

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



PONT INTERNATIONAL
Gordie Howe
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

QUARTERLY REPORT
FALL 2025

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

With the support of Community Benefits Plan funding, non-profit and charitable organizations in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit are delivering programming and community infrastructure improvements, resulting in positive benefits for local community members.

REGIONAL TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Art Windsor-Essex (AWE): Night Light Arts & Cultural Festival

Funding was provided to AWE for the three-day Night Light Arts & Cultural Festival in September, which was attended by over 8,000 people across Windsor-Essex and other regions of Ontario and Michigan. Attendees enjoyed outdoor light art installations, flashlight tours, wearable light art workshops and live DJ performances. The event promoted regional tourism, with over half of the attendees identifying as first time visitors to the gallery.



Attendees viewing an outdoor art installation at the Night Light Arts & Cultural Festival.

Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA): Experience Southwest Detroit

SDBA plans to increase tourism in Southwest Detroit by developing a tourism guide and campaign to highlight local history and attractions. In November, SDBA held a launch event for the rebranding of Mexicantown Main Street, with local business promotion and the installation of bilingual streetlight banners. In partnership with Detroit City FC, SDBA has trained 40 local businesses on how to leverage increased tourism.



Cultural performance at the Mexicantown Main Street Rebranding Celebration.

"For the first time, I feel like the new generation of business owners is being included, seen and supported."
- Juan Vargas, Co-owner of La Jalisciense Supermercado

We acknowledge that the Sandwich community and land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge 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.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CONNECTIONS

Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County Branch (CMHA- WECB): Lifeline Windsor Project

In partnership with CMHA-WECB, Windsor Police Services, the City of Windsor, Port Windsor and the University of Windsor, the project team announced the Lifeline Windsor Project in November. This suicide prevention initiative includes the installation of signs along the Windsor waterfront, and other physical safety enhancements and awareness campaigns.



The announcement of the Lifeline Windsor Project.

FOOD SECURITY & WELLNESS

United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex Chatham-Kent: West Windsor School Lunch Program

Through this program, an average of 1,200 free hot meals per week were provided to students in Sandwich. Culinary students at Westview Freedom Academy prepared more than 300 meals for their peers and students at West Gate Public School to increase access to healthy meals.



Culinary students at Westview Freedom Academy.

Southwest Detroit Community Development Corporation (SDCDC): Southwest Detroit Community Food and Wellness

Funding has supported SDCDC's ongoing programs for individuals and families in Southwest Detroit experiencing issues with food security. This programming enhanced community health and wellbeing through 4,000 meals served.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

2025 Community Organization Investments

The final recipients of the Community Organization Investment initiative continued to deliver on their projects throughout fall 2025.

- Windsor Essex Community Health Centre distributed 101 emergency food kits
- Feeding Windsor Essex served 165 individuals through community meals
- The Detroit Public Schools Community District Health Hub coordinated vision screenings for over 1,800 students
- Trinity-St. Mark's Pantry & Garden provided over 1,000 meals to unhoused individuals in Southwest Detroit.



Feeding Windsor Essex staff and volunteers serving a holiday meal.

LOCAL HISTORY & CULTURE

Inside Southwest Detroit: Luz y Sonido

After training in portrait photography, Southwest Detroit students hosted five studio sessions, resulting in 300 portraits of community members. An exhibition was held in October at a community celebration entitled Noche de Recuerdos/Night of Stories, attended by 40 people.

NEW INITIATIVE INVESTMENTS

Six previously funded delivery partners, three in Canada and three in the US, were selected to receive additional funding to support food security projects. These investments are valued at \$425,000 (CAD):

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Caring Hearts Food Bank
- St. John's Anglican Church - Feeding Sandwich
- United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex Chatham-Kent - West Windsor School Lunch Program
- Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS) - Healthy Habits Programming
- Ste. Anne de Detroit - Community Food Pantry
- Trinity St. Mark's United Church - Feed the Homeless

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between September and December 2025, the project team:

- Announced the opening of the Broadway Multi-Use Path and Malden Trailhead, which included the installation of custom bike racks
- Attended the International Day of the Girl Breakfast hosted by Build a Dream
- Attended the South Asian Centre of Windsor Walkathon

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2025



15,370+

individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US

41% are local*



450+

co-op students assigned to the project



290+

local* businesses engaged on the project

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



870+

pre-apprentices/ apprentices assigned to the project

Between January 2021 and December 2025, over

\$9.1 million

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Installation of custom bike racks at the US Port of Entry
- Installation of Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour interpretive signs in Canada and the US

THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE is here to move people and goods across the Detroit River. It connects more than businesses and communities. It creates possibilities. By evolving to meet customer needs with sustainable operations, the bridge will be an accelerator for international trade and make a powerful difference now and for future generations. 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

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 has two components:



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop and implement a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits and business development, aesthetics, landscaping and green initiatives, local history and culture, tourism, and food security and wellness.



THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY is geared toward engaging businesses and individuals and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities.

Alternative formats of this document can be requested by contacting the project team.

For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:

- @GordieHoweBridge
- @GordieHoweBrg
- WDBA-APWD
- @gordiehowebrig
- YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge

- 1-844-322-1773
- info@wdbridge.com
- GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com

*The Southwest Detroit Community Office is open by appointment only.

**Check the project website for hours of operation.

WDBA - Main Office
100 Ouellette Ave., Suite 400,
Windsor, ON, N9A 6T3

Southwest Detroit Community Office*
7744 W Vernor Hwy.
Detroit, MI, 48209

Sandwich Community Office**
3201 Sandwich St.
Windsor, ON, N9C 1A8