

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT  
FALL 2022



The Community Benefits Plan is a key component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. With a commitment to transparent and accountable implementation, the project team is proud to report on Community Benefit Plan activities and accomplishments each quarter. For more information on Community Benefits Plan initiatives visit [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

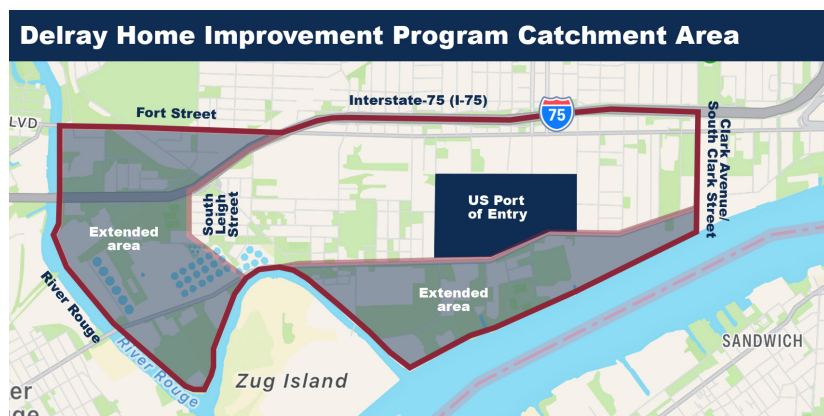
### DELRAY HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In December 2022, the project team expanded the catchment area for the **Delray Home Improvement Program**, a **\$4 million (CDN)** Community Benefits Plan investment in homes surrounding the Gordie Howe International Bridge US Port of Entry.



In addition to the existing catchment areas, residents in the Carbon Works neighbourhood and south of West Jefferson Avenue can now apply for free home repairs from a pre-approved repair/replacement list, with a per-house cap of **\$20,000 (USD)**.

As of January 2023, 65 homes have been repaired or are in the process of receiving repairs.



Expanded catchment area of the Delray Home Improvement Program near the US Port of Entry in Detroit.

Applications for the Delray Home Improvement Program will be accepted until 2024 or until funding is exhausted. Applications are accepted and processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN UPDATES 2023

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy is a **\$20 million (CDN)** direct community investment on both sides of the border. In 2019, approximately **\$14.6 million (CDN)** was allocated to 29 projects in Windsor and Detroit. With implementation of the Plan at the midway point of its five-year term, the project team accepted several new proposals and undertook community consultation to review the current priorities of the neighbourhoods closest to the project.

As a result, new investment opportunities worth **\$2.3 million (CDN)** have been identified to bring further benefits to the local communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. Eleven new projects are being added to the Plan, along with additional funding to six existing initiatives. Projects will be delivered by identified partners between 2023 and 2024. Remaining Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy funds will be allocated in 2024.

See page 2 for more details on the selected projects.



Project representatives announced an increase in funding for the Community Organization Investment initiative on November 30, 2022.

We wish to acknowledge that the land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is being constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. This land has also served as a place of refuge for the Huron/Wendat people.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Tri-centenary Canoe Monument Relocation

**Partner: Association des communautés francophones de l'Ontario Windsor Essex, Chatham-Kent (ACFO WECK)**

Restoration and relocation of a tri-centenary canoe monument from east Windsor to a Sandwich-area park, supported by a community unveiling.

### Youth Mental Health Services

**Partner: Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Windsor-Essex**

Free, accessible mental health services, addictions support and education for youth in west Windsor.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Southwest Detroit Youth Programming

**Partner: Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)**

Afterschool and summer programming to be offered to youth at DHDC and the Delray Community Center, providing culturally appropriate programs and services.

### Youth Environmental Program

**Partner: The Greening of Detroit**

The *TreeKeepers Kids Program* is an environmental education program designed to engage students in three Southwest Detroit schools through tree planting at neighbourhood schools or parks.

### Green Infrastructure and Programming

**Partner: Congress of Communities (COC)**

The youth-driven community center will offer green programming, community education and undergo infrastructure improvements.



Community gardens, Southwest Detroit.

### Sandwich Business Improvement Area (BIA) Programming and Support

**Partner: Olde Sandwich Towne BIA**

Development of a marketing strategy and beautification plan for the Sandwich BIA and support for the expansion of Sandwich events, as well as funding for a new infrastructure feature.

### Girls Group Programming

**Partner: Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG)**

Investment into *STAG Girls Group Choices Program* to promote healthy and supportive relationships for women aged 12-19, including mentorship and skill building activities.

### SDBA Small Business Center Improvements

**Partner: Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA)**

Improvements to SDBA's Small Business Development Center, including the creation of an updated meeting space and a technology hub.

### Southwest Detroit Business Summit

**Partner: To be confirmed**

The *Southwest Detroit Business Summit* will provide a half-day event for area businesses and entrepreneurs to learn about ways to leverage the bridge's future operations for business opportunities.

### Indigenous Youth Programming and Events

**Partner: Turtle Island - Aboriginal Education Centre (University of Windsor)**

Two Pow Wow events will be hosted, along with March break and summer camp programming to engage local Indigenous and non-Indigenous secondary-school students.



First Annual Alumni & Student Pow Wow, June 2022.

### Southwest Detroit Small Business Support

**Partner: Puente Cultural Integration, LLC**

Bilingual coaching and technical assistance, networking events, workshops, collaborative marketing and marketplace opportunities to support small business owners in Southwest Detroit.

## EXPANSION OF EXISTING INITIATIVES

### Expand Adjacent Trails to Connect to the Gordie Howe International Bridge

**Partner: City of Windsor**

Funding to widen the Matchett Road underpass as part of a municipal multi-use path from Malden Park to Broadway Avenue.

### Neighbourhood Green Improvements

**Partner: Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)**

Funding for three community tree planting events in Sandwich area parks.

### Community Organization Investment (COI) Grants

**Partner: Local Community Organizations**

Increase in funding from \$50,000 to \$100,000 (CDN) per country for the 2023 and 2024 funding cycles to support projects delivered by non-profit or charitable organizations in the host communities.

### Windsor-Detroit Cross River Tour Organization: Project Team Delivery

Increase funding to support long-term costs of the interpretive signage in both Canada and the US.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

## TRADES-SPECIFIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

In November 2022, the project's international Trades-Specific Workforce Development Steering Committee met in-person for the first time at the Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center in Detroit. This committee includes the project team, participating labour unions, Tier 1 subcontractors and workforce development partners. The meeting included an overview of the project's progress and created an opportunity for cross-border networking and discussion on workforce development in the Windsor-Detroit region.

Information about training and employment opportunities on the project is available on the opportunities page of the project website.



*Trades-Specific Workforce Development Steering Committee, Detroit Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center, November 2022.*

## VENDOR OPEN HOUSES

In November 2022, the project team hosted in-person Vendor and Supplier Open Houses in Windsor and Detroit to allow local businesses to meet project representatives and learn about upcoming bid packages and business opportunities.

*Learn more about BNA procurement on the project website.*

Between January 2021  
and September 2022, over

**\$3.6  
million**

(CDN) was spent on small-scale purchases under \$25,000 from local\* businesses

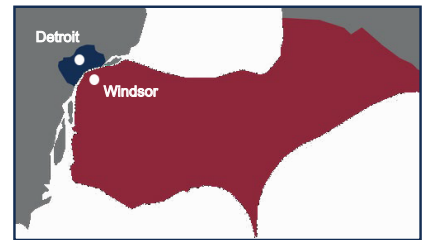
## CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 2022

**7900+**

individuals oriented  
to the project in  
Canada and the US



**42%**  
are local\*



\*"Local" is defined as being within the City of Detroit or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor



**475+**

pre-apprentices/apprentices  
assigned to the project



**240**

local\* businesses  
engaged on the project



**260+**

co-operative learning  
experiences have been  
provided on the project

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between **October 2022** and **January 2023**, the project team participated in:

- Launch of the Community Stories Committee as part of the Windsor-Detroit Cross River Tour initiative
- Presentation to U.S. Department of State Delegation from the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom
- Elder College Presentations on the project and Community Benefits Plan
- Randolph Career and Technical Center Construction Careers 101 and mock interviews
- YMCA Power of the Trades roundtable meeting
- Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. Employer Engagement Breakfast
- 2023 Community Organization Investment virtual and in-person information sessions
- Delray Home Improvement Program information sessions

## UPCOMING

## INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing planning and construction of the observation areas at Malden Park in Sandwich and Belanger Park in River Rouge
- Selection of the 2023 Community Organization Investment initiatives
- Engagement on the Windsor-Detroit Cross River Tour
- Continued work on Sandwich Street Enhancements



*In fall 2022, 43 large potted native hardwood trees were planted in Sandwich through Essex Region Conservation Authority's (ERCA) Triple Tree Impact initiative.*

## ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

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

Community benefits initiatives are delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan.

The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components:



**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY** focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.



**THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY** is geared toward engaging businesses and individuals and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/ apprenticeship opportunities.

**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 and includes features that make this project truly distinctive. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

### The project consists of four components:



**THE BRIDGE**



**CANADIAN PORT OF ENTRY**



**US PORT OF ENTRY**



**MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE**

For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:



@GordieHoweBridge



@GordieHoweBrg



WDBA-APWD



@gordiehowebrg



YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge



1-844-322-1773



info@wdbridge.com



GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com

WDBA - Main Office  
100 Ouelllette Ave., Suite 400  
Windsor, ON, N9A 6T3

Southwest Detroit Community Office (By appointment)  
7744 W Vernor Hwy.  
Detroit, MI, 48209

Sandwich Community Office (By appointment)  
3201 Sandwich St.  
Windsor, ON, N9C 1A8