

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

2019-2020 Annual Public Meeting

Summary

November 20, 2020

Prepared by: Communications and Stakeholder Relations
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA)
400 - 100 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor, ON N9A 6T3

Introduction

As a Canadian Crown corporation, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is responsible to the public. The organization's Annual Public Meeting (APM) is an opportunity for WDBA to share information on its operations and activities and to solicit feedback from the public. The 2019-2020 APM was held virtually on Friday, November 20, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was streamed via Facebook Live and on the project website www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

Public Notification

WDBA executed a number of tactics to ensure that the notice of the APM was made widely available and to encourage participation including the following:

- Notification was posted on WDBA's website homepage and on the meetings page 30 days in advance of the meeting date
- Public notices were placed in two regional news publications including the Windsor Star, and Le Rempart (French publication)
- A media advisory was sent to local and regional media outlets
- An email blast was sent to over 2000 addresses on the WDBA email distribution list
- Multiple messages were posted through WDBA's social media including Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn
- Invitations were sent to key stakeholders and elected officials.

The APM notice publicized the time, date and virtual location of the APM and also invited the public to submit any questions in advance of the meetings.

Attendance

The Facebook live stream had a total of 71 viewers at peak.

Proceedings

The APM opened with remarks by Dwight Duncan, Chair of the Board of Directors, followed by remarks from Bryce Phillips, Chief Executive Officer, and the presentation of the audited financial statements by Mike St. Amant, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. A video highlighting the project's progress was also screened.

Discussion – Questions and Answers

An important part of the APM was to solicit feedback and questions from the public. WDBA accepted questions both in advance of the meeting and during the meeting via the comment section on Facebook. A total of five questions were answered on topics including: community benefits, construction progress, and public viewing areas. A summary of the question and answer period can be found below. Please note that the summary is not a verbatim transcript.

To view all materials from the APM, and to view the unedited recording of the APM proceedings, including the Question and Answer period, please visit

<https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/annual-public-meeting-november-20-2020>

Question	Answer
<p>In the original consultation for Community Benefits, a Legacy Fund was advocated. 5 years of \$50,00.00 each year is now going into year 2. Year 1 was a grand success with the money going to deserving non-profits, benefitting many residents of Sandwich and West Windsor. This iconic bridge will be hosted by Sandwich Town for 100 years. Community Benefits should also be in place for 100 years. What is the status of considerations for the Legacy Fund?</p>	<p>We continue our ongoing commitment to consult with our host communities about various aspects of the project. It is your voice that continues to keep us informed and has helped shape the project to what it is today. With regards to a legacy fund, this is something that we have heard the community speak of and I want to assure you this remains on our radar and options continue to be explored.</p> <p>The project team understands the concerns and requests related to an ongoing, long-term commitment to invest in the host communities. Options continue to be evaluated with the Government of Canada.</p>
<p>Could you provide an update on next steps for construction? ie; when bridge foundations will be complete and when we might see the bridge towers start.</p>	<p>The design-build phase of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is well underway. Since beginning full construction in fall 2018, Bridging North America has been making critical progress with our continued goal to have the bridge open to traffic by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Detailed design and significant construction are occurring simultaneously on the four project components in a phased approach.</p> <p>Tower foundation and footing work on the Canadian and US bridge sites is well underway.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Bridge foundations will be completed before the holidays and work on the bridge towers will begin in the new year. Structures will begin to be visible on both sites later this year.</p> <p>The most-active period for construction on the project is expected to occur between 2021-2023, when approximately 70 percent of total work hours will be expended.</p>

<p>Can you give the status of current community benefit programs?</p>	<p>The third quarterly report on Community Benefits was released in October 2020 and reflects Community Benefits implementation outcomes related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives within the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy, summarizing activities and progress achieved between Financial Close (September 28, 2018) and June 30, 2020, and • Initiatives within the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, summarizing activities and progress achieved through summer 2020. <p>The call for applications for the 2021 Community Organization Investment opened on November 17, 2020, and will continue until the 12PM on Wednesday January 27, 2021. A series of reviews will then occur. Successful applicants will be notified in April 2021 with funds being released in July 2021.</p>
<p>How will the bridge be built out? For example, will the spans be built out from each tower, and then join spans built out from the land?</p>	<p>The backspan will be constructed, on the ground, at the same time as the towers. Once the towers progress to a point they are above the road deck of the bridge, you will start to see it expand out over the river piece by piece, until the Canadian and US sides intersect.</p>
<p>Is there somewhere where the general public can watch the construction of the bridge in a safe and properly managed area?</p>	<p>As part of our consultation efforts, we have heard from the community that this is something that is important to you.</p> <p>Construction viewing platforms will be built in Canada and the US in 2021. We look forward to sharing more details with you on that as they are constructed and open to the public.</p> <p>In addition, we are in the process of bringing online construction cameras which the public can view at home via the project website.</p>