

Gordie Howe International Bridge

MOMENTUM

issued by: Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

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 design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

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PHASE 2 MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project requires significant construction activity to support the connection between the US Port of Entry and Interstate-75 (I-75). This work, known as the Michigan Interchange, is occurring in a phased approach over a four-year period. By the time the bridge opens, four new road bridges crossing I-75, five new pedestrian bridges, realignment of both I-75 service drives and several improvements to local roads will be complete.

In December, Michigan Interchange work moved to Phase 2. At that time, the newly reconstructed Springwells Street and Livernois Avenue road bridges re-opened to traffic and the Green Street, Waterman Street and Dagoon Street road bridges were demolished over a weekend period. The Green Street and Waterman Street bridges will be reconstructed with an anticipated opening date in 2023. The northbound and southbound service drives between Springwells Street and Clark Street also closed. Later this spring, the Clark Street road bridge will reopen and the Junction Street road bridge will close. Phase 2 activities are expected to be completed by spring 2023. For current road closures, please visit the Michigan Interchange section of the website.

CONTACT US



Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?

Call us toll-free at **1-844-322-1773**

Email us at info@wdbridge.com

Message us through any of the project **social media accounts**.

Sandwich Community Office at **3201 Sandwich St.***

Southwest Detroit Community Office at **7744 W Vernor Hwy.***

***Community Offices are currently closed due to Covid-19.**

Read more about all project updates on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com



CLOSURES AND TRAFFIC CONFIGURATION (PHASE 2)

- KEY**
- DEMOLISHED BRIDGES
 - EXISTING CLARK BRIDGE CLOSURE
 - EXISTING RAMPS AND I-75 SERVICE DRIVE CLOSURE
 - PHASE 2 DETOUR ROUTE

PEOPLE PROFILE

MEET BROOKE GYETVAI

Brooke was recently hired by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority as the receptionist at the main Windsor office and as administrative support to the Human Resources Department. She attended the University of Windsor for her BA Hons in Business Administration and Wayne State University for her Master of Business Administration. Brooke was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario.

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

I am new to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and am taking on a dual role, allowing me to facilitate the visitor experience both in person and over the phone at our main office, while also providing support in HR portfolios including talent acquisition, diversity, equity and inclusion, employee relations, and the co-op program.

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

Having the chance to be a part of an organization working on a historic project in our city and country is exciting because I grew up in Windsor and am looking forward to seeing the changes this project brings to our city. It has been very rewarding working with a team of individuals who are very passionate about providing the best human resources and health and safety support for the organization.

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

I wish people knew how large the project really is. It spans two countries and has progressed immensely since construction began in 2018! I'd encourage everyone to watch the flyover videos available on the project YouTube channel. They really show the progress of the project from a bird's eye view.



BROOKE GYETVAI

Human Resources Administrator/Reception Services – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

SANDWICH STREET ENHANCEMENT SURVEY NOW OPEN

As part of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, nearly 3 kilometres of Sandwich Street will be reconstructed. Through the Community Benefits Plan, the project team is investing an additional \$1 million to provide streetscaping enhancements within the Sandwich Street BIA section from Detroit Street to Brock Street.

To help identify and prioritize the enhancements that should be considered, the project team has launched a community consultation program. An online or paper survey asks the community members to prioritize four enhancement categories:

1. Hardscaping (street furniture and material upgrades)
2. Landscaping (greenery and other vegetation)
3. Gathering spaces (areas of seating to support interactions)
4. Active transportation features (amenities to support the new bike lanes)

Consultation is open until March 7, 2022. Following the close of the consultation, Bridging North America will review the results with the City of Windsor and incorporate the most prioritized areas into streetscaping designs. Designs will be shared with the public in summer 2022. The survey is available at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com or by calling 1-844-322-1773 or emailing info@wdbridge.com to obtain a paper copy of the survey.

FUNDING FOR MCKEE PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN SANDWICH

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is providing the City of Windsor with \$200,000 as part of its Community Benefits Plan initiative to invest in parks located in Sandwich. The \$200,000 will support the construction of a new gazebo and improvements to the existing boardwalkway in McKee Park. The project team is excited and proud to support initiatives that enhance the Sandwich community for residents and visitors. McKee Park improvements will be carried out by the City, and construction is expected to begin this spring. Read more on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.



IN THE COMMUNITY

2022 Community Organization Investment Update

The Community Organization Investment (COI) initiative is a five-year program that provides funding to organizations serving Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. This year's application period recently closed, with **30** applications received in pursuit of the \$50,000 (CDN) available on each side of the border. The funds support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit the communities.

Over the past two years, through the Community Organization Investment, the project team has provided meaningful support to agencies and organizations serving southwest Detroit. The funding has helped Bridging Communities provide supportive services to local seniors, been used to purchase new equipment for use at the Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church food pantry, helped fund renovations to the recreation center at First Latin American Baptist Church of Detroit, funded programming support for Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and funded a marketing campaign by the West Vernor & Springwells Business Improvement District.

Over the past two years in Sandwich/west Windsor, the funding has helped support programming or events through Big Brothers Big Sisters, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Windsor Essex Central Council, Les Amis Duff-Bâby, Essex County Black Historical Research Society, Border City Athletics Club, and Windsor Police Services Community Service Branch in partnership with New Beginnings. Infrastructure updates have been made possible for Friends of the Court, Sandwich First Baptist Church and The John McGivney Children's Centre.

This year's applications will be reviewed by the Local Community Group, comprised of 16 stakeholders from Windsor and Detroit, who will recommend projects for funding. Applicants will be notified in April about the status of their application and funding will be released to recipients in July.



Envision Platinum Award

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BNA) have earned a prestigious Envision™ Platinum Award for the once-in-a-generation project. This certification is the highest possible distinction from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) which recognizes efforts to achieve sustainable development and environmental performance standards at every stage of an infrastructure project, from design to construction and implementation. This achievement is the result of three years of effort by the project team and was determined through an independent peer-review process that saw the project evaluated across 60 sustainability criteria. ISI verified the project evaluation. Read more about this award on the project website.

Delray Home Improvement Program Expanding

The Delray Home Improvement Program launched in winter 2021, offering free home repairs to eligible homes or duplexes in the area surrounding the Gordie Howe International Bridge and US Port of Entry construction site.

Successful applicants may receive items from the pre-approved repair/replacement list, based on an assessment of the home, with a per-house cap of \$20,000 (USD).

Repairs offered include:

- roof repair and/or roof replacement
- window and/or door replacement
- roof insulation and/or wall insulation
- repair or replacement of heating, ventilation, and/or air-conditioning (HVAC) unit.

In March 2022, the service area will expand to include South Leigh Street in the east, Clark Street in the west, West Jefferson Avenue in the south and the northbound I-75 Service Drive to the north.

Information is available at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com. This program represents a \$4 million (CDN) investment being delivered as part of the project Community Benefits Plan.

DELRAY HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Speaking Requests

Are you looking for a Gordie Howe International Bridge project update at your event or meeting? The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is available to present content virtually to your group. The project team is able to cover a variety of topics from environmental and sustainability concerns, species at risk, construction progress, Community Benefits, and/or careers on the project. Request a virtual presentation on the Contact Us page of GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE NOISE WALLS

As part of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, significant construction activities are taking place along the Michigan Interchange (I-75). This includes demolition and removal or reconstruction of existing roadways and bridges, as well as connecting ramps from the I-75 to the US Port of Entry. In addition, the project team is constructing noise walls (traffic sound barriers) along three sections of the I-75:

1. Between Green Street to Waterman Street
2. Between Dragoon Street to Junction Street
3. Between Junction Street to Clark Street

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) identified close to 200 residences within the noise wall locations who, based on a computer analysis, could receive a noise reduction of five decibels or more. These residences are considered by MDOT as being “benefitted residences”. Residents living within these residences had an important role to play in helping determine whether or not the noise walls should be built through a “yes” or “no” vote.

Earlier this year, the project team hosted online community information sessions about the noise walls and provided benefitted residences with information and voting packages in effort to help them make an educated vote. The voting period concluded in early February, with a majority voting in favour of the noise walls construction.

The noise walls will be built between the freeway and the service drives on state-owned land and will range in height from 10 feet to 20 feet and approximately eight inches wide. Noise walls will alternate between different shades of grey in a limestone pattern and landscaping like trees, shrubs and grasses will be added where feasible.

Noise wall construction is expected to begin early this year and is anticipated to be complete by 2024. When complete, noise walls will become part of the I-75 system maintained by MDOT.

View a recording of the online community meeting and other information about the noise walls by visiting the Michigan Interchange section of the project website GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.



NEW FLYOVER DRONE FOOTAGE AND GALLERIES

Progress continues on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. New galleries of the Canadian Bridge site, Canadian Port of Entry, US Bridge site, US Port of Entry, and Michigan interchange have been posted on GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com during January and February and have been shared on the project social media accounts. Check out recent drone footage from the project sites on our YouTube channel for an aerial view.



2021 PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Over 2021, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team participated in over 220 meetings, consultation events, and presentations with project stakeholders, the public, and third parties. Even though the community offices remained closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, the community was still able to contact us, with over 672 public inquiries received through the toll-free **1-844-322-1773** number and by email at info@wdbridge.com. Please reach out to us with any project related questions you may have.

KID ZONE

Complete the Gordie Howe International Bridge Maze below. Enter at the Canadian Port of Entry and exit at the US Port of Entry. Good luck!

