

Gordie Howe International Bridge

MOMENTUM

issued by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan will help move goods and people more efficiently at this important trade gateway. Managed by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and working in collaboration with the State of Michigan, the project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3) which will see Bridging North America design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

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FUN FACTS

- The Michigan Interchange work being done for the Gordie Howe International bridge includes over a dozen roadway and pedestrian bridges crossing I-75 and ranging in length from 30 to 518 metres or 100 to 1,700 feet.
- Sand is placed on I-75 prior to demolition of the structures to protect the road surface from any damage.
- The three road bridges will be replaced with new crossings.

QUESTIONS

Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?



Call us toll-free at 1-844-322-1773

MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE ACTIVITIES WELL UNDERWAY

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project requires significant construction activity, including the demolition and removal of existing infrastructure, reconstruction of select roadways and bridges, and construction of new project infrastructure. One of the project components is the Michigan Interchange connecting to Interstate-75 (I-75). Approximately three kilometres or 1.8 miles of I-75 between Springwells Street and Clark Street will require modifications to accommodate the ramps connecting I-75 to the US Port of Entry (POE).

Over the coming weeks, Bridging North America will begin deconstruction and demolition of three road bridges that carry traffic over I-75.

The work is not simply the removal of the three structures. It involves significant work to protect the roadbed, implementation of traffic barriers, the staged demolition of the bridges and cleaning up the debris before the section of the freeway can be reopened. The work is expected to take over 48 hours to complete. This activity is a critical step towards the further development of the US POE for the Gordie Howe International Bridge

Detour Routes

The Springwells, Clark and Livernois road bridges closed to traffic in late October 2019, in preparation for the upcoming work.

Springwells Street Road Bridge Detours

- I-75-bound vehicles that previously entered at Springwells Street are encouraged to use nearby onramps at Livernois Avenue.
- From I-75, vehicles can exit the Interstate via nearby offramps at Livernois Avenue.
- Traffic on Springwells Street, Glinnan Street, Central Avenue, Solvay Street, and Wheelock Street, all north of I-75, can use West Lafayette Boulevard to reach Green Street and the Green Street bridge to cross I-75 and access M-85/Fort Street and points south of the Interstate.

Livernois Avenue Road Bridge Detours

- Work on the Livernois Avenue crossing bridge will start in fall 2019 and end in winter 2020.
- Nearby road crossing bridges at Green Street, Waterman Street, Dagoon Street (one-way, northbound), and Junction Street will remain open during this phase. Livernois Avenue will be partially reconstructed from M-85/Fort Street north to I-75 during this phase.

Clark Street Road Bridge Detours

- Drivers that used the Clark Street bridge to cross I-75 will now be directed to use the Junction Street bridge (west of Clark Street) or the West Grand Boulevard bridge (east of Clark Street) as alternatives to cross in either direction.

The Michigan Interchange activities will be delivered in four phases. For more information please call the project team at 1-844-322-1773, email info@wdbridge.com or visit our Southwest Detroit Community Office, 7744 W. Vernor Highway in Detroit.

CEO UPDATE

In October of last year, we officially started construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project – one of the largest infrastructure projects in North America. Since that time, significant activity has taken place. We have installed test shafts for the bridge footings and conducted wind tunnel testing on a scale model of the bridge. We are doing this to make sure we get it right the first time.

We have started the foundation work for the bridge tower construction on both sides of the border and are continuing site preparation activities, including major earthworks and the installation of wick drains to ensure a solid base on which we can build. We have completed the Perimeter Access Road surrounding the Canadian Port of Entry and are preparing for one of the more significant activities on the US side - the demolition of three road bridges crossing I-75 to make way for the construction of the new ramps leading from the highway to the US Port of Entry. In the delivery of all aspects of our work, safety and quality has been top-of-mind and a priority for WDBA and Bridging North America.

Not all of our work is construction-related. In 2019, we opened community-based offices in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit. In June, we announced our Community Benefits Plan which includes a comprehensive Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and a \$20 million Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy. The Community Benefits Plan is a result of a multi-year consultation period with communities and organizations on both sides of the border. Approximately 64 local agencies and organizations will serve as our delivery partners and a Local Community Group, will soon be established to act as our informal partners in the delivery of the plan.

WDBA is proud of our work and, as you will read in this newsletter, our project has been recognized internationally for our efforts. We are also proud to be part of the community and we are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed and engaged. Over the past months we have met with many community and trade organizations to speak about the work we do.

Our stakeholders are excited about the benefits this project will bring to the region and beyond and I look forward to meeting many more of you over the months to come. On that note, I am pleased to join my counterpart from Bridging North America in a presentation at the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce on December 4, 2019 to speak about how we are building the foundations, both literally and figuratively, of this once-in-a-generation project – one that will bring positive change to Windsor and Detroit.



A handwritten signature of Bryce Phillips in black ink.

Bryce Phillips
CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

PEOPLE PROFILE

MEET COURTNEY SWEET

It takes a large and diverse team to deliver the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Meet Courtney Sweet, Manager, Community Benefits, with Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA). Courtney grew up in Essex County and is a graduate of Essex District High School. She is enthusiastic about her recent return to Essex County to be overseeing the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan that will bring positive social and economic impacts to the place she calls home. As Manager Community Benefits, Courtney is building off her recent experience in the real-estate sector in Toronto where her work focused on managing strategic community investments and economic development initiatives for the Regent Park Revitalization.

Q. What type of work are you doing on the project?

My role is focused on overseeing the Community Benefits Plan for the project. I will be collaborating with Bridging North America and the State of Michigan to deliver the initiatives outlined within the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, overseeing the reporting on accomplishments and outcomes achieved through the Community Benefits Plan, and participating in engagement and consultation activities associated with the plan's implementation.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of working on the project?

The most rewarding part of working on the project is the opportunity to broaden the scope of the organizations and individuals, beyond those in the infrastructure and construction sectors that will be involved in the project. The Community Benefits Plan has the potential to engage residents of the host communities, local academic institutions, community groups and non-profit organizations who may not have a direct role in building a bridge but will still have an opportunity participate in the associated work and benefit from this regional investment.

Q. What do you wish other people knew about the project?

I wish that people knew how comprehensive and varied the initiatives within the Community Benefits Plan are. The plan includes 83 initiatives within the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and 29 initiatives within the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy that will be strategically chosen to benefit diverse stakeholders in Windsor-Essex County, the Greater Detroit Area, and Canadian Indigenous Peoples. Because of the variety of the initiatives, it is my hope that everyone can find something to be excited about within the plan.



COURTNEY SWEET

Manager Community Benefits
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

COMMUNITY BENEFITS UPDATE

Community Benefits Plan Implementation

Since the launch of the Community Benefits Plan in June 2019, the project team has been actively preparing to implement initiatives listed within the Community Benefits Plan with particular attention to those activities scheduled to take place in 2019 and 2020. Over the past few months we have:

- Organized meetings, webinars and correspondence with delivery partners
- Created frameworks and schedules to support the implementation of specific initiatives.
- Participated in delivery-partner hosted meetings and events, such as the ground breaking for the Fort Street Bridge Project and Workforce WindsorEssex Bridge Jobs Tool Launch.

Initiatives within the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy and Workforce Development and Participation Strategy scheduled for 2019 are expected to be implemented this fall.



Ground-breaking of the Fort Street Bridge Park in Detroit on October 9, 2019

The Local Community Group

In July 2019, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) launched the recruitment process for the Local Community Group which includes 16 members representing a variety of stakeholder perspectives in the communities of Detroit/Delray and Windsor/Sandwich, Windsor-Essex County, and the Greater Detroit Area. The 2019 recruitment process included offering positions to ten representatives appointed to represent a specific organization or stakeholder group as well as with an open call for applicants for six positions that reflect the perspectives of residents of the host communities and daily cross-border commuters. The recruitment process for the Local Community Group is now closed with all positions being filled.

Members of the Local Community Group will provide input into the implementation of initiatives within the Community Benefits Plan by providing feedback and making recommendations with respect to the plan's implementation at regularly scheduled quarterly meetings and through subcommittees. The inaugural meeting of the group is scheduled to take place in late fall 2019. Please stay tuned for updates on the activities of the Local Community Group.

A YEAR OF ACCOLADES

Over the course of 2019, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has received numerous industry accolades. These awards recognize the 'best of the best' and are a true demonstration of the importance of the project and the work that is being done on this once-in-a-generation undertaking. The following awards were received during 2019:

- P3 Bulletin – Government Agency of the Year
- P3 Bulletin – Best Road/Bridge/Tunnel project
- IJ Global – Road Deal of the Year
- CG/LA Infrastructure - 2019 Oracle Project of the Year Award in the Engineering Project category
- Lexpert Canadian Deal of the Year
- Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships, 2019 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnership - Gold Award for Project Financing
- International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) – Silver Quill of Excellence
- IABC – Ovation award of Merit
- IABC Heritage Award of Excellence



The Gordie Howe International Bridge project has received a total of nine awards and recognition by industry since 2017.

PERIMETER ACCESS ROAD UPDATE

A new four-kilometre, two-lane Perimeter Access Road (PAR) has been completed on the Canadian side of the project. The new road will surround the Canadian Port of Entry (POE) and will provide employees, customers and emergency services such as fire and police access to local businesses.

The PAR project included relocation of existing utilities and the installation of stormwater management systems and street lighting. More than 21,000 tonnes of concrete pavement and 44,000 tonnes of granular were used in the construction of the road.

For more information on the perimeter access road, including videos and photos visit our project website www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com.



The Perimeter Access Road will provide access to local businesses surrounding the Canadian Point of Entry.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Meet-a-Machine June 22, 2019



WDBA Participation in Build-A-Dream October 11, 2019



Cogeco Let's Talk Show September 24, 2019
Windsor Town Hall



Cogeco Let's Talk Show September 24, 2019
Windsor Town Hall

WDBA's COMMITMENT TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

This fall, WDBA added 13 ambitious co-op students to its team. The University of Windsor and St. Clair College students are eager to gain experience with WDBA and join us from several faculties including engineering, human resources, marketing & communications, and finance. The WDBA Co-op Program was launched in January, 2016 and provides post-secondary students with valuable work experience and professional development opportunities. To date, 77 students have taken part in the coop program at WDBA and we look forward to welcoming many more in the future.



ABOUT US

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation which reports to Parliament through the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. WDBA is responsible for the delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and will manage the procurement process for the design, build, financing, operation and maintenance of the new bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan through a public-private partnership (P3).