

NEWS RELEASE

MICHIGAN ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION STARTS FOR GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT

July 17, 2018

WINDSOR, ONTARIO – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BridgingNA), along with the State of Michigan and the Government of Canada, celebrated today that another significant milestone in the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has been reached with the start of Michigan advance construction.

Advance construction activities include design work to advance foundation construction of the main bridge, test piles, preparation and the start of siphon work at I-75 and geotechnical exploration.

BridgingNA was announced as the Preferred Proponent to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Gordie Howe International Bridge in early July following a fair, open and transparent process based on a commercially accepted public-private partnership (P3) procurement approach.

To take advantage of the summer 2018 construction season, a separate contract has been signed between BridgingNA and WDBA. This critical work will enable full construction to begin after financial close is reached by BridgingNA by the end of September.

The new Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide for redundancy at the busiest trade corridor between Canada and the United States with improved border processing and highway-to-highway international connectivity. It also addresses future needs and will provide six lanes to meet anticipated growth in traffic over the years to come.

Quotes

"Today is a testament to the hard work and dedication by WDBA and our project partners. Michigan advance construction sends a loud and clear message that we are at the ready and the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is moving ahead. Building of this critical piece of infrastructure is essential to the continued prosperity of Canada and the United States."

Dwight Duncan, Chair, WDBA Board of Directors

"I offer my congratulations to Bridging North America for being selected as the Preferred Proponent for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and for starting Michigan advance construction. WDBA looks forward to the continued partnership both through this advance construction phase and as we conclude the procurement process and reach financial close. Together with our Michigan partners, we are working closely together to deliver a new landmark for the region and the world."

Bryce Phillips, CEO, WDBA

"Bridging North America is honoured to have been selected as the Preferred Proponent to build and maintain the iconic Gordie Howe International Bridge project and to be part of this exciting ceremony. Today's groundbreaking celebration is the visible beginning of our long-term partnership with WDBA, and reinforces our commitment to collaborate with the governments of Canada, the United States and the State of Michigan. We look forward to continuing building upon this partnership, as we begin the construction phase of this landmark project, which will serve to not only strengthen the connection of the two countries but also provide long-term benefits to the local communities of the Detroit and Windsor areas on both sides of the border."

Nuria Haltiwanger, Chairwoman and CEO of ACS Infrastructure in North America and President and CEO of Iridium Concesiones de Infraestructuras (an ACS Group company)

Quick Facts

- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes the Canadian Port of Entry, the bridge, US Port of Entry and I-75 interchange.
- Key members of Bridging North America include: ACS Infrastructure Canada Inc.; Dragados Canada Inc.; Fluor Canada Ltd.; AECOM; RBC Dominion Securities Inc.; Carlos Fernandez Casado S.L/FHECOR Ingenieros Consultores, S.A.; Moriyama and Teshima Architects; Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects, LLP.
- Public meetings providing a project update are being held on Wednesday, July 25, at Mackenzie Hall in Windsor, Ontario, and on Thursday, July 26, at Historic Fort Wayne, in Detroit, Michigan, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. each day.

Related Products

Additional Quotes

Michigan Advance Construction

9 Things to Know About US Preparatory Activities

9 Things to Know About Canadian Preparatory Activities

About Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation created to manage the procurement process for the design, building, financing, operation and maintenance of the Gordie Howe International Bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan through a public-private partnership (P3). WDBA is also responsible for project oversight. For more information on WDBA visit www.wdbridge.com and follow WDBA on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg).

-30-

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Additional Quotes

"The Canadian and American members of the International Authority welcome today's groundbreaking for the start of advance construction in Michigan. Not only is this an important milestone for the Gordie Howe International Bridge, it represents significant economic opportunity for communities on both sides of the border."

Kristine Burr, Chair, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, International Authority

"Farm Bureau members benefit immensely from having access to the Detroit-Windsor border and the opportunities it provides as one of the busiest trade corridors in the country. Michigan agricultural exports to Canada exceed \$1.1 billion on an annual basis, while creating jobs for 7.6% of the state's workforce. By expanding the capabilities and efficiency at the border with construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, we're increasing opportunities for farmers and rural communities across Michigan to prosper through long-term economic growth."

Carl Bednarski, President, Michigan Farm Bureau & Tuscola county farmer

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge represents the kind of infrastructure investment that helps ensure a stronger Michigan that can compete and grow. Over \$100 billion in trade is conducted across the Detroit-Windsor border every year. The new span is fundamental to our state and country's future and will lead to new investments, and more and better jobs and opportunities for our citizens."

*Doug Rothwell, President & CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan**

**The state's business roundtable comprised of the chairpersons, CEOs, or most senior executives of Michigan's largest companies and universities.*

"This additional Detroit-Windsor border crossing is vital to Michigan manufacturers and supporting a strong, thriving industry. The Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide seamless border connections with our state's largest trading partner and be invaluable in helping ensure continued economic vitality and prosperity for the largest sector of the Michigan economy, manufacturing."

Chuck Hadden, President & CEO, Michigan Manufacturers Association





News release

For immediate release

Canada and the United States celebrate the Michigan advance construction groundbreaking for the Gordie Howe International Bridge

Detroit, Michigan, July 17, 2018—The Windsor-Detroit trade corridor is the busiest commercial land border crossing and an important trade and transportation route between Canada and the United States. As a safe and essential additional crossing option at this important corridor the Gordie Howe International Bridge will ensure people and goods move safely and smoothly between the two countries, supporting middle-class jobs and businesses on both sides of the border.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Canadian Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder today participated in an event to mark the Michigan advance construction groundbreaking for the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Kelly Craft, United States Ambassador to Canada, James Craig, Police Chief of the City of Detroit, Dwight Duncan, Chair of Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority's Board of Directors and senior executives from Bridging North America, the Preferred Proponent selected to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Gordie Howe International Bridge, also participated.

The new six-lane, cable-stayed international bridge will provide direct connectivity to existing highway networks in Windsor and Detroit. Along with modern border processing infrastructure and the capacity to move goods and travelers efficiently through the corridor, it will encourage new investment between Canada and the United States.

Thanks to the continued collaboration of many groups in both countries, the Michigan advance construction groundbreaking for the Gordie Howe International Bridge in the United States demonstrates considerable progress towards the realization of this critical project.

Today's event will allow for the full construction start of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which will begin after Financial Close in the Fall of 2018.

Quote

"Today's milestone is an important step in the building of one of Canada's top infrastructure priorities. Along with the recent announcement of the Preferred Proponent, the reveal of the bridge design, and the advance construction that has been happening on the Canadian side, it is clear that progress is well underway towards full construction starting this Fall.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will play a vital role in supporting and growing the local economies on both sides of the border and will create opportunities for residents and businesses alike. This project is also an important symbol of our deep friendship and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and I'm proud to be working towards its completion in partnership with Governor Snyder and the Michigan government."

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

“This is an exciting day for Detroit, Windsor, Michigan, Ontario, the United States, and Canada. After more than seven years of hard work, today we broke ground on what will be a thriving legacy named for a legend. Gordie Howe represented the best of Canada and the United States. And, thanks to the hard work of many people on both sides of the border, now this bridge to the future will represent our prosperous partnership for generations to come.”

Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan

Quick facts

- Advance construction activities include design work to progress with foundation construction of the main bridge, test piles, preparation work at Interstate 75, and geotechnical exploration.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge brings opportunities in the form of jobs and contracts for local workers, service providers, and material manufacturers and distributors in both Canada and the United States.
- The Windsor-Detroit Gateway is the busiest Canada-United States commercial land border crossing and is vital to the economies of Ontario, Michigan, Canada and the United States, with some 7,000 trucks crossing each day. About 2.5 million trucks cross the Windsor-Detroit border each year. In 2017 this represented over US\$106.5 billion in bilateral trade (CAD\$138 billion).
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes the construction of:
 - A six-lane, cable-stayed design bridge of 850m (0.53 miles) and a total length of approximately 2.5 km (1.5 miles),
 - Canadian and United States Ports of Entry including approach bridges, customs plazas and a tolling station on the Canadian side; and,
 - A Michigan interchange connecting Interstate 75 to the United States Port of Entry.
- Once constructed, Canada's Port of Entry will be the largest Canadian port on the Canada-United States border and the United States Port of Entry will be one of the largest in North America.
- Canada and the United States share the world's longest secure border, over which approximately 400,000 people, and goods and services worth US\$1.9 billion (CAD\$2.5 billion), cross daily.

Associated links

Infrastructure Canada: www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority: www.wdbridge.com

Michigan: www.michigan.gov

- 30 -

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