

9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

2000 Days of Construction

March 27, 2024, marked 2000 days since the start of construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Since construction started, incredible progress has been made on all four project components – the bridge, the Canadian and US Ports of Entry (POEs) and Michigan Interchange. Here are nine of the biggest achievements from the last 2000 days of construction.

1

SHOVELS IN THE GROUND

October 5, 2018, marked the official start of construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.



2

BRIDGE TOWER COMPLETION

The two iconic bridge towers, one in Canada and one in the US, reached their full heights of 220 metres/722 feet in 2023. Construction on the towers began in 2019 and involved three key phases: underground work for leg support, lower pylon work completing the two separate legs and the pylon head work.



3

POE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Work progresses year-round on all buildings and structures at both the Canadian and US POE. Some activities can be seen through official drone photography on the project social media pages, such as roof work and paving of the primary inspection lanes. Others happen behind closed doors, including indoor drywalling and floor installation.



4

MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE PROGRESS

The project requires significant construction activity on I-75, including the demolition and removal of existing infrastructure, reconstruction of select roadways and bridges and construction of new project infrastructure. This work includes construction of four road bridges, five pedestrian bridges and four connecting ramps. To date, all four road bridges have reopened, with pedestrian bridge and ramp construction well underway.



5

JUMP FORM REMOVAL

During construction, colourful murals graced the tops of the two bridge towers, reflecting the history and culture of Southwest Detroit and the local Indigenous Peoples in Windsor. The murals were affixed to the tower jump forms, which provided a safe space for the workers as they constructed the bridge towers. When the towers reached their final heights in 2023, the jump forms were removed. The project team has worked with regional stakeholders in Windsor and Detroit to find permanent homes for the artwork.



6

STAY CABLE INSTALLATION

January 2023 marked the beginning of the stay cable installation on the Gordie Howe International Bridge. With a cable-stayed bridge design, cables serve two purposes – they deliver the weight of the entire structure to the tower and maintain the bridge deck's stability and placement. Once complete, the bridge will feature 216 stay cables, 108 on each side. Currently, there are 98 stay cables installed on each side.



7

BRIDGE DECK CONSTRUCTION

In 2022, crews began to build the bridge deck, the term used to describe the road that stretches from tower-to-tower over the Detroit River. Also known as the main span, the bridge deck will be 42 metres/138 feet above water near the towers with a five per cent incline reaching 46 metres/150 feet in the middle. Currently, the bridge deck is more than two-thirds toward meeting in the middle.



8

GIVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS A VOICE

Throughout construction, the project team has invited members of the public to share feedback and voice opinions on the future of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. The public had a direct say in the design of the Michigan Interchange pedestrian bridges and noise walls, the US POE Jefferson Wall and the multi-use path, among others.



9

WORKING HARD

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project's construction progress to date wouldn't be possible without the people – construction workers, tradespeople, engineers and administrative staff. More than 11,000 individuals have been oriented to work on this once-in-a-generation project since construction start in 2018, with 42 per cent of the project team local to Detroit or Windsor-Essex. Site staff have also amassed over 12 million hours of work across all four project components.



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE