

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT
SUMMER 2021



The Community Benefits Plan is a key component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. With a commitment to transparent and accountable implementation, the project team is proud to report on Community Benefit Plan activities and accomplishments each quarter. For more information on Community Benefits Plan initiatives visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION



NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

The Community Benefits project team has partnered with **Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)** on a multi-year Triple Tree Impact initiative. The **\$50,000 (CDN)** investment will provide tree planting events in Sandwich/west Windsor parks and schools and support ERCA's recruitment of a part time student to establish a school-ground greening program.

In October, the first tree planting event took place at College Avenue Bikeway Park in Sandwich. Twenty-five large native

trees were planted, including American Sycamore, White Oak, Basswood, Freeman Maple, Red Maple and Hackberry. The trees will help bring shade and cleaner air to Sandwich.

Additional tree planting will occur in 2022 and 2024 in area parks and schools. Details will be shared closer to those plantings.

A similar greening initiative occurred in Southwest Detroit in April 2021 with 250 trees given to homeowners in the area.



Volunteers helped plant 25 native trees at College Avenue Bikeway Park in Sandwich.



ART MURALS LEAD TO LOCAL EXHIBIT

A recent Community Benefits initiative led to an exciting opportunity for local Indigenous artists. Following media coverage of the Indigenous art murals placed on the Canadian bridge tower forms, the **Art Gallery of Windsor** expressed interest in hosting an exhibit by the Indigenous artists responsible for the artwork. "The Bridge Artists" is now open to the public through January 2022. Visit www.agw.ca for details.

"I am absolutely thrilled that Indigenous People have been asked to be part of this bridge project. And to have my artwork on an international bridge is just to me, and at my age, absolutely amazing."

Teresa Altman, Walpole Island First Nation
Windsor Star, August 6, 2021

We wish to acknowledge that the land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is being constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. This land has also served as a place of refuge for the Huron/Wendat people.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT

The Community Organization Investment (COI) provides **\$100,000 (CDN)** annually to community organizations located in or serving Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit. Funding supports events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit these host communities. **Applications for the 2022 COI funding cycle will be accepted between November 16, 2021, and January 26, 2022.**

2020 FUNDING UPDATE:

Big Neighbourhood Sandwich – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex (BBBS) – \$4,500

With some of the funding received through the 2020 COI funding cycle, BBBS held a virtual outreach session in spring 2021, leading to **11 new volunteer matches** in west Windsor. A second outreach session is anticipated for fall 2021. BBBS was able to leverage the COI funding to secure a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to help support two new social work positions specifically designated for the Sandwich community.

Detroit River Cleanup – ERCA – \$4,100

More than 30 volunteers helped pick up **300 pounds of litter** in a cleanup event in Sandwich hosted by Detroit River Canadian Cleanup in partnership with ERCA.



2021 FUNDING UPDATE:

Eight projects, four in each Canada and the US, were selected to receive funding through the 2021 Community Organization Investment. All funding is in Canadian dollars.

CANADIAN INITIATIVES

Across the River to Freedom: Early Black History in Sandwich, Ontario

Essex County Black Historical Research Society – \$25,000

To create three short films to convey significant aspects of early Sandwich history along with a website and curriculum materials for use in educational settings.

Women Can Summit Series

Border City Athletics Club – \$10,000

A virtual conference to empower Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) women from Sandwich/west Windsor in coaching, mentorship and leadership in sports accompanied by a day of fun and fitness for local BIPOC female athletes aged 10-14.

A Bridge to Play McGivney: New Accessible Ramp **The John McGivney Children’s Centre – \$8,400**

A new ramp will be installed to improve public access to an accessible playground at The John McGivney Centre in Sandwich.

Sandwich Community DiverCity BBQ **Windsor Police Services Community Services Branch in partnership with New Beginnings – \$6,600**

This free event celebrating diversity in Sandwich and Windsor-Essex will include cultural performances, community art projects, sports and activities for children and youth.

US INITIATIVES

Community Recreation Service Center **First Latin American Baptist Church of Detroit – \$25,000**

Funding will support renovations for the Community Recreation Service Center, providing a space for youth and families from Southwest Detroit to enjoy indoor recreation programming.

Joyful Movement Outside **Unity in Our Community TimeBank – \$5,000**

A series of outdoor events including bike rides, park walks, and yoga classes will be held at neighbourhood parks and public spaces in Southwest Detroit to encourage outdoor exploration and highlight the many assets available for physical activity in the community.

Delray Bilingual Programs for Family Assistance **Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation – \$17,000**

Funding will support community programming for Delray residents including bilingual financial literacy and counselling services for families as well as interactive academic enrichment opportunities for children.

Southwest Detroit Winter Carnival 2022 at Clark Park **Clark Park Coalition – \$3,000**

The 2022 Winter Carnival in Clark Park will bring community members together through skating and winter games and engage families and youth across Southwest Detroit.

All initiatives are being monitored and evaluated for possible effects on implementation due to COVID-19. The project team intends to implement these initiatives safely while still delivering on our commitments to the community.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM
SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JUNE 2021

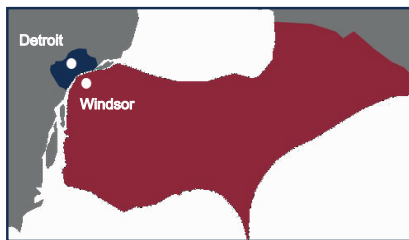
4900+

individuals oriented to
the project in Canada
and the US



45%

are local*



***“Local”** is defined as being within the City of Detroit or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor



150+

pre-apprentices/apprentices
assigned to the project

more
than

180



local* businesses
engaged on the project

Between January
and June 2021,

\$850,000+

(CDN) was spent on
small-scale purchases
under \$25,000 from
local* businesses

ENGAGING LOCAL JOB SEEKERS

To help job seekers navigate the multiple pathways to working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, the project team created three workforce videos that provide step-by-step actions on how to access employment opportunities. These short, shareable videos focus on:

- how to apply for opportunities with WDBA and BNA
- how to apply for a US Union job
- how to apply for a Canadian Union job.

Watch the videos on the Opportunities page at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

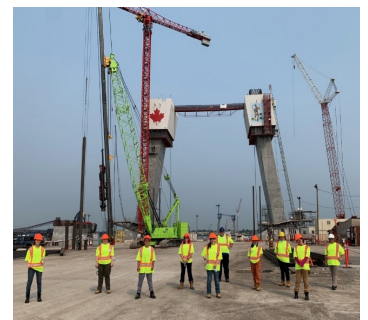
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between **April and October 2021**, the project team participated in the following engagement activities:

- attended a Meet the Buyer event hosted by Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- attended a virtual class session of Detroit’s Access for All construction pre-apprentice program
- attended the Access for All in-person contractor/ apprenticeship roundtable
- provided a presentation on community benefits at the Environmental Design Research Association Annual Conference with the City of Detroit and Delray Community Advisory Group
- held virtual meetings of the Canadian and US Trades-Specific Workforce Development Steering Committee
- hosted a tour of the US project components for Detroit Workforce of the Future (DWF) pre-apprenticeship students
- presented to the Capstone Engineering class at the University of Windsor
- participated in a Construction Trades 101 event at Randolph Career and Technical Center
- attended the Detroit At Work, Construction Career Fair.



Project team members attended the Bridging Neighborhoods’ Summer 2021 Community Event in Southwest Detroit to promote the Delray Home Improvement Program.



The project team hosted a tour of the Canadian bridge site for the skilled trades craft group from Women’s Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (WEST). The tour was led by women working in construction for BNA.

ANNUAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Community Benefits Plan includes a variety of initiatives aimed to engage students at all levels within the education system. The **Annual Research Partnership (ARP)** is a yearly commitment to make available two in-kind research opportunities to local student researchers at Canadian and US post-secondary education institutions near the project site. These opportunities align with the current research needs of the project.

The 2020-2021 Annual Research Partnership resulted in a successful Capstone Research Project with five engineering students at the University of Windsor. The topic focused on Innovations in Tolling Technologies.

The 2021-2022 call for research proposals is in process with area post-secondary institutions.

UPCOMING

COMMUNITY BENEFITS INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Launch of the 2022 Community Organization Investment initiative
- Semi-annual Trades-Specific Workforce Development Steering Committee meetings
- Public consultation on Sandwich Street enhancements
- 2021-2022 Annual Research Partnership
- Construction of Belanger Park Observation Area in River Rouge
- Continuation of the Sandwich Business Development Program
- Home repairs for residents enrolled in the Delray Home Improvement Program

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP

The Local Community Group (LCG) was formed to provide valuable input and formal linkages to the region and is comprised of 16 stakeholders representing the local communities. Recruitment for six open positions on the LCG took place over the summer and resulted in the six incumbents continuing their tenure on the committee. Visit the project website for a list of LCG members.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, **community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for 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 region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich and Delray communities, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

Community benefits initiatives are delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan.

The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components:



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.



THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

is geared toward engaging businesses and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities.

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 and includes features that make this project truly distinctive. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

The project consists of four components:



THE BRIDGE



CANADIAN PORT OF ENTRY



US PORT OF ENTRY



MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE

For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:



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WDBA-APWD



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YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge



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