



COMMUNITY BENEFITS UPDATE

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it will also provide jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for the local communities. In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was important to the project team that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the communities of Sandwich and Delray, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

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. Summer and fall of 2019 have included the following Community Benefits activities:

- Organizing meetings, webinars and correspondence with delivery partners to inform implementation plans for specific initiatives.
- Creating frameworks and schedules to support the implementation of specific initiatives.

Implementation of initiatives within the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy and Workforce Development and Participation Strategy scheduled for 2019 has begun or is expected to begin before the end of the year.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy of the Community Benefits Plan includes a commitment to deliver Community Organization Investments on both sides of the border on an annual basis between 2020 and 2024. There is a \$50,000 (CAD) investment allowance per country, per year.

Through the Community Organization Investment, eligible organizations can submit applications for funding in amounts ranging from \$1,000 and \$25,000 (CAD) to support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit the Sandwich/West Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit neighbourhoods.

The open call period for applications for funding is between November 26, 2019, and January 31, 2020.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the project website, www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com, to learn more about the Community Organization Investment initiative, and to download the application.

2019 GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE VENDOR SUMMITS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team hosted Vendor Summits in Windsor and Detroit in November 2019. The Vendor Summits provided an opportunity for local businesses and companies to learn more about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project's timing, Bridging North America's procurement process and upcoming procurement opportunities. Each Vendor Summit included a brief presentation by the project team followed by breakout sessions and networking.

Both vendor summits were well attended with more than 800 collective participants.

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP

In July 2019, WDBA launched the recruitment process for the Local Community Group which includes 16 members representing a variety of stakeholder perspectives in the communities of Delray and Sandwich and 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 group's inaugural meeting occurred in early December 2019.

Full details of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan are available at www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.