

**Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority**

**2022-2023 Annual Public Meeting**

**Summary**

**November 17, 2023**

**Prepared by:** Corporate Affairs and External Relations  
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA)  
400 - 100 Ouellette Avenue  
Windsor, ON N9A 6T3

## **Introduction**

As a Canadian Crown corporation, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is responsible to the public. The organization's Annual Public Meeting (APM) is an opportunity for WDBA to share information on its operations and activities and to solicit feedback from the public. The 2022-2023 APM was held virtually via Facebook livestream on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. The meeting event is posted on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project's Facebook page which also serves as WDBA's corporate Facebook page.

## **Public Notification**

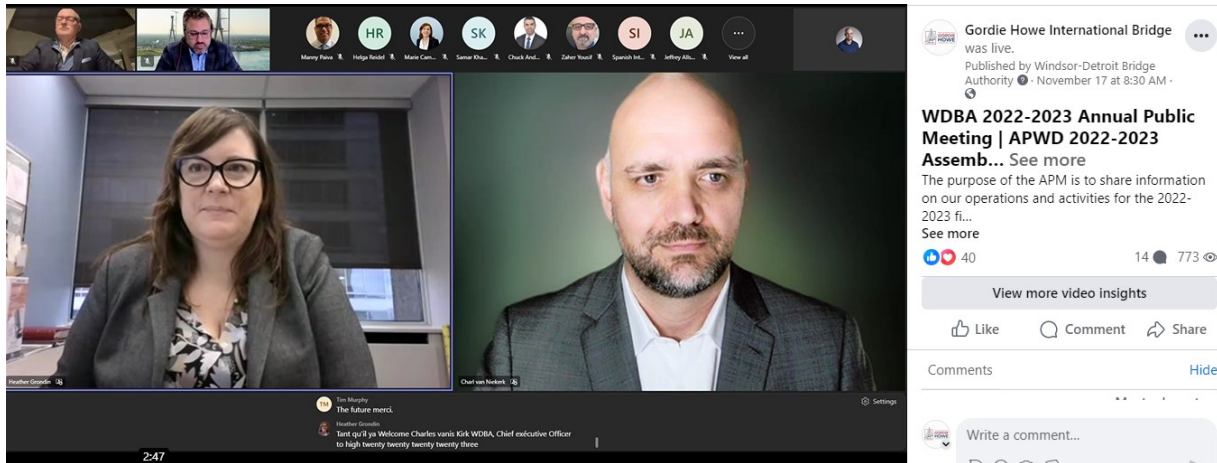
WDBA employed several tactics to ensure that the notice of the APM was made widely available and to encourage participation.:

- Bilingual notification was posted on WDBA's website homepage and on the meetings page 30 days in advance of the meeting date on October 17, 2023.
- Public notices were placed in two regional news publications including the Windsor Star on November 7, 2023, and Le Rempart (French publication) on November 2, 2023.
- Email blasts were sent to over 2,500 addresses on the WDBA email distribution list on October 18, 2023, November 2, 2023, and November 9, 2023.
- Multiple messages were posted through WDBA's social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn between October 17, 2023, and November 17, 2023.
- Invitations were sent to key stakeholders in Canada and the US the week prior to the meeting.

The APM notice publicized the time, date, and location (virtual via Facebook live) of the APM and invited the public to submit questions in advance of the meetings.

## **Attendance**

The Facebook livestream had a total of 36 viewers at peak. As of November 20, 2023, at 12:30PM, the video of the meeting had a reach of 2,014 people.



## Proceedings

The APM opened with remarks by Heather Grondin, Chief Relations Officer, followed by Tim Murphy, Chair of the Board of Directors, followed by remarks from Charl van Niekerk, Chief Executive Officer, and the presentation of the audited financial statements by Joël Hupé, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. A video highlighting the Gordie Howe International Bridge and features once in operation was also screened.

## Discussion – Questions and Answers

An important part of the APM was to solicit feedback and questions from the public. WDBA accepted questions both in advance of the meeting and at the meeting itself. A total of two questions were answered during the meeting and two questions were answered in the Facebook comment section after the meeting on topics including: tolling, community benefits, construction and operations. A summary of the question-and-answer period can be found below. Please note that the summary is not a verbatim transcript.

To view all materials from the APM, and to view the unedited recording of the APM proceedings, including the Question and Answer period, please visit

<https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/Annual-Public-Meeting-November-17-2023>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>Is the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority considering enabling the toll facilities at the new Gordie Howe International Bridge to be compatible with the multi-state E-Z Pass electronic toll system? It would be great for motorists, whether they be daily commuters, freight carriers or pass thru travelers to have that option.</p>	<p>Customer-centricity is an integral part of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, and this means placing the customer at the forefront of all decisions related to tolling services, products and experiences.</p> <p>Interoperability will be one of the pillars of that customer-centricity. Interoperability will allow both commercial and passenger travellers to pay for travel and related services at toll facilities with a single account. WDBA continues to explore interoperability opportunities and agreements with various agencies.</p>
<p>Congratulations on the progress that has been made on bridge construction. The program for Community Benefits will soon be ending. This program has assisted so many non-profits in the community to continue and enhance their work for the benefit of those in need and develop new strategies. Has any progress been made to develop a new plan for the continuation of community benefits?</p>	<p>We understand the requests related to an ongoing, long-term commitment to invest in the host communities. Options continue to be evaluated with the Government of Canada.</p>
<p>Upon entry and exit through the ports, will commercial vehicles occupy lanes that don't impede car traffic?</p>	<p>Commercial and passenger vehicles will be separated by dedicated lanes. This will help with the movement of traffic and ensure car traffic and commercial traffic do not impede each other.</p>
<p>With a project like this, are changes made during construction not foreseen in the design stages?</p>	<p>Yes, we have made some changes during construction which have included adjustments to accommodate for the movement of live traffic during our I-75 interchange work and switching to an unbalanced cantilever construction approach for the bridge.</p>