

## News Release

### CONSTRUCTION OFFICIALLY BEGINS ON GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT

October 5, 2018

**WINDSOR, ONTARIO** – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BridgingNA) were joined by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to celebrate today the official start of construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

The \$5.7 billion project includes the Canadian and US Ports of Entry, the bridge and Michigan Interchange. It will be constructed over 74 months and open to traffic by the end of 2024.

With an 853-metre clear span between the two towers, the Gordie Howe International Bridge will be the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America and the seventh longest in the world. It will also set the record for longest composite steel and concrete cable-stayed bridge deck in the world. With a tower shape inspired by the curvature of a hockey stick in a slap shot – a nod to Gordie Howe – and rivalling the height of the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit, the bridge will be a striking and impressive addition to Windsor’s and Detroit’s skylines.

Once complete, the new Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide for redundancy and capacity at the busiest trade corridor between Canada and the United States with improved border processing and highway-to-highway international connectivity.

#### Quotes

“The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a game-changer for the Windsor/Essex and Detroit region. It will generate jobs during construction and, as the premier passage for trade between Canada and the United States, will be a catalyst for economic stimulus for the future.”

*Dwight Duncan, Chair, WDBA Board of Directors*

“Today we celebrate yet another milestone in the story of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, the start of construction of a project which is a result of a vision long shared by communities on both sides of the border. WDBA looks forward to continuing to work with communities and our stakeholders as we build the bridge to the future.”

*Bryce Phillips, CEO, WDBA*

“Bridging North America is honoured to be a long-term partner with WDBA to deliver one of North America’s largest infrastructure projects. We are committed to the success of the Gordie Howe International Bridge and look forward to building prosperity and empowering progress for the Windsor-Essex and Detroit area. Our team is committed to working in close collaboration with WDBA, as well as the region’s residents, Indigenous Peoples, businesses, schools, community groups, and associations.”

*Aaron Epstein, CEO, Bridging North America*

## Quick Facts

- Bridging North America anticipates the creation of 2,500 jobs including direct hires, sub-contractors and seconded individuals.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge will be publicly-owned by the Governments of Canada and Michigan and delivered through a public-private partnership between WDBA and BridgingNA.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge will be constructed using the balanced cantilever method. This involves constructing the two 220-metre tall towers on either side of the Detroit River and then building the bridge deck piece-by-piece outwards over the river until the two 425-metre long cantilevers meet in the middle.
- Each 'half' of the bridge will be constructed completely independently of the other and will not interact until joined in the middle, high above the Detroit River and will be constructed at the same time so they are simultaneously ready for completion.
- The bridge will span right across the Detroit River with no permanent or temporary elements located in the river below. This approach will ensure minimal disruption to the busy river traffic during the operation of the bridge.

## About Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation created to deliver the Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, ON and Detroit, MI through a public-private partnership (P3). WDBA is responsible for overseeing and managing the construction and operation of the new crossing. For more information on WDBA visit [www.wdbridge.com](http://www.wdbridge.com) and follow project news on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg).

## About Bridging North America

Bridging North America (BridgingNA) is comprised of some of the most recognized leaders in the construction/infrastructure industry which includes North American and international companies. BridgingNA partners have significant experience carrying out major infrastructure projects such as the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway in Windsor, Ontario; New Champlain Bridge Corridor in Montreal, Quebec; Autoroute 30 in Montreal, Quebec; Eglinton Crosstown LRT in Toronto, Ontario; Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) in Montreal, Quebec; Automated People Mover at LAX Airport, California; Harbour Bridge and Tappan Zee Bridge in New York and San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge.

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## News release

For immediate release

### Prime Minister welcomes start of full construction on the new Gordie Howe International Bridge

**Windsor, Ontario, October 5, 2018**—The Government of Canada continues to support large, transformative infrastructure projects across the country. The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced the start of full construction on the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, which will create thousands of new jobs during construction, and many permanent jobs once the bridge is operational.

The Windsor-Detroit trade corridor is the busiest commercial land border crossing between Canada and the United States, and is critical for people and goods to move across North America. The new Gordie Howe International Bridge will shorten travel times through this important corridor, and create better connections for people and businesses on both sides of the border.

Expected to open by the end of 2024, the Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide direct connections between Ontario's Highway 401 and Michigan's Interstate 75. Enhanced border infrastructure at the crossing will also protect our safety and security while making it easier and faster for people to travel and goods to flow between the two countries.

Locally, the bridge will benefit residents of Windsor and neighbouring communities by creating good, middle class jobs, reducing commercial traffic on streets, and increasing opportunities for local businesses.

### Quotes

“Today, full construction begins on the largest and most ambitious infrastructure project along the Canada-United States border. Canadians need infrastructure they can rely on to get where they want to go and to expand their businesses within our borders and beyond. The Gordie Howe International Bridge will help grow our economy, encourage increased trade and investment, and create good, well-paying jobs on both sides of the border.”

*The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*

“This project is a leading example of the strategic infrastructure investments we are making across Canada to help grow the economy, create good middle-class jobs and enhance productivity. With direct highway to highway connectivity and technologically advanced ports of entry, the bridge will better support significant commercial traffic and travellers through the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor.”

*The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities*

“Through this long process of planning, our partnership with Canada has been strengthened, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude for never wavering throughout many challenges, and for all of the work that has finally brought us to this momentous day.”

*Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan*

## Quick facts

- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes the construction of a six-lane, cable-stayed design bridge with a clear span of 853 metres (0.53 miles) and a total length of approximately 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles). It also includes new Canadian and U.S. ports of entry and approach bridges, border inspection plazas, tolling operations, and an interchange in Michigan connecting Interstate 75 to the U.S. port of entry.
- Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation, is responsible for the delivery of the bridge project through a public-private partnership. In addition to managing the project agreement between itself and the project's private sector partner, Bridging North America, WDBA will set and collect all tolls.
- The Windsor-Detroit trade corridor is the busiest Canada-U.S. commercial land border crossing and is vital to the economies of Ontario, Michigan, Canada and the U.S. Approximately 7,000 trucks cross the corridor each day, and about 2.5 million trucks each year.
- In 2017 over CAD\$173 billion (US\$133 billion) in bilateral trade passed through the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor, which is 23 per cent of the overall Canada-U.S. trade.
- Canada and the U.S. share the world's longest secure border, over which about 400,000 people cross daily. The two countries also exchange goods and services worth approximately CAD\$2.5 billion (US\$1.9 billion) every day.

## Associated links

Gordie Howe International Bridge Project – Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority: [www.wdbridge.com](http://www.wdbridge.com)

Gordie Howe International Bridge Project – Infrastructure Canada: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pont-gh-bridge/pont-gh-bridge2-eng.html>

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