

## Ongoing Engagement

In 2008, a new border transportation system for the Windsor-Detroit gateway was identified through the bi-national Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. Its five components included an Ontario access road – the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway, a Canadian Port of Entry, a river crossing – now known as the Gordie Howe International Bridge, a US Port of Entry, and the Michigan Interchange to Interstate-75 (I-75).

Hundreds of public and stakeholder meetings were held during the study. The input and feedback received at these meetings have informed the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Through the DRIC study, Canada and the US committed to future communication and consultation with the public, indigenous peoples, regulatory agencies and stakeholders on various topics.

The commitments made by both countries are slightly different because they address the unique needs and circumstances of each host community. Commitments made during the DRIC study will be fulfilled by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) at the appropriate time during the design, build, operation and maintenance of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

The Canadian and US environmental documents can be found at [www.partnershipborderstudy.com](http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com). Commitments applicable to both countries have also been documented in the Crossing Agreement for the Gordie Howe International Bridge and the *Bridge to Strengthen Trade Act*.

## Consultation

Ensuring that the residents, business owners and governments of the region are engaged, kept informed and play a role in the planning and delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge is not only a top priority for WDBA but a commitment made during the DRIC study. Over the course of 2015 and 2016, WDBA has held numerous meetings with the community to seek feedback and discuss questions, concerns and topics of interest.

The following categories represent the most common themes expressed by the community in the US:

### Community partnerships

- Seek ways to partner with community services and agencies to provide enhanced services in southwest Detroit and Delray
- Develop partnerships to enhance the use of grant opportunities to enhance quality of life for nearby residents

### Mitigating construction and operation issues

- Implement a traffic management plan that recognizes the community's needs during construction
- Maintain pedestrian access across I-75
- Mitigate noise, dust and vibration
- Manage bridge traffic to minimize impact on nearby residences
- Local road improvements
- Clean up contaminated sites
- Maintain access to parks and green spaces for residents

### Community safety and connections

- Ensure construction doesn't compromise the safety or ability of residents to move around the community by vehicle or foot
- Maintain connections to key locations within the community such as churches, schools, health centers, Historic Fort Wayne



- Provide appropriate lighting on new paths to ensure community safety at night

#### **Economic benefit**

- Explore training and job opportunities for residents
- Work with State and municipal economic development organizations to implement opportunities for residents

#### **Aesthetics and landscaping**

- Attractive landscaping in the green space around the Port of Entry
- Recognize the local history in the aesthetics of the Port of Entry
- Allow for local input

## **What do we do with your feedback?**

- It informs the implementation of construction mitigation plans.
- It helps us address construction concerns/impacts.
- Helps inform/improve the final design of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.
- We catalogue and track all feedback that is received to ensure answers/responses are provided in a timely manner. Information may be passed along to the design and construction teams.

## **Moving Forward**

WDBA will continue to hold public meetings and, once the private-sector partner is selected, additional public meetings will be held allowing the public to be consulted on design features and construction approaches.

We encourage open dialogue and will work to answer your questions. There are many ways to stay connected with us:

- The project website, [www.wdbridge.com](http://www.wdbridge.com), is your main source for up-to-date information on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. The site provides information on ongoing activities including construction updates and the public-private partnership procurement process.
- Follow the project on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/wdbridge](http://www.twitter.com/wdbridge), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wdbridge](http://www.facebook.com/wdbridge), and connect with us on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) for updates on construction, procurement, meetings and events and other project details. You can tweet and post questions and comments on our feed and wall or send us a private message. Use our hashtags #GordieHoweBridge and #WDBA.
- Watch project-related videos on the WDBA YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc9\\_AepFgWKgciltlpRLZHw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc9_AepFgWKgciltlpRLZHw) and view photos detailing the latest progress and news on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/windsordetroitbridgeauthority](http://www.instagram.com/windsordetroitbridgeauthority).

Have a question about the project? Not only can you message us through social media, you can call us at 519-946-3038 or email us at [info@wdbridge.com](mailto:info@wdbridge.com). We will acknowledge your inquiry within one business day and, if we can't provide an immediate answer, we will strive to provide a full response to you within three business days.

WDBA is committed to communicating in a timely manner and exchanging information. We recognize the importance of talking with the public and are pleased to assist with providing information you are looking for. The public office provides a place where you can find information, talk to the WDBA team, ask questions and provide feedback. Our offices are located at 100 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 400, Windsor, ON N9A 6T3.

