

Gordie Howe International Bridge - Community Benefits

Community benefit programs are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions. The Gordie Howe International Bridge project will include a Community Benefits Plan that will have positive impact on communities in Windsor and Detroit. It is important that the Community Benefits Plan reflect what our stakeholders have told us is important to them. To help ensure these community priorities are captured, WDBA has developed a guiding framework to support the delivery of the Community Benefits Plan.

Why include community benefits?

The Crossing Agreement signed in 2012 by the Government of Canada and the State of Michigan included the following: *The proposed community benefits plans, as described in the RFP, covering both Canada and Michigan, which includes, in relation to both the construction and operation of the International Crossing: (A) the manner in which stakeholders and community are to continue to be involved; (B) the manner in which host community input relating to community benefits and stakeholder involvement are to be factored; (C) the manner in which bidders plan to work with local institutes of higher learning, unions and others; and (D) the manner in which job training and local job development will be encouraged.*

Stakeholder Input

WDBA has received more than 200 suggestions for community benefits from both Detroit and Windsor representatives. All suggestions have been shared with the three Proponent teams. Many of these requests fall within five themes:

- Local workforce and training strategies
- Construction impact and operation mitigation measures for nearby residents and businesses
- Community safety and connections
- Aesthetics and landscaping
- Regional economic and community development opportunities

Guiding Framework

The Community Benefits Plan shall be based on the following principles, referred to as the I-CARE Framework:

Integrated: Community Benefits shall be an integral component of the Project carried out during the construction and operation periods.

Collaborative: Community Benefits shall reflect the input of the host communities and be delivered through partnerships, ensuring that the interests of the respective communities are taken into account.

Accessible: Community Benefits shall be easy to understand, easily accessible, regularly measured and publicly reported.

Regional: Community Benefits shall be reflective of the character of the region, tailored specifically for the region and provide value to the region.

Enterprising: Community Benefits shall be comprised of new methods, ideas and innovative approaches to engage and benefit the neighbouring communities.

Development Process

It is anticipated that the community benefit plans developed by the three Proponent teams will reflect the suggestions and input from stakeholders. The community benefit plans will be submitted to WDBA for evaluation as part of the RFP submission. Once the private-sector partner is selected following the RFP evaluation, the private-sector partner will deliver the plan with oversight from WDBA. It is anticipated that the plan will be implemented during the construction and operation phases of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

