

Community Benefits: Integrating the Gordie Howe International Bridge into the Region

What are community benefits?

Community benefits programs are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions. These opportunities are often included in public projects. The Gordie Howe International Bridge project will include community benefits in recognition of the role the bridge plays in the host communities in Windsor and Detroit.

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.

Incorporating Feedback

As of March 2017, 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



Community Benefits: Guiding Framework

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.

The Community Benefits Plan shall be based on the following principles, referred to as the **ICARE** 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 Host Communities' and Regional input and be delivered through partnerships, ensuring that the interests of the Region 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 the Region in the Project and benefit the Region from the Project.

