



WINTER 2020 NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY FUNDING INVESTMENTS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it will also provide jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan which includes the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

The Community Benefits Plan, Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, included 29 initiatives to be implemented collaboratively with local delivery partners during the design and construction period of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. These initiatives specifically focus on providing positive outcomes for the communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit, the neighbourhoods located closest to the project area.

In winter 2020, the first release of funding to four Community Benefits Plan initiatives was provided, totaling more than \$475,000 (CDN). The funding will support two initiatives being undertaken in Canada and two in the US, in the areas of aesthetics and landscaping, economic benefits and community partnerships. Community Benefits Plan initiatives will continue to be implemented between 2020-2025, with additional funding to be released going forward. Additional details on the four initiatives that received funding are identified below.

SANDWICH COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Delivery Partner: Life After Fifty
Community Benefits Investment: \$20,000 (CDN)

Life After Fifty will launch the *West End Art Project*, a public art initiative that will engage local youth and the surrounding community to celebrate the culture and heritage of Sandwich/West Windsor. Life After Fifty will undertake public consultation activities to explore and identify the theme(s), location and art form for the project, along with a public call for artist proposals. Final artist and artwork selection will be coordinated through a public poll with an unveiling anticipated to occur in fall 2020.

Stay up-to-date as this initiative moves forward at www.lifeafterfifty.ca.

OJIBWAY PARK WILDLIFE ECO-PASSAGE

Delivery Partner: City of Windsor
Community Benefits Investment: \$250,000 released of \$1.5 million (CDN) total

The proposed Ojibway Park Wildlife Eco-Passage (bridge) will provide safe passage for area wildlife through a connection between Black Oak Heritage Park and Ojibway Park. The City of Windsor received \$250,000 to undertake an Environmental Assessment for the project to further assess feasibility and inform the design. The \$250,000 is part of a larger investment of \$1.5 million in seed funding to be released to the City should all approvals, permits and funds be secured.

SOUTHWEST DETROIT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Delivery Partner: Southwest Detroit Business Association

Community Benefits Investment: \$83,333 released of total \$250,000 (CDN)

With the support of Community Benefits Plan funding, the Southwest Detroit Business Association is launching a new business development program, *Bridge to Prosperity*. The program is anticipated to run for a three-year period and will provide planning and development support to Southwest Detroit small businesses and start-ups.

The Bridge to Prosperity program is now accepting clients and offers drop-in office hours, one-on-one coaching and will host future workshops. Activities will continue until December 2022 with program funding to total \$250,000.

Learn more about the Bridge to Prosperity program at www.southwestdetroit.com.

FORT STREET BRIDGE PARK SCULPTURE INSTALLATION

Delivery Partner: Friends of the Detroit River

Community Benefits Investment: \$125,000 (CDN)

The Fort-Rouge Gateway (FRoG) partnership is a collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including Friends of the Detroit River and MotorCities National Heritage Area, to transform previously neglected property into new landmark green space called, the *Fort Street Bridge Park*. The park will connect residents with nature while highlighting the region's culture and history. The design will include stormwater features, a sculptural focal point, native landscaping, a central gathering plaza and interpretive signage.

The Community Benefits Plan funding will be used for the creation of a sculpture within the park that recognizes the region's cultural and environmental history. An artist will be competitively selected and the community will be engaged as part of the design process. Installation is anticipated to occur in early summer 2020.

For more information on Fort-Rouge Gateway (FRoG) partnership, visit www.motorcities.org.

PUBLIC REPORTING

The Community Benefits Plan includes a robust documenting, tracking and reporting structure that demonstrates accountability to the region. The Community Benefits Plan is posted on www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com and quarterly reports on progress and results will be posted through the delivery period.

For more information about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project visit www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com or call 1-844-322-1773. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge and connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd.