

Speaking Points for Dwight Duncan
WDBA Annual Public Meeting
April 28, 2017

Good Morning/Bonjour

And thank you for attending Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority's Annual Public Meeting for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

As a Canadian Crown corporation, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is required to hold an Annual Public Meeting (APM) to coincide with the release of its annual report. The APM gives the opportunity to the public to learn more about WDBA's work and perhaps more importantly, to ask questions and receive answers.

At our first APM, I committed to holding APMs both in Windsor and Detroit in recognition of the interest that people on both sides of the border have in this once-in-a-generation project.

(Canada) I am pleased that we will be holding the Detroit meeting later today at the Michigan Outdoor Adventure Center.

(US) This morning, we held our APM in Windsor. We will be posting a video of those proceedings on our website later today.

I have been involved with Windsor-Detroit border issues since 1988 when I was first elected as a Windsor City Councillor and later as a cabinet minister and Deputy Premier with the Ontario Government.

I am thrilled to be able to continue work on what is arguably one of the most important infrastructure projects in North America – one which will deliver much-needed transportation improvements but will also provide jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor-Detroit region.

WDBA has been successful on a number of strategic issues over the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Our President and CEO, Michael Cautillo, will speak on those issues in more detail in just a few minutes.

Our successes are attributable to the dedication of the WDBA staff, the guidance of the WDBA Board of Directors and International Authority and our close working relationship with our partners including Infrastructure Canada, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Governor's Office, the US Federal Highway Administration and the cities of Windsor and Detroit.

WDBA is working closely with our stakeholders - many of whom are with us today. In fact, during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, WDBA had more than 60 meetings with its stakeholders.

In accordance with the Crossing Agreement signed by Canada and Michigan, to demonstrate our commitment to fulfilling requirements, WDBA has mandated that a comprehensive Community Benefits Plan be formulated and delivered during the construction and operation phases of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project by the private-sector partner with stringent oversight by WDBA.

This plan will contain initiatives that will have a positive impact on communities in the Windsor and Detroit areas and it is anticipated that the plan will be implemented during the construction and operation phases of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Following consultation undertaken by WDBA and Michigan with residents, business owners, First Nations and community leaders on both sides of the border, we have received more than 200 suggestions for community benefits.

The top priorities our stakeholders believe the Gordie Howe International Bridge project should address at a regional level fall within five themes, namely:

- 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.

WDBA is meeting with the Proponent teams on a bi-weekly basis to discuss their proposals of which the Community Benefit Plans are an important element.

It is important to WDBA that the Community Benefits Plans reflect what our stakeholders have told us is important to them.

To help us ensure these community priorities are captured, WDBA has developed a guiding framework for the development and delivery of the Community Benefits Plan. I am pleased to share this framework with you today, for the first time publicly.

The I-Care Framework is a tool that can be used by both WDBA and the Proponent teams that is reflective of what we have heard at numerous meetings in Canada and the US. Let's take a moment to break the framework down.

Integrated - Community Benefits shall be an integral component of the Project carried out during the design-build and operations periods.

Collaborative - Community Benefits shall reflect the Host Communities – Windsor and Detroit - 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 Windsor-Detroit 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.

As we have done in the last 18 months, WDBA will continue to meet and listen to its stakeholders and I look forward to continuing our partnership as we build the bridge to the future together.