

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT
WINTER 2023



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

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](https://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com).

NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

Outdoor fitness equipment has now been installed at Clark Park for residents and visitors to enjoy. This initiative, valued at approximately **\$102,400 (CDN)**, was provided to the **City of Detroit** to complement other improvements being delivered through the Clark Park Revitalization Project in Southwest Detroit.

As part of McKee Park improvements, the **City of Windsor** has installed a new gazebo and enhanced the existing boardwalk. The improvements, along with other enhancements to park paths, lights and benches, represent the **\$200,000** initiative.



Newly installed fitness equipment in Clark Park, Southwest Detroit.



A new gazebo and enhanced boardwalk at McKee Park, Sandwich.

LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Community Benefits Plan includes business development programming for local businesses in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. The **Sandwich Business Development Program**, delivered through partnerships with the **Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre (SBEC)**, **A Division of Invest WindsorEssex** and the **Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator (the Accelerator)**, provides small business and entrepreneurship supports and programming through site visits, targeted outreach, webinars and consultations.

The newly funded **Southwest Detroit Small Business Support Program**, delivered through a partnership with **Puente Cultural Integration, LLC**, offers bilingual coaching and technical assistance, networking events, workshops and collaborative marketing and marketplace opportunities. For more information on these programs, visit the project website.



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.

DELRAY HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



The project team continues to accept applications for the **Delray Home Improvement Program**, a **\$4 million (CDN)** Community Benefits Plan investment in homes around the Gordie Howe International Bridge US Port of Entry. Eligible residents can apply for free home repairs from a pre-approved repair/replacement list, with a per-house cap of **\$20,000 (USD)**.

As of April 2023, 74 homes have been repaired or are in the process of receiving repairs through this program.

Repairs offered include:



Roof repair and/or replacement



Window and/or door replacement



Roof and/or wall insulation installation



Repair or replacement of heating, ventilation, and/or air-conditioning (HVAC) unit

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN UPDATES 2023



In February 2023, the project team announced **\$2.3 million (CDN)** in Community Benefits Plan funding for 11 new investment opportunities and the expansion of six existing initiatives in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. The funding is part of the broader **\$20 million (CDN)** Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy. Visit the project website for more information on the funded projects.

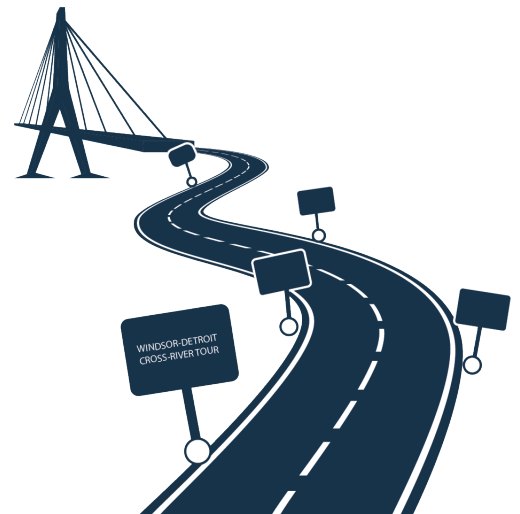
Community Benefits delivery partners gather at the February 1, 2023, announcement of additional investments into Community Benefits Plan initiatives at Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG) in Sandwich.

WINDSOR-DETROIT CROSS-RIVER TOUR

The **Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour** is an international initiative that celebrates the unique culture, history and diversity of the Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit communities, funded by the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. Through this initiative, the project team will place 12-16 interpretive signs along pedestrian and cycling paths on the lands surrounding the Canadian and US Ports of Entry.

In March 2023, the project team launched a public survey to inform the selection of topics for the signs. Suggested topics were based on a list of general themes provided by the Community Stories Committee, a group of local community members and subject-matter experts, as well as other historical and cultural associations in the region. Feedback received through the survey will be shared with the project team for consideration as content is developed for the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour. Final topics will be shared with the public at a later date.

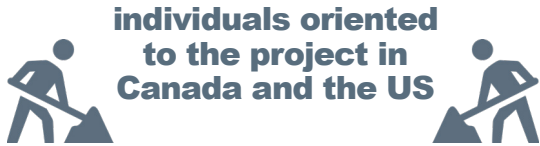
Work on this initiative will continue throughout 2023 and 2024.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2022

8550+



42%

are local*



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



250

local* businesses engaged on the project



550+

pre-apprentices/apprentices assigned to the project



280+

co-operative learning experiences provided on the project

(includes winter 2023 co-op students)

Between January 2021 and December 2022, more than

\$4.2 million

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

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between February and March 2023, the project team participated in the following activities:

- Hosted an in-person open house for the Delray Home Improvement Program
- Presented on supply chains to the University of Windsor
- Delivered a virtual presentation to the Michigan Transportation Student Organization
- Provided a project update presentation to the Patterson School of Business
- Provided a presentation to Greater Essex County District School Board Guidance Counsellors in partnership with Build a Dream
- Participated in the 42nd annual Michigan Department of Transportation Small Business Conference



Project representatives attended the Engineering Employment Event held by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers in March 2023.



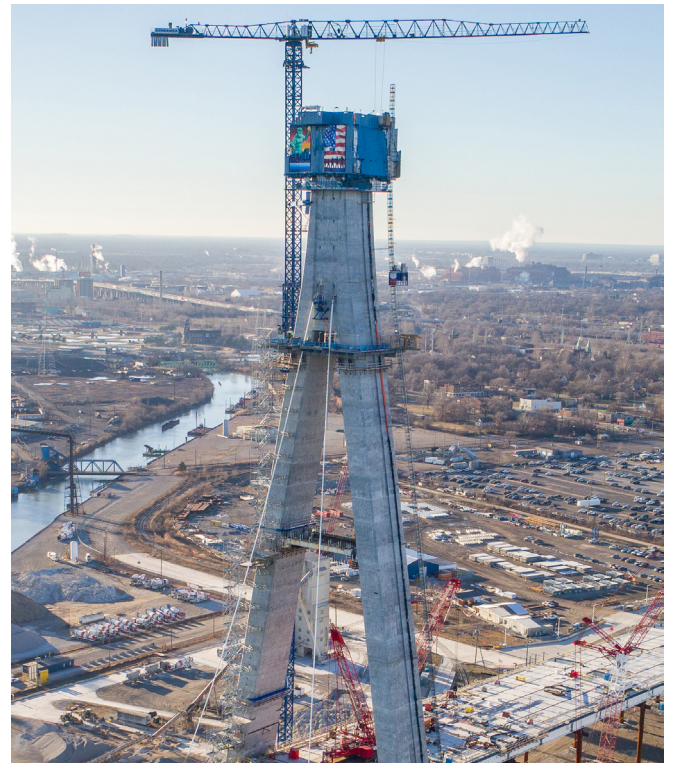
Students engage with the project team and representatives from various skilled trades at the Windsor Express to the Trades Event in February 2023.

UPCOMING

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Construction of the observation areas in Malden Park in Sandwich and Belanger Park in River Rouge
- Announcement of the 2023 Community Organization Investment funding recipients
- Research and content development for the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour
- Continued design on Sandwich Street Enhancements
- Investment into the Southwest Urban Arts Mural Project (SUAMP) in partnership with Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
- Home repairs through the Delray Home Improvement Program

Right: Work continues on the Gordie Howe International Bridge with the installation of stay cables on the US tower.



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 individuals 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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