

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

2020-2021 Annual Public Meeting

Summary

February 11, 2022

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 2020-2021 APM was held via livestream on Facebook Friday, February 11, 2022, 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

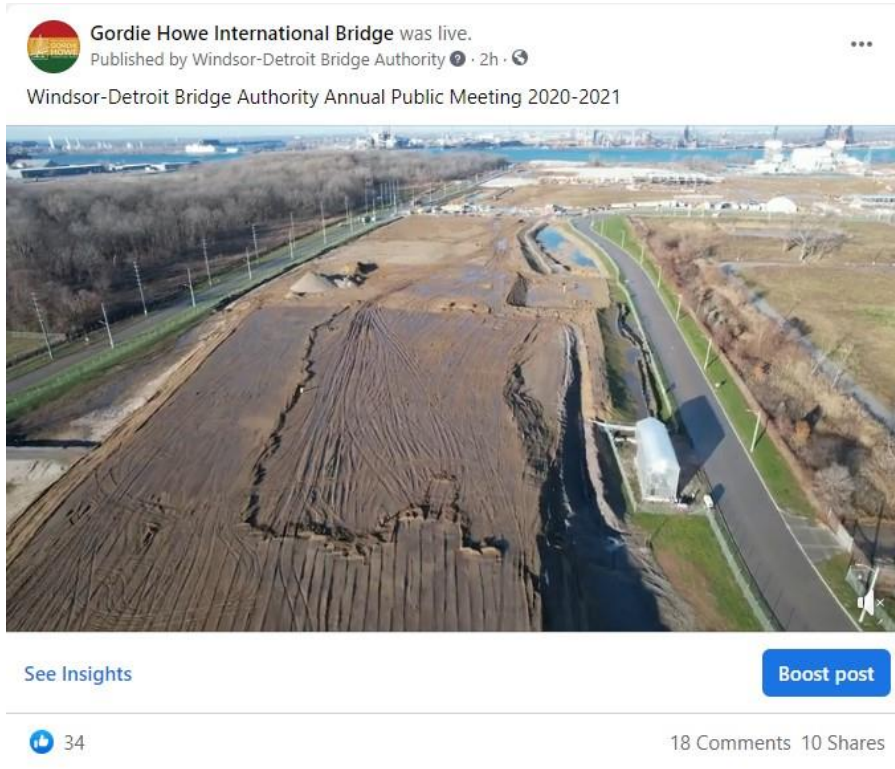
WDBA employed several tactics to ensure that the notice of the APM was made widely available and to encourage participation.:

- Bilingual notification was posted on WDBA's website homepage and on the meetings page 30 days in advance of the meeting date.
- Public notices were placed in two regional news publications including the Windsor Star, and Le Rempart (French publication).
- A media advisory was sent to local and regional (Windsor and Detroit) media outlets.
- An email blast was sent to over 2000 addresses on the WDBA email distribution list.
- Multiple messages were posted through WDBA's social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Invitations were sent to key stakeholders in Canada and the US.

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

Attendance

The Facebook live stream had a total of 69 viewers at peak. 718 people were reached as of 10:30AM on February 11, 2022



Proceedings

The APM opened with remarks by Heather Grondin, Vice President, Corporate Affairs and External Relations, followed by Tim Murphy, Chair of the Board of Directors, followed by remarks from Bryce Phillips, Chief Executive Officer, and the presentation of the audited financial statements by Mike St. Amant, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. A video highlighting the project's progress 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 seven questions were answered on topics including: community benefits, project schedule, environment, Sandwich Street improvements and the international crossing blockade. 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-february-11-2022>.

Question	Answer
My comment has to do with the continuation of the Community Benefits after 2024. I have expressed multiple times the need to have these benefits continue. I want to keep this in the forefront when BNA, WDBA, and the Federal Government discuss the operation of the Gordie Howe Bridge beyond 2024.	We continue our ongoing commitment to consult with our host communities about various aspects of the project. It is your voice that continues to keep us informed and has helped shape the project to what it is today. With regards to a legacy fund, this is something that we have heard the community speak of and I want to assure you this remains on our radar and options continue to be explored. The project team understands the concerns and requests related to an ongoing, long-term commitment to invest in the host communities. Options continue to be evaluated with the Government of Canada.
My question concerns signage for those travelers who come to Canada. We want to let them know all that Sandwich Towne and the greater Windsor Area have to offer. The most reasonable entrance to Sandwich Towne, the riverfront and Downtown is Sandwich St. Would you please comment on what has been done to ensure that the bridge exit is not a catapult to the 401 and Toronto.	We are committed to providing signage to alert drivers and pedestrians to attractions in our host communities.

<p>“Approx. what month in 2022 the towers will be completed?”</p>	<p>Tower construction will continue through 2022 and into 2023.</p>
<p>Then why would you chose to power the port entry back up power with diesel and natural gas when solar, wind and wave powered energy creation are most readily available and the community has been most vocal about diesel and pollutants?</p>	<p>Bridging North America has submitted a Permit to Install to EGLE, which includes a 45-day public comment period, where people may review and comment on the application. The equipment is the most efficient approach to achieve the reliability and redundancy needs at the US POE. We encourage your participation as part of EGLE’s public comment process. Information about the US POE energy needs can be found here: https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/permit-to-install-application-us-port-of-entry-january-26-2022. Please visit the EGLE website for details on the permit.</p>
<p>Can you share whether construction is impacted at all due to the Ambassador bridge blockade?</p>	<p>Our construction hasn’t been impacted. We are continuing as planned.</p>
<p>And I also have a follow up question - Does the current blockade make you reconsider your bridge security plans for the future?</p>	<p>Once the Gordie Howe International Bridge is completed and operational our ports of entry in both the Canadian and US will be secure facilities. In the case of any protest, our first priority will be the safety of our travellers and the border workers. Similar to what you are seeing at the existing crossing now, we would collaborate with authorities including the municipalities, first responders, transportation authorities and border services agencies to allow for safe passage of people and goods.</p>
<p>Why does the GHIB/WDBA continue to hold live 'public' meetings during working hours of the general public? Given the seemingly limited public response - does the WDBA continue to see that their Public outreach is fair, efficient and making best use of their Public outreach employee position overlaps?</p>	<p>All APM material has been posted to our project website and can be found by visiting https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/annual-public-meeting-february-11-2022. Should you have a specific question of concern please contact us at info@wdbridge.com or our toll-free number 1-844-322-1773.</p>