

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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SANDWICH STREET PREPARES FOR CONSTRUCTION

During summer 2020, residents and businesses along Sandwich Street may have noticed crews conducting survey work and archaeological investigations, marking the early preparations for the Gordie Howe International Bridge Sandwich Street improvements. In recognition of Sandwich's role as a gateway community to Canada and in response to public consultation, approximately 3km of Sandwich Street from the intersection of Sandwich Street and Ojibway Parkway to Detroit Street by the Rosedale Avenue roundabout will be reconstructed.

Bridging North America is responsible for delivering these improvements, with additional enhancements to be undertaken as part of the Community Benefits Plan. Improvements to the Sandwich Street design, streetscaping, repaving, and sidewalks will align with the Sandwich Town Community Improvement Plan, Sandwich Heritage Conservation District Plan, Sandwich Town Urban Design Guidelines, and municipal and accessibility standards.

Cycling infrastructure, including bike lanes and a multi-use trail featuring interpretive signs that celebrate the region's culture and history, will connect the Sandwich Street Corridor to the Gordie Howe International Bridge Canadian Port of Entry and the multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists on the new bridge.

The project team is working closely with the City of Windsor and other utility providers that plan to also complete utility work in the Sandwich corridor in advance of the roadway reconstruction. City work is anticipated to begin in fall 2020 and conclude in late 2021. Bridging North America will continue to work on design and other investigative works through late 2021, when they expect to begin actual road reconstruction.

As the design process progresses, details will be shared for community comment. Initial information is available at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.



CONTACT US



Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project? There are many ways to reach us.

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

Email us at 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 ANDREA PEAK

Andrea is the US Environmental Design Lead for AECOM, a consultant for Bridging North America (BNA). Following graduation from the Environmental Engineering program at the University of Windsor, Andrea moved to Michigan in 2014. As a professional engineer in Ontario, Canada, and Michigan, Andrea works on the US and Canadian Environmental programs for the project.

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

I am the US Environmental Design Lead. I lead a group of environmental professionals that have helped develop environmental plans and the environmental management system for the US project area. I also assist with US environmental permit applications, I am part of the AECOM Design team and I provide environmental support to BNA construction teams on an as needed basis.

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

The most rewarding part is being part of a monumental infrastructure effort that will improve transportation for this region. I feel so incredibly fortunate to be part of this project and work to support the environmental efforts. It's always so great to be part of something bigger than yourself and know that your work was part of making a project happen.

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

I wish people outside of Michigan and Ontario knew about this project and that one day it will be globally recognized as a very important transportation corridor. The efforts put forth to get this bridge and new Ports of Entry constructed are incredible and should be recognized.



ANDREA PEAK
US Environmental Design Lead, AECOM

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Recognizing the importance of the work occurring on this once-in-a-generation undertaking, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has received numerous industry accolades. Recent awards include:

- CPRS Gold Award - Best Corporate Social Responsibility Campaign for the development of the Community Benefits Plan
- IABC Virtuoso Award of Merit for Community Relations recognizing public engagement for the Community Benefits Plan

The project has also been nominated for the following:

- Autodesk 2020 AEC Excellence Award for Infrastructure Design in the larger project category
- 2020 CanBIM Design and Engineering Award
- 2020 P3 Award Finalist for the Environmental, Social and Governance of the Year
- 2020 P3 Award Finalist for Best Financial Structure



TOWER FOOTING PROGRESS

Construction continues to ramp up, with the tower footings for the main bridge now visible and being constructed above ground on both the Canadian and US construction sites.

Two tower cranes and two smaller mobile crawler cranes now pierce the skyline, with one of each located on each side of the Detroit River. Currently standing at 81 metres/265 feet tall, they will be 'jumped' every few months before reaching their final height of 250 metres/822 feet, which is taller than the 73-storey GM Renaissance Center in Detroit.

Each tower footing requires a total of more than 1,910 cubic metres/67,450 cubic feet of concrete, 440 tonnes/970,000 pounds of rebar and 1,600 metres/5,250 feet of post tensioning cables that connect the footings from end to end.

A video and photo gallery highlighting this work is available at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Friends of the Detroit River: Fort Street Bridge Art Project



Through the Community Benefits Plan, **\$125,000 (CDN) was provided to Friends of the Detroit River to develop a centerpiece sculpture at the new Fort Street Bridge Park**, an undertaking by the Fort Rouge Gateway (FRoG) Partnership. This new park provides the community with a new gathering space that connects Southwest Detroit with the downriver communities.

On October 22, 2020, the sculpture titled "March On" was unveiled. The art piece is comprised of salvaged metal materials from the former, historic bascule bridge that spanned the river at the Fort Street Bridge Interpretive Park site. Symbolizing the 1932 Hunger March, the sculpture was designed by the Nordin Brothers of Southwest Detroit.

Community Organization Investment

In its first year, the Community Organization Investment initiative provided a total of **\$100,000 (CDN)** to nine organizations in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit to support events, programming, and infrastructure improvements. **The project team is excited to launch the second year of funding in mid-November.** Registered non-profits or charitable organizations that serve the residents of Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit can learn more about the program at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

Sandwich Community Art Project

The **West End Art Project**, organized by **Life After Fifty**, received **\$20,000** to engage local youth and the surrounding community to celebrate the culture and heritage of Sandwich/west Windsor through a public art initiative. Public input led to the installation of four functional art pieces, including two new picnic tables and two wayfinding signs, three of which are located at Queen's Dock Park and one at Dominion House in Sandwich, Windsor.



Sandwich Business Development Program

Are you an existing business or thinking about starting a business in the Sandwich area of Windsor? The Sandwich Business Development Program was developed to help spur economic opportunities for businesses located in, or entrepreneurs considering investment in Sandwich. **The five-year \$500,000 (CDN) program offers businesses and entrepreneurs access to free supportive programming such as one-to-one business mentorship, business case development and marketing strategies** in partnership with Windsor Essex Small Business Centre and the Downtown Windsor Accelerator in partnership with BakerTilly Live.

The program kicked off at the Sandwich Business Development Summit on October 27, 2020. This virtual event attracted more than 60 attendees that learned about main street revitalization, leveraging opportunities associated with major infrastructure projects and small business marketing. A second summit event will be held in 2023. For information on accessing the free business supports, visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.



Bridging North America Meet the Contractor Summits

One year ago, Bridging North America demonstrated its commitment to sourcing and hiring locally at Vendor Summits in Windsor and Detroit. **To help the vendor and subcontractor communities remain informed of procurement opportunities for the Gordie Howe International Bridge, Bridging North America hosted virtual Meet the Contractor Summits on October 28 and 29, 2020.** Speakers from the Bridging North America Procurement team provided updates and answered questions from the 123 attendees at the two events. To learn more about current procurement opportunities, visit the opportunities page on the project website.

ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America will hold an Online Community Meeting on December 2, 2020, on the project Facebook page. The meeting will provide the latest updates on the Canadian and US construction activities and the implementation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. The presentation will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. for approximately 25 minutes, following with a live question and answer session. WDBA will accept questions both in advance and at the meeting. To submit your questions in advance, email info@wdbridge.com. For those participating via Facebook Live, questions will be accepted during the meeting in the comments section.



ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge

 **GORDIE HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

BUILD A DREAM COLLABORATION

The project team is proud to support Windsor's Build A Dream, through initiatives this fall that continue to inspire young women to consider skilled trades and STEM-related career paths.



In October, the local non-profit organization launched an innovative competition for schools to develop creative solutions to delivering Halloween candy while social distancing. WDBA submitted a video into the contest and also volunteered to help stuff candy bags to be distributed at the Build A Dream Halloween drive-thru.

On November 24, 2020, the project team will also participate virtually in Build A Dream's #DREAMWINDSOR - Career Expo in partnership with the Greater Essex County District School Board on a panel to highlight opportunities and career options on infrastructure projects of this magnitude.

KIDS ZONE

Are you a teacher in Windsor or Detroit? Would your class like to learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure project? The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is available to present kid-friendly content virtually to your classroom. Whether your class is studying environmental concerns, species at risk, bridges, construction, or exploring different career paths, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has a component to fit your curriculum. Request a virtual presentation here: www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/outreach-requests.

The Kid Construction Zone section on the project website also includes project-related activities highlighting engineering, and environmental protections. Consider it a resource for your science and technology classes.

