Howe International Bridge is transforming how trade moves through Windsor-Detroit. We will be open for business in fall 2025.

Key features of the crossing:

- Highway-to-highway connection
- Six bridge lanes, 16 toll booths and 60 inspection lanes
- Dedicated and dynamic lanes for trucks
- Easy toll collection options
- Faster processing with on-site secondary inspection
- State-of-the-art technology and route optimization tools
- 24/7 operations with tailored customer service
- Real time, accurate and reliable traffic information
- Designed for oversized loads and hazardous materials

Sign up for our commercial email list on our website to learn more about operations and when transponders and customer accounts will become available.

KID ZONE

Fill in the blank

1. The multi-use path will be toll- ____ for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. The Gordie Howe International Bridge towers are ____ metres tall.
3. There will be ____ traffic lanes and ____ multi-use path on the Gordie Howe International Bridge.
4. At the Canadian Port of Entry, there will be ____ primary inspection lanes and ____ toll booths.
5. The Michigan Interchange component connects the Gordie Howe International Bridge with Interstate ____ in Detroit.
6. The private-sector partner responsible to build the Gordie Howe International Bridge is known as _____.
7. The Gordie Howe International Bridge will open in the year _____.
8. Two communities are connected by the Gordie Howe International Bridge. These are known as _____ Town and _____ Detroit.
9. Construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project began in the year _____.
10. Many fun kids activities can be found in the _____ on our website.

Answers:

1. free
2. 220
3. 6, 1
4. 24, 16
5. I-75
6. Bridging North America
7. 2025
8. Sandwich, Southwest
9. 2018
10. Kid Construction Zone

