

## 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.

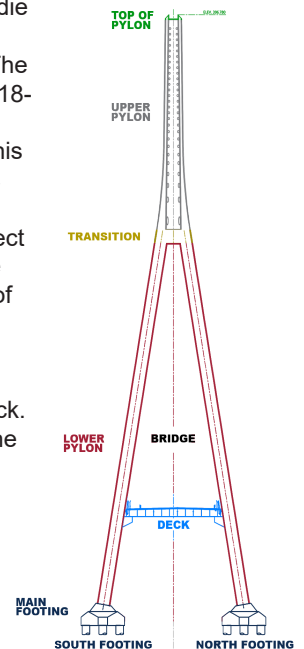
### IN THIS EDITION:

- Rising Up: Tower Construction
- People Profile
- Safely Staying In Touch
- First of Five New Pedestrian Bridges Underway
- In the Community
- Working With The Project
- Built To Last
- Kids Zone

## RIISING UP: TOWER CONSTRUCTION

2021 marks the start of a busy construction year for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Construction of the main bridge tower footings are complete in Canada and the US. The foundation for each tower is composed of twelve 36-metre/118-foot production shafts drilled down to bedrock, providing a solid foundation for the towers that will begin to visibly rise this year. Each footing requires 1,910 cubic metres/67,450 cubic feet of concrete, 440 tonnes/970,000 pounds of rebar and 1,600 meters/5,250 feet of post tensioning cables that connect the footings from end-to-end. The main bridge towers will be approximately 220 metres/720 feet high, rivaling the height of the centre tower of the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit.

The towers are an integral part of a cable-stay bridge, anchoring and supporting the cables that hold the bridge deck. Each tower consists of a lower pylon and an upper pylon. The lower pylon is 140 metres/460 feet in height, approximately two-thirds of the total tower height and is composed of 29 different segments. Each segment has an average height of 4.74 metres/15.5 feet and will be constructed using a tower crane climbing system that will jump vertically up the tower every few months.



Each tower leg segment requires 110 cubic metres/247 square feet of concrete and 50 tonnes/110,230 pounds of rebar. The upper pylon is approximately 80 metres/260 feet, making up the last third of the tower height and housing the cables that support the bridge deck. Construction of the footings for the bridge side spans that connect the over-river section with the two ports of entry and anchor piers are also underway. There are six foundations and anchor piers on each side of the border that will support the main bridge structure over the river. Follow the progress of the tower construction on our social media accounts.

### CONTACT US



Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?

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

Email us at [info@wdbridge.com](mailto:info@wdbridge.com)

Message us through any of the project **social media accounts**.

Sandwich Community Office at **3201 Sandwich St.\***

Southwest Detroit Community Office at **7744 W Vernor Hwy.\***

**\*Community Offices are currently closed due to Covid-19.**



# PEOPLE PROFILE

## MEET NICK NAJOR

Nick is the Community Benefits Coordinator for Bridging North America (BNA) in the US. Following graduation from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, Nick studied at the University of Michigan and received a Master of Public Policy. Nick is a lifelong resident of Southeast Michigan and is excited to work on a local project.

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

As a staff member of the private sector partner responsible for constructing the Gordie Howe International Bridge, I manage the initiatives of the Community Benefits plan in partnership with WDBA. Lately, that means plenty of virtual discussions with local workforce partners and planning for 2021 initiatives to launch.

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

I enjoy meeting and working with staff of local non-profits in Detroit and Windsor. Seeing the work they do for their communities is rewarding.

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

Planning for the new span has been an active effort for over 20 years. The scope and scale of construction is breathtaking.



**NICK NAJOR**

Community Benefits Coordinator, Bridging North America

## SAFELY STAYING IN TOUCH

During a regular year, project team staff are out in the communities meeting with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to ensure people are informed of project activities. With the pandemic, many of these activities transitioned from in-person to online. From March through December 2020, the project team held over 300 virtual meetings and presentations and interacted with over 2,000 stakeholders.

The COVID-19 restrictions also meant the temporary closure of the community offices in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit but the project team continued to respond to multiple inquiries submitted through email, social media and the toll-free number. Of more than 700 inquiries during 2020, 498 were received through email, 166 through the toll-free number, 30 over the social media accounts, and the remainder from in-person interactions at the beginning of the year.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to request a presentation for a group, association, or school class, please contact us the toll-free inquiry line: 1-844-322-1773 or by email to [info@wdbridge.com](mailto:info@wdbridge.com).



[info@wdbridge.com](mailto:info@wdbridge.com)



1-844-322-1773



[@gordiehoweborg](https://www.instagram.com/gordiehoweborg)



[@gordiehowebridge](https://www.facebook.com/gordiehowebridge)



Gordie Howe Bridge



[@gordiehoweborg](https://twitter.com/gordiehoweborg)



WDBA-APWD

## FIRST OF FIVE NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES UNDERWAY

Just over a year ago, Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Senator Stephanie Chang, joined the Gordie Howe International Bridge team to announce the aesthetic design of the five new pedestrian bridges.

The pedestrian bridges will be located over Interstate-75 at: Solvay Street, Beard Street, Waterman Street, Junction Street, and Lansing Street. Existing bridges will be replaced, and avenues will be upgraded to ensure wider sidewalks and bike lanes are available. These pedestrian bridges will provide eco-friendly opportunities for alternative forms of travel that will benefit both the community and economy.

The design of the pedestrian bridges was selected following community consultation that saw more than 500 responses. Both functional and visually appealing, the design features a curved steel arch and will be constructed of pre-cast concrete. The bridges will include lighting features and will be compliant with *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) standards.

In mid-January, pile driving activities started for the new I-75 pedestrian bridge at Solvay Street. Concrete work will immediately follow the pile-driving that is anticipated to last four weeks. To learn more about the pedestrian bridges, visit [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).





# IN THE COMMUNITY

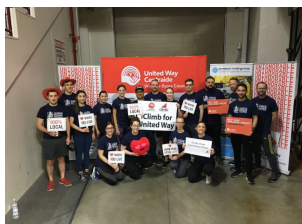
## Giving Back In 2020

At Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority our communities inspire us, and this is one of our values we continue to uphold with pride. While 2020 was a challenging year, the project team found ways to give back. In February, WDBA and Bridging North America participated in the **United Way Windsor-Essex** IClimb event aimed at ending child poverty.

In March, when **Windsor Regional Hospital** made a call for donations of medical supplies, Bridging North America responded with the donation of 320 N95 masks. In April, WDBA employees donated to **Gleaners**, which distributes food in Michigan through their network of partner pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers and other agencies that directly feed hungry people. WDBA employees also donated to the **Unemployed Help Centre**, which is the hub for the **Windsor-Essex Food Bank Associations**, providing families with three days of healthy food for people who would otherwise go without.

In September, BNA held Safety Week to promote a safe work culture. And used that opportunity to raise \$1,822.00 for **Drouillard Place** to help fund their literacy programming for the school-age children.

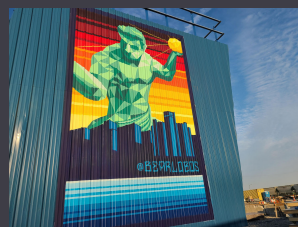
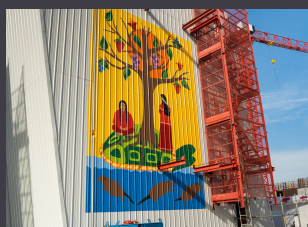
Each year, WDBA employees support the **Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society** Holiday program by purchasing basic essentials. Although this year looked different, our staff were proud to continue supporting this initiative by providing monetary donations to ensure families' needs were met this holiday season. The Fluor team building the Gordie Howe International Bridge project raised \$3,000 in gift cards, food, clothing, and toys for kids through its Holiday Support Drive to support **The Aboriginal Child Resource Center** and the **Welcome Centre Shelter** for women and families.



## Indigenous Art on Tower Footings

As part of the project Community Benefits Plan, which identifies opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, four artists from Walpole Island First Nation and Caldwell First Nation were selected to create murals for display at the Canadian bridge site. An artist from Southwest Detroit was also selected to create artwork on the US bridge site which honours the Mexican heritage of the neighbourhood. Each piece of art is displayed on panels attached to the tower crane climbing systems – temporary steel structures used to provide access for workers involved with the construction of the two towers which will support the bridge.

There are four art pieces on the US side and six pieces on the Canadian side of varying sizes. As the tower cranes extend to their full height of 250 metres/822 feet, so will the murals, making them visible from land on both sides of the border and from the Detroit River. The artwork will remain on the climbing structures for approximately two years before being repurposed once the bridge is complete. Read more about the artists and their murals on [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com)



## Delray Home Improvement Program Launch

Following years of consultation with residents and elected officials in southwest Detroit, the Delray Home Improvement Program launched in January as part of the project's Community Benefits Plan. This new program will invest \$4 million (CDN) to support improvements to households within close proximity to the US project footprint.

Residential homes or duplexes located south of I-75 in Delray are eligible for up to \$20,000 (USD) in upgrades to roofs, windows, insulation, and HVAC systems. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) has been contracted to deliver the program which will include enrollment, permitting, and construction compliant with Michigan Residential, Rehabilitation and Energy Codes. The program boundaries are:

- Interstate-75 to the north
- Clark Avenue/South Clark Street to the east
- West End Street to the west
- West Jefferson Avenue to the south

"A Home Repair Program has been a top priority for Delray residents and our Community Benefits Coalition since we began. Roof repairs, furnaces, and air filtration are critical to health and quality of life. We are so grateful to WDBA and BNA for delivering this program that will bring relief for Delray families." - Simone Sagovac, Project Director, Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition and Representative of the Delray Community Advisory Group

"The residents of Delray advocated for a home improvement program to be included in the Community Benefits Plan, and the Gordie Howe International Bridge team is pleased to meet that request. This funding will help residents and is tailored to the specific needs of this community – a key goal of the Community Benefits Plan." - Bryce Phillips, CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Packages including information about the program and how to apply, as well as a paper application form, will be mailed to all households within the eligible program area in early 2021. For eligibility criteria and to download the application form please visit: [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com).

DELRAY HOME  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM

# WORKING WITH THE PROJECT



## Workforce Opportunities

The years 2021-2023 are active construction years for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, with approximately 70 per cent of construction hours anticipated to occur. There are several ways to connect with project-related job opportunities:

- WDBA corporate, BNA administrative, and some skilled trades jobs can be found at [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) or on the [Workforce Windsor-Essex Job Board](#).
- Bridging North America, a joint venture of AECON, Fluor, and Dragados also hires corporate and administrative jobs through each parent companies' [website](#).
- Most labourer and skilled trades jobs will be managed by the unions participating on the project. For a list of participating unions, visit [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).



## Commercial Opportunities

Bridging North America is looking to work with companies that are strong leaders in their respective lines of business and those with exceptional safety records. Taking a "one-team" approach to choosing suppliers who align with BNA's values and standards, BNA offers contracts that may be appropriate for companies of all sizes. Current work packages and applications can be found at: [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com)



## BUILT TO LAST

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is an example of sustainable infrastructure, that:

- contributes to a cleaner environment
- protects communities from the impacts of climate change
- and conserves resources for future generations.



The project is composed of high performance, sustainable buildings, and infrastructure, designed for resource efficiency and cost effectiveness (both in construction and operation) with the goal of providing healthy and productive environments. The Canadian and US Port of Entry facilities are designed to meet at least LEED v4 Silver rating. The Bridge and Michigan Interchange are designed to meet at least Envision Silver rating, both of which will ensure longevity while minimizing environmental impact.

The project team reached an exciting milestone in November 2020, with the submittal of the Envision application to the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) for review. Work on this application began in March 2017 when the project was formally registered with ISI. Over 150 people have been actively engaged in preparing the application which was well just under 2500 pages. Submittal of this application kicks off a review process which is anticipated to take a few months to complete. Once complete, the Gordie Howe International Bridge will join the prestigious ranks of projects formally evaluated by ISI and will likely be one of few large public-private partnerships pursuing an Envision award for a large-scale river crossing. Only, approximately 100 projects have achieved Envision awards since 2013. The LEED application for the Port of Entry facilities is anticipated to be submitted in early 2021. Read more on project sustainability on [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).

## KIDS ZONE

School is back in session for many Windsor-Detroit children, but there is still plenty of fun and educational games on our website. Check out the first Kids Zone Quiz in our Kids Construction Zone. Are you smarter than a first grader? See how many questions you can correctly answer about the equipment used on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Keep coming back as we add new games and features.

**Circle the correct construction equipment in the picture.**



- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| A. Backhoe   | B. Front Shovel |
| C. Excavator | D. Crane        |



- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. Front Shovel | B. Loader       |
| C. Digger       | D. Bucket Scoop |



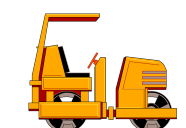
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. Bulldozer | B. Trencher  |
| C. Scraper   | D. Excavator |



- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. Dump Truck   | B. Grader Truck |
| C. Loader Truck | D. Dozer        |



- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| A. Compactor    | B. Conveyor |
| C. Front Loader | D. Forklift |



- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| A. Grader | B. Micro Trencher |
| C. Paver  | D. Crawler        |

Answers: C, B, A, A, D, C

For more fun quizzes visit: [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com)