



## NEWS RELEASE CONSTRUCTION AHEAD ON GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT

September 28, 2018

**WINDSOR, ONTARIO** – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) announced today that they have signed a fixed-priced contract with Bridging North America to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Today’s announcement also signifies that all contractual steps have been completed and construction can begin.

The fixed-priced contract is valued at \$5.7 billion (nominal value), which includes the design-build (DB) phase and the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation (OMR) phase. Bridging North America will receive progress payments during construction and a substantial completion payment at the end of construction. They will also receive monthly payments for operations and maintenance over the 30-year concession (operating) period. The performance-based contract with Bridging North America is structured to ensure that the contractor has the appropriate incentives to meet or exceed the long-term objectives of safety, reliability and capacity WDBA has set for the project.

Bridging North America has presented a 74-month construction schedule to complete the four components of the project with the bridge expected to be in service by the end of 2024.

Bridging North America has been meeting with local companies, organizations and unions to discuss opportunities for partnerships. Representatives have also met with educational institutions to help develop the next generation of skilled trade workers. They anticipate the creation of 2,500 direct, on-site jobs including direct hires, sub-contractors and seconded individuals as well as significant economic benefits that extend to the whole region.

The new Gordie Howe International Bridge will provide for redundancy at the busiest trade corridor between Canada and the United States with improved border processing and highway-to-highway international connectivity. It also addresses future needs and will provide six lanes to meet anticipated growth in traffic over the years to come. With features like a multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists, LEED Silver rating for buildings and a robust Community Benefits Plan, the project will result in not only economic opportunities but positive environmental and community impacts as well.

### Quotes

“We made a commitment to deliver the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and today is the start of a new chapter for Windsor and Detroit, as well as Canada and the US. This vital corridor will enhance trade opportunities with tremendous growth possibilities on both sides of the river. The project will be built to the highest standards of engineering incorporating sustainability, aesthetics and functionality. It is a shining example of collaboration between our two nations.”

*Dwight Duncan, Chair, WDBA Board of Directors*

“The Gordie Howe International Bridge will be a stunning addition to Windsor and Detroit’s shared skyline. Its modern yet timeless design married with advanced technology represents the future of international border crossings. The staff at WDBA, along with our consultants and partners are pleased to welcome Bridging North America to the “Gordie Howe” team and we are proud to work together on this history-in-the-making infrastructure project.”

*Bryce Phillips, CEO, WDBA*

## Quick Facts

- WDBA selected Bridging North America as a result of an extensive, open, fair and competitive public-private partnership procurement process that began in July 2015.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge will be publicly-owned by the governments of Canada and Michigan.
- The project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3), an innovative way of financing and delivery of large, complex public infrastructure projects and for this project has resulted in a savings of approximately \$562.8 million or 10.7% as compared to traditional procurement methods.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes plans to engage a workforce reflective of the region's diversity, local infrastructure improvements and environmental benefits focused toward the communities of Windsor-Essex, Detroit and Canadian Indigenous Peoples.
- The public is invited to join the Government of Canada and project representatives at a community celebration to mark the start of the project construction on October 5, 2018, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Senator David A. Croll Park (73 University Ave. E) in Windsor.

## Related Products

Project Highlights

Bridging North America

Contract Value Overview

9 Things to Know About P3s

9 Things to Know About Aesthetics Principles

9 Things to Know About Construction

9 Things to Know About Community Benefits

9 Things to Know About Sandwich Street Improvements

9 Things to Know About Detroit Street Improvements

## 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).

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## News release

For immediate release

### **Canada congratulates Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority on Gordie Howe International Bridge project milestone, enabling full construction start**

**Ottawa, Ontario, September 28, 2018**—The Government of Canada is making investments that will help create good middle-class jobs, promote trade and productivity, and grow the economy. The Gordie Howe International Bridge will ensure people and goods move safely and smoothly between Canada and the U.S., facilitating economic activity, growth, and prosperity on both sides of the border.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities today reiterated the Government of Canada's support for the Gordie Howe International Bridge, and recognized Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) for signing the final project agreement with Bridging North America, now its official private-sector partner.

WDBA's announcement means the procurement process on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is complete, and full construction can officially begin on one of Canada's top infrastructure priorities.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge is a key enabler for the Windsor-Detroit trade corridor, supporting hundreds of thousands of high-skilled, good quality jobs for Southern Ontario and Michigan residents. The project will provide direct highway-to-highway connectivity, and technologically advanced ports of entry to support significant commercial traffic and travellers between Canada and the U.S. for generations to come.

The contract announced today between WDBA and Bridging North America is for \$5.7 billion, and covers the design and construction of the project, financing costs, as well as a subsequent 30-year operation and maintenance period. Advance construction on the U.S. side of the project, as well as preparatory work on the Canadian side have already begun and the bridge is expected to be operational by the end of 2024. In addition to the contract value announced today, Canada has invested \$559 million from 2006 to March 31, 2018 to get the project to this milestone where full construction can begin.

## Quote

"2018 has been a year of significant milestones for the Gordie Howe International Bridge. While each one so far for this project has been progressively important, today's announcement is pivotal to the construction start of the bridge.

The Government of Canada is 100% committed to the Gordie Howe International Bridge. We are looking forward to the full construction start of this monumental infrastructure project which will play a vital role in supporting the economies of Canada and the U.S., and create opportunities for residents and businesses alike."

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

## Quick facts

- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes the construction of:
  - A six-lane, cable-stayed design bridge of 853 m (0.53 miles) and a total length of approximately 2.5 km (1.5 miles);
  - Canadian and U.S. ports of entry including approach bridges, border inspection plazas and tolling operations on the Canadian side; and,
  - A Michigan interchange connecting Interstate 75 to the U.S. port of entry.
- The Government of Canada's overall investment for this project of \$559 million from 2006 until March 31, 2018 will be included in WDBA's 2017-2018 Annual Report, published this fall. These costs include environmental assessment work, advance construction contracts on both the Canadian and U.S. side, land acquisition, utilities relocation as well as ongoing operations of WDBA. This figure will be updated yearly and confirmed by the Auditor General of Canada in successive annual reports.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge project brings opportunities in the form of jobs and contracts for local workers, service providers, and material manufacturers and distributors in both Canada and the U.S.
- 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., with some 7,000 trucks crossing each day. About 2.5 million trucks cross the Windsor-Detroit border 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.
- The bridge is expected to generate billions of dollars in toll revenues and enable the efficient movement of trillions of dollars' worth of two-way trade during its 125-year life span.

## Associated links

Infrastructure Canada: [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority: [www.wdbridge.com](http://www.wdbridge.com)

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# ACS reaches financial close for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Canada and USA, valued at over CAN \$3.8 Billion

28 September 2018

## P3 project, North America

ACS Group, through its affiliates ACS Infrastructure (Iridium) and Dragados, was named in July 2018 Preferred Proponent by *Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority* (a Canadian non-agent crown corporation) to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the *Gordie Howe International Bridge Project* connecting Windsor (Canada) and Detroit (USA). The project investment is at over CAN \$3.8 Billion and will be partially funded with private capital.

Led by ACS' subsidiaries ACS and Dragados, Bridging North America is also formed by Fluor and Aecon, with each company holding (respectively) a 40%,40%/20% share across the consortium. Aecon formally requested joining the group following the award of the contract to the team formed by ACS, Dragados and Fluor.

## Financing

A total CAN\$1.033 billion are privately funded, including a long-term (35-year) and medium-term (20-year) bond issuances in the Canadian markets, both with A- rating by Standard & Poors and jointly underwritten by RBC and HSBC. Short-term finance during the construction period includes a bank loan syndicated by five institutions: Royal Bank of Canada, Desjardins du Quebec, TD Bank, Mizuho and HSBC. CAN \$93 million of private Equity is injected by the consortium members at the end of the construction period and it is, until then, guaranteed through letters of credit.



## Cable-stayed bridge and ports of entry

The public-private-partnership (PPP) scheme for the project includes the design, build, finance, operation and maintenance of a new international bridge between Windsor (Canada) and Detroit (United States), as well as the ports of entry at each side of the border. The scope includes a six-lane (3 per direction), 2.5km cable stayed bridge which will cross the Detroit River between both countries and whose main span of 853 m will be the longest in North America and one of the largest in the world. The project also includes the construction and

maintenance of the Canadian port of entry (53 hectares) and the US port of entry (68 hectares) and the construction works on the I-75 Highway that connects Detroit with the Bridge.

The Windsor-Detroit corridor is one of the busiest and most congested international corridors in North America and plays a fundamental role in the economies of Canada and USA, particularly in trade between both countries and in the automobile industry. The project will generate additional crossing capacity to meet increased long-term international trade and travel demand, supporting economies on both sides of the border.

### **ACS Group consolidates its success in the North American P3 market**

ACS is currently participating in similar projects in North America and globally, including the recently awarded *Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM)* in Montreal, Canada (Investment circa CAD 6,300m) the *Automated People Mover* in L.A. international airport (value circa USD 4,900m over the term of the concession) and the Site C dam in British Columbia (investment circa CAD 1,600m). The Group is also part of Rt. Hon. Ron. Herb Gray Parkway project in Windsor (Investment circa CAD 1,300m) which connects in the Canadian side with the Gordie Howe International Bridge and that has been in operation since 2015.

The awarding of the Gordie Howe International Bridge contract constitutes another fundamental step in the consolidation of the ACS Group's leadership in the North American market, and represents one of the concession infrastructure projects (PPP) identified by the Group, worth 200,000 million euros for the period 2018-2021, in its key markets (Canada, USA, Australia and Europe).

ACS Group is ranked first among the list of World Top Transportation Developers by *Public Works Financing Magazine* and # 1 in the ranking of Top International Contractors by *Engineering News Record*.