

Gordie Howe International Bridge MOMENTUM

Quarterly Newsletter issued by: Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

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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.

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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.

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.



COUNTDOWN TO OPERATIONS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will open this fall, delivering unparalleled benefits for supply chains, industry and commercial users that are moving people and goods through the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor. There will be lots of information shared as we work towards opening day.

Toll rates will be announced this spring, in both Canadian and US currency. Both currencies will be accepted to pay tolls. For commercial users, rates will be based on axle of vehicle class. A loyalty program will also be available, offering a discount on both passenger and commercial tolls.

Toll collection features:

- Collection at the Canadian Port of Entry for inbound/outbound traffic
- 16 lanes, eight in each direction
- A combination of automatic and electronic toll collection options
- Variety of payment options
- Pre-paid accounts with manual and automatic replenishment and post-paid accounts
- A bilingual customer service call centre offering English and French services.

An integral part of the tolling system is the use of pre-paid accounts with transponders, which will be available along with other forms of payment, to quickly move travellers through the toll booths. One toll booth will be able to process up to 400 vehicles using transponders per hour. Future customers will be able to register for an account and receive a Gordie Howe International Bridge transponder in the spring.

Subscribe to our email lists on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com to learn more about opening day celebrations, operations and when transponders, toll rates and customer accounts will become available.



PEOPLE PROFILE

MEET PAYAL GORE

Payal is a Construction Engineering Specialist and Civil Superintendent at the Canadian Port of Entry. She attended the University of Windsor and received a Masters in Civil Engineering. Following graduation, Payal started work on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and considers herself fortunate that the project marks the beginning of her career.

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

I started as an Engineering Coordinator in 2022 at the Canadian Port of Entry where my responsibilities included reviewing daily construction activities, tracking progress and processing invoices. In 2024, I was trusted with the responsibility of Civil Superintendent. My current role requires directing subcontractors, managing the activities of multiple trades and ensuring compliance of safety and environmental standards.

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

The most rewarding part is getting to know amazing people. A project of this magnitude requires contribution from many parties including local suppliers, contractors and trades. Building relationships with these stakeholders and sharing knowledge is invaluable as part of this once in a generation project.

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

I wish people knew about the considerations taken to reduce the effects on the surrounding environment during construction and future operations. I also want to highlight the efforts of every individual who has worked on this project to ensure its timely completion.

PAYAL GORE

Construction Engineering Specialist II/Civil Superintendent on Canadian POE



MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE AESTHETIC FEATURES

In Southwest Detroit, the retaining walls on the new ramps connecting I-75 to the Port of Entry (POE) pay tribute to Historic Fort Wayne's unique star-shaped fort structure, a nod to the nearby landmark on Jefferson Avenue. Architect Nicolas Bogle identified the ramps as an opportunity to provide visual interest along West Fort Street to visually honour the area's history, by designing a concrete relief to be cast into the forms.

The precast elements were made with custom forms into which the concrete elements were cast, while the cast-in-place portions were done in a more traditional manner, using skilled carpentry to cut wood pieces to form a negative of the desired pattern on the inside of the concrete form work.

A similar design inspired by Fort Wayne also appears on the Jefferson Barrier Wall as part of the US Port of Entry (POE), contributing to the project's cohesive aesthetic features.



DELRAY HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMPLETE

In January, the project team announced the successful completion of the Delray Home Improvement Program. Funded by the Community Benefits Plan and launched in 2021, repairs were undertaken at 106 residences in Southwest Detroit at no cost to the homeowners.

The Delray Home Improvement Program afforded eligible residences with up to \$20,000 (USD) in repairs, improvements or replacements. This \$4 million (CDN) program was carried out in collaboration with Local Initiatives Support Corporation Detroit (LISC Detroit). The improvements completed in the residences include:

- 55 roof repairs/replacements
- 44 HVAC improvements
- 19 door replacements
- 61 window replacements.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Miracle in Sandwich

In December, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team welcomed Santa to Sandwich Towne for the annual tree lighting at Prosperity Place next to Port Windsor. An ornament painting activity was held at the Sandwich Community Office.

South Windsor Seniors

For the past four years, the project team has delivered an annual project update to the South Windsor Seniors Club. This local community group meets once a month for lunch and a presentation. The group learned how the new crossing will improve transportation in the region and received updates about recent Community Benefits Plan activities.

Empowering Women For Employment

The project team met at Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (WEST) to provide a project update for women looking to explore career options and learn how to gain employment on infrastructure projects in Windsor.

Dearborn Heights Rotary

In mid-February, the project team presented to the Rotary Club of Dearborn Heights to walk through recent project activities.



LETTER FROM THE CEO

As we complete the final year of construction and enter the operations phase of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project this fall, I think about the honour it has been to be part of the team delivering an infrastructure project that will be a catalyst for growth in the region.

The completion of the project would not be possible without the more than 14,000 individuals in Canada and the US that have been directly involved. We greatly appreciate the efforts of every single person, who have kept safety and quality a top priority.

In 2024, the bridge deck connected over the Detroit River and all 216 stay cables were installed. At the Ports of Entry teams are focusing on completing building interiors. Other teams are focusing on completing local road improvements, and final commissioning of the four project components.

We remain committed to continued engagement with residents, businesses and community members as construction progresses and we prepare for opening day. In 2024, we attended more than 300 stakeholder and community meetings, presentations and site tours. We will continue these outreach efforts this year and expand our attendance at trade shows and conferences to connect with future users in the region.

Our \$23 million (CDN) Community Benefits Plan, which includes a comprehensive Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and a Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, will conclude in March 2026. This month the Community Benefits team announced the final round of funding investments in the communities. Since 2019, more than 90 local agencies and organizations have served as delivery partners for the two strategies and nearly \$22 million (CDN) has been committed to community identified priorities.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to celebrating opening day with you.



Charl van Niekerk



SANDWICH STREET RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

Funded through the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, just over three kilometres of Sandwich Street was reconstructed by Bridging North America. Stretching from the Canadian Port of Entry to the Rosedale Avenue roundabout, work began in September 2023, with all major work completed in December 2024.

Residents now benefit from new road and sidewalk reconstruction, storm sewer installation, the addition of new cycling infrastructure and enhanced streetscaping within the Sandwich BIA district. This includes gathering spaces, improved landscaping and hardscaping with heritage features.

To wrap up the project team's construction efforts, one additional utility relocation will be undertaken at the Mill Street intersection and final landscaping and streetscaping details will be completed in the spring. Sidewalks located at the Mill Street intersection will remain closed until pavement work is completed in this area.



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America will hold Public Information Meetings on **March 11, 2025**, in Detroit at our Southwest Detroit Community Office and on **March 13, 2025**, 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.

KID ZONE

Use the code below to solve these riddles

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
2	1	6	11	5	15	12	14	20	22	16	7	17	9	25	4	10	18	13	8	3	26	23	19	24	21

1. You might be feeling hungry when you exit the Gordie Howe International Bridge into this Canadian town which shares its name with a popular lunch item.

Answer: _____
13 2 9 11 23 20 6 14

2. These ports may not be able to charge your phone, but one will collect toll and both will inspect vehicles crossing the Canada - US border.

Answer: _____
4 25 18 8 13 25 15 5 9 8 18 24

3. While not the Eiffel in Paris or the CN in Toronto, these tall structures help support and stabilize the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Answer: _____
8 25 23 5 18 13

4. While this important piece of construction equipment shares its name with a bird and can be spotted high in the sky, it cannot fly.

Answer: _____
6 18 2 9 5

5. It may help you play a game of Poker and it can help transport vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians across the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Answer: _____
11 5 6 16

6. You can cross the Bridge on two wheels, and you can cross the Bridge on four, but if you are not using any wheels, you will be in this lane for sure.

Answer: _____
17 3 7 8 20 3 13 5 4 2 8 14

7. Depending on how you spell it, this can be a question or the surname of a famous hockey player.

Answer: _____
14 25 23 5

8. When eating you may lift your fork, but while this piece of machinery has a similar function of lifting and moving materials, its name is the reverse.

Answer: _____
15 25 18 16 7 20 15 8

9. While its name is 21 letters, people commonly refer to this country, who shares its border with Canada, using just these three.

Answer: _____
3 13 2

Answers:

1. Sandwich 3. Towers 5. Deck 7. Howe 9. USA
2. Ports of Entry 4. Crane 6. Multi-Use Path 8. Forklift

