

Gordie Howe International Bridge

MOMENTUM

issued by: Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan will help move goods and people more efficiently at this important trade gateway. Managed by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and working in collaboration with the State of Michigan, the project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3) which will see Bridging North America design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

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FROM THE GROUND UP

As the towers for the Gordie Howe International Bridge continue to climb, work at ground level remains just as important. This summer marked the completion of the foundations for the towers in both Canada and the United States, using a process called post-tension work. Post tensioning is a technique used to reinforce concrete and other material with high strength steel bars or a bundle of strands known as “tendons.” Post-tensioning tendons are high strength steel cables or strands inside plastic ducts or sleeves that significantly help reduce a structure’s weight and foundation load by spreading it out. There are 21 tendons in the footings for the Canadian towers and 25 tendons in the footings for the towers in the US. A total of 1,426 steel strands are used to connect the tower footings.



Each strand is 72 metres/236 feet in length and each metre or foot of steel strand weighs 1.1 kilograms/2.2 pounds. In total, the weight of the strands in the bridge footings are 112,939 kilograms/248,988 pounds, or about the same weight as a blue whale. As part of the foundation work, six shafts were drilled into the bedrock for each tower leg to a depth of 36 metres/118 feet. That is the equivalent of a 10-storey building. Read more about post-tension work and what the Director of Construction for Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority has to say about this achievement on the project website.

CONTACT US



Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?

Call us toll-free at **1-844-322-1773**

Email us at **info@wdbridge.com**

Message us through any of the project **social media accounts**.

Sandwich Community Office at **3201 Sandwich St.***

Southwest Detroit Community Office at **7744 W Vernor Hwy.***

***Community Offices are currently closed due to Covid-19.**

Read more about all project updates on **GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com**



PEOPLE PROFILE

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Livernois Avenue road bridge opens in fall 2021, traffic will be two-way from Fort Street to Lafayette Boulevard in Southwest Detroit. Stay tuned to our social media accounts for updates.



ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Bridging North America will hold an Online Community Meeting on December 8, 2021, on the project Facebook page. The meeting will provide the latest updates on the Canadian and US construction activities and the implementation of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan. The presentation will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.

MEET AMBER LEWIS

Amber is the Human Resources Manager for Bridging North America (BNA) in the US. Following graduation from Baker College in Detroit with a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a major in Human Resources Management and a minor in Marketing, she spent 15 years in staffing, automotive, and aerospace manufacturing before joining the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

Q. What type of work are you doing on the project?

As the Human Resources (HR) Manager for the US side of the project, my role is to oversee the HR function. This consists of supporting the project teams, employees, and management, working closely with our On-the-Job Training team and community partners, unions, and joint venture partners. Overall, we wear many hats in HR and work to support everyone on the project.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of working on the project?

In my early teens I moved from Sarnia, Ontario to Port Huron, Michigan. Being a part of this amazing and iconic project that is literally bridging together the countries that I consider home is amazing. Being able to see firsthand the talent, skills, passion, and drive it takes to make a project like this come to fruition, and to be a part of something that will help both Detroit and Windsor are more than I could have hoped for in my career. Being able to see the progress made day after day, and knowing I am directly a part of that is an amazing feeling.

Q. What do you wish other people knew about the project?

Building a project like this is not easy or simple. The team here faces many challenges and obstacles but continues to push forward and overcome them. The amount of talent and commitment from the employees on this project is truly phenomenal. We have an amazing group of highly skilled individuals that have so much passion for ensuring this project is built.



AMBER LEWIS

Human Resources Manager - US Lead, Bridging North America

LETTER FROM THE CEO

In October 2018, we officially started construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Since that time, significant activity has taken place. The bridge towers on both sides of the river are now visible from a distance. They continue to rise weekly and are approximately 70 metres or 220 feet tall. Construction on the bridge approaches, the sections that will connect the main bridge span to the two Ports of Entry will start soon. At the Ports of Entry, construction has started on some of the main buildings, which will continue over the next few years. Phase One of Michigan Interchange work on the first set of reconstructed bridges will soon progress with re-openings of the closed bridges and closure and demolition of the next set of road and pedestrian bridges. In the delivery of all aspects of our work, safety and quality remain top-of-mind and a priority for WDBA and Bridging North America.

Our Community Benefits Plan, which includes a comprehensive Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and a \$20 million Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, continues to offer improvements in our host communities. Approximately 64 local agencies and organizations serve as our delivery partners for the two strategies. To date over \$1.1 million has been spent on community identified priorities and more than 4,426 individuals in Canada and the US have gone through orientation to work on the project.

In 2019, we opened community offices in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit to allow residents and others to have access to the project team. While these offices closed due to COVID-19 in March 2020, we continue to address resident and stakeholder questions and concerns through our toll-free number and through info@wdbbridge.com. We are committed to keeping the public informed and continue to offer our quarterly meetings online for the time being. We look forward to the day our community offices open again and we can resume our quarterly meetings in-person. We are proud to be part of the communities we serve and of the progress we have made so far on the project.



BRYCE PHILLIPS

IN THE COMMUNITY

Annual Vendor Summits

On October 19 and 20, 2021, Bridging North America hosted their annual Canadian and US Vendor Summits. These virtual events allowed local businesses to learn more about project timing, upcoming contracting opportunities, and the procurement process. Both events were well attended, attracting more than 185 participants in total. To learn more about commercial opportunities on the Gordie Howe International Bridge visit the project website.



Union Workforce Videos

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is hiring. Have you wondered what work unions and subcontractors are doing on the project? Videos detailing how to gain employment on the project have been posted on our YouTube channel. Check them out to learn how to apply for jobs through Windsor and Detroit unions and subcontractors.



The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team and ERCA Plant 25 Trees

In October, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and other community volunteers planted 25 native trees at College Avenue Bikeway Park in Windsor as part of the project Community Benefits Plan. The Community Benefits team partnered with ERCA on the Triple Tree Impact initiative, investing \$50,000 towards tree planting and public education to be held in Sandwich and west Windsor parks and schools. More tree plantings will be scheduled for spring 2022. A similar initiative took place in Detroit in April 2021, with 250 residents receiving free trees. Read more on the project website.

LANDSCAPES OF PASSAGE

Landscaping in an environment where people will walk, drive and also sit still at times can be a challenge. The landscaping theme for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is "Landscapes of Passage," and will emphasize movement patterns throughout the project including vehicle acceleration, deceleration, stopping, and the slower pace of bicyclists and pedestrians. Designers are including a variety of trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials, aquatic plantings, and seed mixes for use in the Ports of Entry, and along the Michigan Interchange corridor.



Canadian Features

Recognizing the Port's conservation area neighbours, vegetation will support the protection and expansion of adjacent natural areas. Approximately 1,100 trees will be planted throughout the Canadian Port of Entry. Landscaping will also recognize the area's history as a French settlement, with plantings and hard landscaping materials like limestone arranged in linear forms to evoke French agricultural patterns from early settlements. An integrated entry feature sign also will be incorporated into the landscape pattern as you enter from the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway. Lighting will be integrated to highlight the deciduous trees and signage. Landscaping will also serve a practical purpose, enhancing the drainage and stormwater management system of the site by increasing opportunities for infiltration and reduction of surface runoff, and wetland vegetation, grasses, wildflowers and high-branching trees.



US Features

Landscaping will help tie the Port of Entry (POE) and the Michigan Interchange together through a variety of native plants, including pollinator mixes to provide habitat for bees and butterflies. Plants and materials will be selected for a variety of colour and texture and to provide seasonal interest. At the US POE, approximately 560 trees will be planted inside the secure perimeter and along Green and Campbell Streets. Landscaping along the I-75 Corridor includes the areas adjacent to the freeway, connector ramps, and the two service drives. Landscaping in this area will include approximately 1,500 deciduous, coniferous and ornamental trees, plus shrubs, and grass mixes along the service drives closest to the residences. About 240 trees will be planted on the north side of the southbound service drive and about 172 trees will be planted along the south side of the northbound service drive. Additional trees will be planted on local roads as part of the project's local road improvement plans, and along the outside (street side) of the Jefferson Avenue barrier wall. Pedestrian and road bridges crossing I-75 will have concrete planters to create barriers between sidewalks, bike paths, and roadways. Planters will be made up of colourful shrubs, tall grasses, and herbaceous plants.

PROGRESS AT THE PORTS

Construction is well underway on the buildings at the Canadian Port of Entry and work has begun on the first building at the US Port of Entry. Work crews in the US have poured the concrete for the footings of the 82,000 square foot commercial building, one of 12 buildings that will be located at the US POE. At the Canadian POE, construction work is on-going for three of the 12 buildings that will be on site – the maintenance building, the main building and the secondary inspection building. The 38,000 square foot maintenance building was the first structure crews began to construct. Crews will use 155 metric tonnes of structural steel, over 159,000 kilograms of reinforcing steel and over a thousand cubic metres of cast-in-place concrete on this building alone. Layout, excavation, subgrade inspections and building formwork continues to take place for the construction of the main building. Workers are currently focused on waterproofing and backfill activities for the secondary inspection building. Work on POE facilities will continue through 2024. You can learn more about construction progress and technical aspects on the project website.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FALCONS

Birds of prey play an important role on the Canadian side of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. To prevent bird nesting on the construction site, falcon handlers bring these birds to site from March to August. During these months, falcons help to naturally keep wildlife from nesting and making homes near the construction or equipment. To learn more, watch our new video with Falconer Nicole Soucie on the project YouTube channel.



KID ZONE

Gordie Howe International Bridge Memory Game

1. Cut out the image cards below.
2. Shuffle the cards.
3. Place them face down in rows of four.
4. Flip over two squares at a time and collect the cards if they match.
5. If you turn over two cards that do not match, turn those cards face down and place them back in the same position.
6. Find matches by trying to remember where the images were last seen.
7. Once all the matches have been found, the person with the most matches, wins!

