



BACKGROUND

Community Benefits Overview

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.

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for the local communities. In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was important to the project team that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the communities of Sandwich and Delray, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

WHY INCLUDE COMMUNITY BENEFITS?

Early in the planning process for this project, it was understood that the delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project provides opportunity to leverage a significant infrastructure investment for positive social and economic outcomes. That is why the Crossing Agreement signed in 2012 by the Government of Canada and the State of Michigan required the incorporation of a Community Benefits Plan for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project that covers both Canada and Michigan and includes direct input from stakeholders and community as well as their continued involvement, partnering with local institutes of higher learning, unions and others, job training and local job development. The Crossing Agreement further states benefits will be shared equally amongst the two countries.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and its Michigan partners meaningfully engaged and empowered the Windsor and Detroit communities in all stages of development of the Community Benefits Plan. Bridging North America (BridgingNA) joined this consultation process after Financial Close in September 2018.

Between 2015 and 2019, a two-phase consultation approach was undertaken with Ontario and Michigan residents, Indigenous Peoples, business owners and community and municipal leaders resulting in over 230 unique suggestions for community benefits and engagement of thousands of stakeholders. Activities that informed the Community Benefits Plan included public meetings, one-on-one meetings, focus groups, a public survey, social media and direct correspondence.

APPROACH TO COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan reflects regional priorities and is comprised of two components:

- The Workforce Development and Participation Strategy
- The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy

Workforce Development and Participation Strategy

As part of the Community Benefits Plan, a strategy geared toward engaging businesses and providing employment opportunities has been developed and is centered on (i) workforce development, (ii) training and (iii) pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships.

There are three sections to this strategy:

- I. at least \$250 million of the total value of the work during the design-build phase in Canada will be performed by, contracted to, or supplied by the workers or contractors located in the City of Windsor, Essex County or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor
- II. engaging and employing Canadian Indigenous Peoples in and around the City of Windsor, Essex County and Walpole Island, Ontario and contracting their businesses
- III. engaging, employing and contracting Detroit residents and Detroit-based and Detroit-headquartered businesses.

In addition, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal established for this project is 2.15% of the cost of the construction and engineering work needed to complete the Michigan Interchange and the portion of the bridge located in Michigan.

The strategy includes over 80 initiatives that will be delivered in partnership with local organizations and workforce development agencies with the experience and resources in place to support training and skills development.

Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy

The second component of the Community Benefits Plan is the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy which represents \$20 million (CDN) in direct community investment on both sides of the border developed by public feedback and input. The initiatives target the Sandwich/west Windsor area and the Delray/Southwest Detroit area, ensuring that the communities adjacent to the project are the ones benefitting most from the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

Collectively, 29 community investment initiatives have been identified and will be implemented collaboratively with local delivery partners during the design and construction period of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REPORTING

A local community group composed of 16 stakeholders (eight CDN/US) will be formed to work with WDBA and BridgingNA as informal partners in the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan. The Local Community Group will meet quarterly once launched in summer/fall 2019.

WDBA and the State of Michigan will be directly involved in its delivery as well and will provide stringent oversight to ensure the commitments outlined are achieved and reported on.

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.