

Gordie Howe International Bridge – Air Monitoring

In a joint Canadian-American venture, the Gordie Howe Bridge will be built linking Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan. Construction, slated to begin in the 2019-2020 time frame, will involve multiple facets including land acquisition, demolition of existing buildings, bridge and roadway construction and operation. Demolition, construction and vehicular traffic using the bridge all have potential to cause an increase in the level of air pollution in nearby communities, including the Delray area of Detroit.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will conduct ambient air quality monitoring in Delray to ascertain air pollution levels in the community. This will commence in 2018 to provide an air quality baseline, and will continue during construction to determine the effect of earth moving and home demolition equipment as well as during several years of operation to better understand the role that traffic plays in air quality. Parameters to be measured include carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulates, lead, and black carbon (a component of diesel exhaust) as well as routine meteorological parameters (e.g., wind speed, wind direction and temperature).

Data will be collected with MDEQ's existing data acquisition software and uploaded to the Air Quality System, which is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national ambient air quality data repository. Once uploaded to AQS, the data will be available to compare against the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and other health protective benchmarks. MDEQ and other health professionals will use the comparison to determine the potential for adverse public health. Many parameters will be reported in near real-time on the MDEQ's website at DEQMiAir.org