



## NEWS RELEASE

### Community Benefits Plan for Gordie Howe International Bridge Project Announced

June 14, 2019

**Windsor, Ontario** • Today, representatives from Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), its private-sector partner Bridging North America as well as the State of Michigan and the Government of Canada, unveiled a comprehensive and robust Community Benefits Plan for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components: the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

The Workforce Development and Participation Strategy is geared toward engaging businesses and providing employment opportunities including workforce development, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeships. Collectively there are more than 40 partners helping to deliver the 80 workforce initiatives (for Windsor, Detroit and Canadian Indigenous Peoples). Some highlights of the plan include:

- The implementation of a Regional Small Business Purchase Protocol to foster growth of small companies in the region
- Partnerships with local workforce development agencies to encourage applications from local applicants for jobs, training and skill development opportunities
- Support to pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship programs and opportunities for Indigenous women, students and youth.

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy is a \$20 million (CDN) direct community investment on both sides of the border developed by public feedback and input. Collectively 29 initiatives and 24 delivery partners located in Windsor, Detroit and Walpole Island are identified in the strategy. Some highlights of the plan include:

- Approximately \$8.1 million for aesthetics and landscaping
- Approximately \$3.5 million for community safety and connections
- Approximately \$2.2 million for community partnerships
- Approximately \$1.1 million for economic benefits.

WDBA and the State of Michigan will be directly involved in the delivery of the Community Benefits Plan and will provide stringent oversight to ensure the commitments outlined are achieved and reported on.

Details of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan are available at [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).

## QUOTES

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge will positively impact the flow of traffic and goods, help businesses get their goods to market, and make it more efficient for travellers, commuters and shoppers to cross the border. In addition to the 2,500 direct jobs Bridging North America expects to be created by the project, the comprehensive Community Benefits Plan announced today will have wide-ranging positive social, economic and environmental impacts on Windsor-Essex and Detroit including targeted workforce development initiatives that will foster training, business opportunities, and local employment for workers including First Nations, youth and women."

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

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge is yet another historic example of what we can accomplish when we work together to find a solution that benefits everyone. We all know that the people in our communities on each side of the border will be a strong anchor point for this project, which is why this announcement today to invest in these areas is so critical. This is a real opportunity to create thousands and thousands of jobs and strengthen our economic ties with our neighbors to drive growth in the surrounding communities for generations to come."

- *Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer*

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan is uniquely ambitious and is a result of significant community consultation held over a four-year period. The plan's initiatives are designed so that the people located most directly adjacent to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project will be among its truest beneficiaries. The Community Benefits Plan will help to create jobs and better local communities."

- *Bryce Phillips, CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority*

"Bridging North America recognizes the importance of partnering with local stakeholders, businesses, associations, unions, First Nations and educational institutions for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. These partnerships will help to strengthen the local economy, create jobs and training opportunities, and ensure the success of the project during its design, construction and operation."

- *Aaron Epstein, CEO, Bridging North America*

## QUICK FACTS

- Building off the consultation feedback received from 2015-2018, an additional six-month targeted consultation period was implemented from October 2018-March 2019. More than 70 meetings were attended by over 1000 stakeholders.
- A local community group will be formed as informal partners in the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan initiatives.
- Public Information Meetings will be held on day, June 25, 2019, in Windsor, Ontario and day, June 26, 2019, in Detroit, Michigan where details of the Community Benefits Plan will be discussed.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

- Backgrounder: Community Benefits Overview
- Backgrounder: Consultation and Engagement Process
- Backgrounder: Supportive Statements
- 9 Things to Know About Workforce Development and Participation Strategy
- 9 Things to Know About Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy
- 9 Things to Know About Integrated Benefits
- Statement from the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
- Video: Community Benefits Plan
- Video: Integrated Project Benefits
- Video: Community Engagement

## ASSOCIATED LINKS

- Community Benefits Plan

## 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.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) and follow the project on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg).

## ABOUT BRIDGING NORTH AMERICA

Bridging North America 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; Harbor Bridge, Corpus Christi, Texas; Tappan Zee Bridge in New York and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, California.

## ABOUT MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is responsible for Michigan's 9,669-mile state highway system, comprised of all M, I, and US routes. MDOT also administers other state and federal transportation programs for aviation, intercity passenger services, rail freight, local public transit services, the Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF), and others.

Gordie Howe International Bridge  
Media Relations Team  
226-757-1716

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# BACKGROUND

## Community Benefits Overview

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.

### WHY INCLUDE COMMUNITY BENEFITS?

Early in the planning process for this project, it was understood that the delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project provides opportunity to leverage a significant infrastructure investment for positive social and economic outcomes. That is why the Crossing Agreement signed in 2012 by the Government of Canada and the State of Michigan required the incorporation of a Community Benefits Plan for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project that covers both Canada and Michigan and includes direct input from stakeholders and community as well as their continued involvement, partnering with local institutes of higher learning, unions and others, job training and local job development. The Crossing Agreement further states benefits will be shared equally amongst the two countries.

### COMMUNITY INPUT

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and its Michigan partners meaningfully engaged and empowered the Windsor and Detroit communities in all stages of development of the Community Benefits Plan. Bridging North America (BridgingNA) joined this consultation process after Financial Close in September 2018.

Between 2015 and 2019, a two-phase consultation approach was undertaken with Ontario and Michigan residents, Indigenous Peoples, business owners and community and municipal leaders resulting in over 230 unique suggestions for community benefits and engagement of thousands of stakeholders. Activities that informed the Community Benefits Plan included public meetings, one-on-one meetings, focus groups, a public survey, social media and direct correspondence.

### APPROACH TO COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan reflects regional priorities and is comprised of two components:

- The Workforce Development and Participation Strategy
- The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy

## Workforce Development and Participation Strategy

As part of the Community Benefits Plan, a strategy geared toward engaging businesses and providing employment opportunities has been developed and is centered on (i) workforce development, (ii) training and (iii) pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships.

There are three sections to this strategy:

- I. at least \$250 million of the total value of the work during the design-build phase in Canada will be performed by, contracted to, or supplied by the workers or contractors located in the City of Windsor, Essex County or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor
- II. engaging and employing Canadian Indigenous Peoples in and around the City of Windsor, Essex County and Walpole Island, Ontario and contracting their businesses
- III. engaging, employing and contracting Detroit residents and Detroit-based and Detroit-headquartered businesses.

In addition, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal established for this project is 2.15% of the cost of the construction and engineering work needed to complete the Michigan Interchange and the portion of the bridge located in Michigan.

The strategy includes over 80 initiatives that will be delivered in partnership with local organizations and workforce development agencies with the experience and resources in place to support training and skills development.

## Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy

The second component of the Community Benefits Plan is the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy which represents \$20 million (CDN) in direct community investment on both sides of the border developed by public feedback and input. The initiatives target the Sandwich/west Windsor area and the Delray/Southwest Detroit area, ensuring that the communities adjacent to the project are the ones benefitting most from the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

Collectively, 29 community investment initiatives have been identified and will be implemented collaboratively with local delivery partners during the design and construction period of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REPORTING

A local community group composed of 16 stakeholders (eight CDN/US) will be formed to work with WDBA and BridgingNA as informal partners in the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan. The Local Community Group will meet quarterly once launched in summer/fall 2019.

WDBA and the State of Michigan, will be directly involved in its delivery as well and will provide stringent oversight to ensure the commitments outlined are achieved and reported on.

The Community Benefits Plan includes a robust documenting, tracking and reporting structure that demonstrates accountability to the region. The Community Benefits Plan is posted on [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) and quarterly reports on progress and results will be posted through the delivery period.



# BACKGROUND

## Consultation and Engagement Process

In developing the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan, it was key that community input helped inform the initiatives selected for implementation on both sides of the border and specifically focus on enhancing the communities of Sandwich and Delray.

### CONSULTATION APPROACH

WDBA and its Michigan partners meaningfully engaged and empowered the Windsor and Detroit communities in all stages of development of the Community Benefits Plan. Bridging North America (BridgingNA) joined this consultation process after Financial Close in September 2018.

The approach to developing the Community Benefits Plan along with the initiatives to be implemented have been defined by the local communities on both sides of the border, including adjacent residents and businesses, community groups, public agencies, educational institutions, not-for-profit organizations, elected officials and workforce development agencies.

While the plan will bring many benefits to the region, special attention was given to those who reside or provide services in the areas of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit.

#### Phase One Consultation

The first phase of the extensive consultation work ran between 2015 and 2018 and included public meetings, one-on-one meetings, online submissions, focus groups, social media, tours and direct correspondence. As a result, more than 230 suggestions for community benefits were submitted for consideration.

Most of the submissions fell within five priority areas including local workforce and training strategies, limiting construction and operations effect on the community, community safety and connections, aesthetics and landscaping and regional economic and community development opportunities.

Additionally, BridgingNA undertook their own consultation efforts during the Request for Proposals open period including meeting with community groups and actively participating in the Community Group-to-Business meetings arranged by WDBA in 2016.

Throughout these activities, stakeholders requested further involvement in the finalization of the Community Benefits Plan. As such, WDBA, BridgingNA and the State of Michigan committed to undertaking further consultation with the community and relevant authorities in the six-month period after Financial Close.

#### Phase Two Consultation

Building off of the feedback received from 2015-2018, the additional six-month consultation period occurred from October 2018 to March 2019. A shortened list of possible benefits was shared for feedback. During this time, over 70 meetings were held with more than 1000 stakeholders. A

survey to prioritize short-listed initiatives was also made available electronically and in hard copy resulting in more than 400 additional responses.

A number of priorities from within the original five categories were identified during the second phase. Themes emerging from the feedback included trail system connections and cycling infrastructure, economic development, local road enhancements, support for community programming, recognition of area history, recognition for environmentally sensitive areas, a home repair program and workforce development strategies.

This targeted consultation also took into consideration efforts already underway by municipalities, senior levels of government and other agencies to improve or enhance the communities. Initiatives in the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan will not duplicate or replace such efforts and in some cases may work to enhance these efforts through further collaboration.

The public consultation process was driven by the following principles:

#### **OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVITY**

Comment from any member of the public or stakeholder group with an interest in the project and in Community Benefits will be welcome.

#### **TRANSPARENCY**

Results and progress information will be communicated.

#### **CLARITY**

Roles and responsibility will be defined.

#### **FLEXIBILITY**

The process will consider the needs of participants, their differing interests, areas of expertise, and availability.

#### **EVALUATION**

The consultation plan may be modified to respond to participant feedback or changing conditions.

## **CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT**

Community consultation and outreach will continue during the delivery of the Community Benefits Plan on specific initiatives, such as the selection of specific local road improvements, interpretive sign content for the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour and youth art projects to move forward in the Sandwich and Delray neighbourhoods. Municipalities and other agencies will also continue to be engaged for permitting and other necessary requirements.

The Local Community Group (LCG) to be formed in summer/fall 2019 also will be consulted as informal partners to WDBA and BridgingNA during in the implementation of the Plan. The LCG will assist in application review on the selection of annual community organization investments along with providing feedback and recommendations to the project team.

The Community Benefits Plan is posted on [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) and quarterly reports on progress and results will be posted through the delivery period.



## BACKGROUND

### Supportive Statements

For 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 key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit regions.

### WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"On behalf of our many project benefactors, community partners including Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) - a leading fundraiser for this project, and our fiscal manager the MotorCities National Heritage Area, the Fort Rouge Gateway Partnership (FRoG) appreciates the support of Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, as we move forward with making the Fort Street Bridge Interpretive Park in southwest Detroit a reality. This project not only preserves an important piece of our automotive and labor history, but it also creates an oasis of recreation in one of the city's most industrialized neighborhoods, creating a sense of place and pride for its residents. Coming on the heels of a significant grant by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, we anticipate the first phase of the park can be fully completed."

- Tricia Blicharski, Director of Operations, Friends of the Detroit River

"The Accelerator is impressed at how the Community Benefits Plan is being taken from the planning to the execution by WDBA and Bridging North America and excited to play our part in helping the economic prosperity of Windsor through our business start-up and improvement initiatives."

- Siddique Sheikh, Special Projects Manager, Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator

"We are very excited to partner with WDBA. The Gordie Howe International Bridge project and Community Benefits Plan that it comes with is going to be a great social, economic and visual asset to the community."

- Reza Shahbazi, Executive Director, New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.

"From a tourism innovation perspective, the Gordie Howe International Bridge and Community Benefits Plan will enable local businesses and non-profits to develop new products, experiences and partnerships that will enhance our tourism offerings, create new opportunities for the industry, raise our destination profile, and ultimately attract more visitors to our region. It's really exciting!"

- Justin Lafontaine, Program Lead for the Windsor-based Ontario Tourism Innovation Lab

"The Community Benefits Plan presented by the Gordie Howe International Bridge will help build connections and strengthen the future of our community. Not only will this plan add economic benefits to the area it will also provide opportunities for beautification in the West End of Windsor. Life After Fifty is proud to be a delivery partner of this exciting initiative."

- Joyce Nixon, Executive Director, Life After Fifty

## **Senator Stephanie Chang on the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan**

June 14, 2019

“I am thrilled about today’s announcement from the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority regarding community benefits in relation to the Gordie Howe International Bridge. This marks a critical milestone in a long journey for the Delray and Southwest Detroit communities. For more than a decade and a half, residents and community leaders have been advocating for quality of life protections and enhancements near the bridge; many have made significant sacrifices to make way for this development.

“I am excited that the WDBA has committed to home repair funding for Delray residents; support for community organizations in Delray and Southwest Detroit serving children, families and small business owners; workforce training and readiness; a grant program for community initiatives; local street enhancements; improvements to parks and connectivity; and much more. These build on the already-delivered programs that are providing families options for renovated homes, long term health and air studies, and investment in jobs training. I look forward to continuing the work with all stakeholders involved to ensure these community benefits initiatives are implemented successfully.

“Today’s announcement is an important testament to the tenacity and perseverance of residents in my district, as well as the strong relationship we have developed over the years with the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and State of Michigan. It is also a refreshing reminder that strong community benefits processes work, when the needs of the community are taken seriously, when residents’ experiences, perspectives, and research are listened to with sincerity, and when the community and decision-makers work together in a spirit of transparency, collaboration, and partnership.”

*Stephanie Chang is the State Senator from Michigan’s District 1 (Detroit and Downriver) and serves on the Community Advisory Group.*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**June 14, 2019**

**WERCC to Partner with WDBA and Bridging North America**

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce was invited to join WDBA and Bridging North America as a delivery partner for the implementation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. The Chamber will partner in the following initiatives:

- Support the planning of and outreach for information sessions directed at vendors;
- Support the planning of and outreach for a vendor summit;
- Invite BNA to participate in relevant meetings and events with subcontractors and vendors to deliver information regarding how to participate on the Project;
- Post and share information about procurement opportunities on the Project.

“The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be a partner for the implementation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. The plan will bring positive outcomes to our members and the region as a whole. We look forward to engaging with WDBA and Bridging North America to ensure that the project is successful and our members benefit from our participation.” ~WERCC President & CEO Rakesh Naidu

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For more information contact:  
Wendy Bretz, Communications Coordinator & Executive Assistant  
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce  
wbretz@windSORchamber.org  
(519) 966-3696 ext. 228

# 9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The Community Benefits Plan for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project includes a robust Workforce Development and Participation Strategy that will create accessible employment and contracting opportunities for local residents and business in the communities of Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan and for Canadian Indigenous Peoples. The detailed Workforce Development and Participation Strategy outlining the approach, initiatives and delivery partners is available on [www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com](http://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com). Here are just a few highlights:

### 1

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Many of the initiatives will be implemented collaboratively with local delivery partners who have been selected because of their connections to local job seekers and businesses, knowledge of local workforce resources and trends, proven capacity and track-record for delivering results.

### 2

#### TIMELINE

Initiatives listed within the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy will be implemented throughout the life of the project. Select initiatives are currently underway and will continue to ramp up in fall 2019. The delivery timelines for initiatives align with the training, labour and procurement needs determined by the project schedule.

### 3

#### ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

Partnerships with workforce development organizations will be leveraged to enhance the communities' awareness of employment opportunities related to the project, including annual meetings, mailing lists, participation in job fairs and employment information sessions.

### 4

#### EDUCATION

Initiatives will engage students at all levels within the education system. For elementary and secondary school students, classroom activities to raise awareness about the project and career paths in related industry will be held. Students at the post-secondary level will be engaged through lecture series and through research and co-operative learning opportunities.

### 5

#### TRAINING

Initiatives will focus on training for eligible local residents in Windsor and Detroit as well as Canadian Indigenous Peoples to enable participation on the project.

### 6

#### HIRING LOCAL RESIDENTS & CANADIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Partnerships will be formed with post-secondary institutions and workforce development organizations so that information about job opportunities is publicly available and easily accessed, as well as to receive referrals for qualified candidates for available positions.

### 7

#### LOCAL SOURCING

Initiatives will focus on creating opportunities for local businesses to learn about how to participate in project opportunities, business-to-business sessions and the implementation of a regional, small-business procurement protocol.

### 8

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Commitments ensuring that project opportunities are accessible to Canadian Indigenous Peoples, women, individuals that identify as minorities, individuals that are English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) speakers and individuals that are unemployed or underemployed have been incorporated into the strategy.

### 9

#### OVERSIGHT & REPORTING

Bridging North America is committed to delivering the Community Benefits Plan with oversight by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA). Keeping the community engaged and informed about progress is an important part of the delivery. Quarterly public reports that detail hiring and sourcing achievements will be made available.



# 9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

## NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan includes \$20 million (CDN) in direct community investments for Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan. The investments within the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy are consistent with the Crossing Agreement and the key regional priorities identified through consultation. The detailed Community Benefits Plan outlining the approach, initiatives and delivery partners is available on [www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com](http://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com). Here are just a few highlights:

### 1

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD SPECIFIC APPROACH

The initiatives for Windsor and Detroit are regionally distinct with emphasis on the communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. The investments reflect the strengths of each neighbourhood and respond to the recommended investment priorities put forth by each community.

### 2

#### INFORMED BY CONSULTATION

The strategy is based on extensive consultation with the public and stakeholders from the Sandwich and Delray communities, broader Windsor and Detroit residents, Indigenous Peoples, business owners and community and municipal leaders.

### 3

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Many of the initiatives will be implemented collaboratively with local delivery partners selected because of their connections to the host communities, reputation as local leaders in their field and proven track-record for delivering results.

### 4

#### TIMELINE

\$10 million (CDN) will be invested into neighbourhood initiatives on each side of the border. Investments in select initiatives will begin in 2019 and implementation will continue into 2025.

### 5

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & SAFETY

Community connections and safety will be enhanced through investments into trail system expansions in Windsor and Detroit, connecting the Gordie Howe International Bridge with the surrounding communities. This will allow creation of an international non-motorized transportation system, and encourage exploration of the Sandwich and Delray communities.

### 6

#### AESTHETICS AND LANDSCAPING

Contributions to aesthetics and landscaping include funding to improve community centres, enhancements to local parks and streetscapes and the creation of unique outdoor infrastructure such as areas to safely observe project construction.

### 7

#### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The strategy includes investments in business development services provided by subject matter experts to support local entrepreneurs and enterprises to prepare for new business opportunities.

### 8

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In recognition of the many community organizations in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit that are doing exceptional work to serve their local neighbourhoods, a commitment to allocate investments into community programming, events and infrastructure annually for five years to reflect current neighbourhood needs and boost the work of community partners has been included.

### 9

#### ONGOING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Local Community Group composed of 16 stakeholders (eight CDA/US) will be formed to work with Bridging North America and Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and serve as informal partners during the implementation of the plan.



# 9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

## INTEGRATED BENEFITS ON THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT

The Community Benefits Plan is only one aspect of a host of integrated benefits the Gordie Howe International Bridge project will bring to the communities on both sides of the border. As a result of the incorporation of community voices into the overall Project Agreement, the host communities will experience significant improvements creating a network of benefits and incentives to be leveraged by the greater region. Here are just a few of the integrated project benefits:

# 1

### IMPROVED CONNECTIONS

The project will deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers including commercial and passenger vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. The project will provide increased capacity at the busiest commercial land-border crossing in North America along with seamless highway-to-highway connectivity and efficient border processing.

# 2

### AESTHETIC DESIGN

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will have a permanent influence on Windsor's and Detroit's skyline in its role as a new gateway symbol for Canada and the United States. As such, aesthetics have been considered for all aspects of the project. The distinct design for the cable-stayed bridge responds to its unique Windsor/Detroit context and it achieves a high level of aesthetic quality, at a distance and up close, by day and by night.

# 3

### LANDSCAPING

Native vegetation, including the restoration of a Carolinian landscape, will be used throughout the Canadian POE lands. The vegetation will support the protection and expansion of adjacent natural areas. Landscape plantings at the US POE will provide multiple benefits including stormwater management, slope stabilization and will enhance aesthetics. For the Michigan Interchange, trees and shrubs will be planted in groupings to achieve restoration compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood context.

# 4

### UTILITY RELOCATION AND REPLACEMENT

Existing utilities, such as telephone, cable, and electricity transmission lines are being relocated to make way for the bridge and Port of Entry facilities. This work includes the replacement of aging infrastructure with capacity for future growth. This work, while necessary for the project, provides a direct benefit to consumers through enhancements of utility infrastructure that service their homes.

# 5

### MINIMIZING IMPACTS

As part of the project, mitigation measures will be taken to lessen the effects of construction in accordance with commitments in the approved Federal Screening Report in Canada and the Environmental Impact Statement in the US. This includes noise, dust, traffic, vibration and environmental impacts.

# 6

### SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is recognized throughout the design, construction and future operations of the project to ensure social, economic and ecological processes are maintained or enhanced. This includes maintaining safety and security, designing for durability, conserving resources, and protecting the natural environment.

# 7

### MULTI-USE PATH

As a result of public consultation, project requirements were revised to incorporate a 3.6 metre/12-foot-wide dedicated multi-use path to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists across the Gordie Howe International Bridge and connect into adjacent local road and trail networks.

# 8

### LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Approximately \$12 million (CDN) will be invested into local municipal roads improvements on each side of the border in addition to the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy initiatives identified as part of the Community Benefits Plan.

# 9

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The project team is committed to ensuring the communities have useful information and ample opportunity to be involved in the project. Public outreach and extensive communications will continue throughout design and construction. Staff are available to answer questions and concerns through the toll-free public inquiry line, 1-844-322-1773, via email to [info@wdbridge.com](mailto:info@wdbridge.com), or in person at our Community Offices located in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit.

